



Minnesota Mississippi River Parkway Commission Commissioner Position Description

The mission of the Minnesota Mississippi River Parkway Commission is to promote, preserve and enhance the resources of the Mississippi River and to develop the highways and amenities of the Great River Road

MRPC HISTORY

The work of the Mississippi River Parkway Commission (MRPC) began over 80 years ago, when Franklin Roosevelt was president. Then Secretary of Interior, Harold Ickes, had urged the governors of the ten Mississippi River states to form the Commission after being convinced of the merit of a Mississippi River Parkway by a group of state planning officials. The Commission was instrumental not only in the early planning and development of the parkway and its amenities, but in its construction, promotion, and marketing. Today the Commission continues this work as well as the preservation and redevelopment of the byway and its amenities. This parkway is known as the Great River Road and travels the entire river, from the headwaters to the Gulf of Mexico.

In Minnesota, the MN-MRPC was formally recognized as a state legislative commission in 1963 under Minnesota Statute 161.1419. In 2021 the Great River Road segments in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, Arkansas, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Louisiana were awarded All-American Road designation by the Federal Highway Administration. National Scenic Byway designation of all ten state segments of the Great River Road recognizes, preserves, and enhances the entire Mississippi River byway journey from the headwaters to the Gulf of Mexico.

MN-MRPC MEMBERSHIP

The Minnesota Mississippi River Parkway Commission is comprised of fifteen members:

- One each is appointed by the Commissioners of Agriculture, Natural Resources, Transportation, and the directors of Explore Minnesota Tourism and the Minnesota Historical Society. These members act as liaisons to their respective agencies.
- Two are members of the Senate, appointed by the Committee on Committees, and two are members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker. These members are vital to facilitating passage of legislation, as necessary, to carry out the mission of the MN-MRPC.
- Five are local citizens appointed by five regional citizen committees representing each of the following geographic segments along the Mississippi river: (i) Lake Itasca to, but not including, the city of Grand Rapids; (ii) Grand Rapids to, but not including, the city of Brainerd; (iii) Brainerd to, but not including, the city of Elk River; (iv) Elk River to, but not including, the city of Hastings; and (v) Hastings to the Iowa border. These members are critical to understanding and representing the needs of their region and to help their region capture the benefits of the Great River Road.
- The 15th member is appointed by the other members of the MN-MRPC and serves as Commission Secretary.

MN-MRPC COMMISSIONER RESPONSIBILITIES

- Enact the mission of the MRPC and Corridor Management Plan at national, state, and local levels, serving as liaison between the Commission and the State Agency or Region they represent.
- Participate in four meetings of the MN-MRPC annually.
- Participate, as schedule and funding allow, in National Mississippi River Parkway Commission meetings and serve on National Standing Committees as appointed by the MN-MRPC Chair.
- Actively support projects, promotions and special events related to the Mississippi River and/or Great River Road.

In addition, Regional Commissioner's responsibilities:

- Enable regional stakeholders to maximize the benefits of the Great River Road.
- Act as liaison between the MRPC/MN-MRPC and the Great River Road region.
- Foster partnerships and cooperation within the region, harnessing local resources to implement the mission and plan.
- Coordinate meetings and lead implementation of work plans for their Regional Citizen Committee.