



Minnesota Mississippi River Parkway Commission
4th Quarter Meeting – Nov 20, 2025
Capitol Room 120/Zoom Hybrid
MINUTES – Draft

Commissioners Present

Sen. Karin Housley- Chair
Dr. John Anfinson- Co-Chair
Paul Hugunin – Agriculture
Grant Wilson- Dept of Natural Resources
Marni Karnowski- MN Dept of Transportation
Anne Lewis- At Large
Megan Christianson – Grand Rapids to Brainerd
Karl Samp- Brainerd to Elk River
David Kelliher- MN Historical Society
Kate Carlson- Hastings to Iowa Border
Lisa Havelka- Explore MN

Technical Advisors/Staff Present

Amanda Dirnberger – Natural Resources
Peter MacDonagh – Transportation
Carol Zoff – Transportation
Diane Henry-Wangensteen – LCC
Megan Voelke – LCC
Andrew George - LCC

Members & Technical Advisors Absent

Paul Hugunin - Agriculture
Sally Fineday – Lake Itasca to Grand Rapids
Rep. Huldah Momanyi-Hiltsley
Tucker Blythe – National Park Service
Sen. John Hoffman

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 PM by MN-MRPC Co-Chair John Anfinson, followed by introductions. The meeting packet and recording are available at <https://www.commissions.leg.state.mn.us/mrpc/>.

Approve Agenda and Minutes from the 8/14/2025 Meeting:

Motion to approve was seconded and passed.

Regional Meetings/Elections Process

Recommendations from regional citizen meetings for the appointment of three regional members were presented to the commission under MS 161.1419, Sub 2 (9): Sally Fineday for Lake Itasca to Grand Rapids Region; Megan Christianson for Grand Rapids to Brainerd Region; and Karl Samp for Brainerd to Elk River Region.

Senator Housley moved to approve all 3 candidates. The motion was seconded and passed with a voice vote.

Transportation Alternatives Review and Letters of support

Emails went to 5 regional redevelopment commissions on the Great River Road for projects that support MRPC mission. 3 projects were deemed eligible by MnDOT staff for MRPC support. Anne Lewis moved to approve letters of support for the 3 projects. The motion passed with a voice vote.

Budget Review

Anne Lewis made a presentation of the budget. No motion necessary.

National MRPC Committee Updates.

Members gave updates on National MRPC committee business. The national meeting in Baton Rouge was also discussed.

Roadside Storybook

It was noted that an ad hoc committee voted on at the last meeting has not been established yet. Peter MacDonagh will join John Anfinson and David Kelliher, and others are welcome to join. They will meet and come back with recommendations.

Overview of river partnerships and opportunities:

Vice-Chair Anfinson gave an overview of potential opportunities for partnerships with the MN-MRPC. After discussing the partnerships and opportunities, it was suggested that someone come to one of the MRPC meetings and give a presentation about the travel influencer.

Other Business:

Karl Samp noted discrepancies with the attendees recorded as attending/absent from the June meeting. Published notes were amended to correct those discrepancies.

Next Meeting: February 20, 2026, 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.