



**Minnesota Mississippi River Parkway Commission
Executive Committee – February 21, 2024 – 2:00 p.m.
Zoom and Centennial Office Building Room 101
NOTES**

Members Present: John Anfinson, Anne Lewis, Sally Fineday

Technical Advisors & Staff Present: Peter MacDonagh, Chris Miller, Diane Henry-Wangenstein, Yuki Kawahara

Vice Chair John Anfinson called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. A quorum was present.

MRPC 2024 Annual Meeting – Review Needs and Options

On February 9, the MN-MRPC voted that Minnesota will serve as host for the 2024 MRPC Annual Meeting in September and authorized the Executive Committee to recommend the community location within a couple of weeks. Details on facility needs and preferred dates were provided by the National MRPC. Information on meeting room and lodging block availability was requested from Bemidji and Winona. Both communities kindly and quickly responded and would be excellent locations for an MRPC Annual Meeting. Both communities had hotel and meeting room availability in September, though Bemidji availability was not on the preferred dates. Planning for the 2024 meeting will be on a short timeline. Area benefits and travel availability/proximity of Winona and Bemidji were discussed. 2024 is the 100th anniversary of the Upper Mississippi National Fish and Wildlife Refuge which could provide opportunities for partnering if the Annual Meeting is held in Winona.

Recommend Minnesota Location to Forward to National MRPC

Motion by Sally Fineday and seconded by Anne Lewis to select Winona as the location for the 2024 MRPC Annual Meeting, with Bemidji to be placed on the schedule soon to host an upcoming meeting if they are interested. Motion carried.

Vice Chair Anfinson will provide this information to the National MRPC Office and Chris Miller will notify contacts in Winona and Bemidji. The Executive Committee expressed gratitude to both communities for their responses.

The committee recommended that the MN-MRPC and MRPC begin working with Bemidji early on planning for travel, logistics and promotion of an Annual Meeting in a future year. The group also suggested looking for events for possible alignment – anniversaries, special celebrations in the area, etc.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.