



Minnesota Mississippi River Parkway Commission
June 18, 2026
Capitol Room 120/Zoom Hybrid
MINUTES – Draft

Commissioners Present

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

Technical Advisors/Staff Present

Amanda Dirnberger – Natural Resources

Carol Zoff – Transportation
Jessica Cartwright- Transportation
Diane Henry-Wangenstein – LCC
Megan Voelke – LCC
Andrew George - LCC

Members & Technical Advisors Absent

Grant Wilson - Dept of Natural Resources
Sally Fineday – Lake Itasca to Grand Rapids
Tucker Blythe – National Park Service
Megan Christianson – Grand Rapids to Brainerd
Rep. Huldah Momanyi-Hiltsley

The meeting was called to order at 2:03 PM by MN-MRPC Chair Karin Housley, followed by introductions. The meeting packet and recording are available at <https://www.commissions.leg.state.mn.us/mrpc/>.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion to approve minutes was passed once the commission reached quorum.

Explore Minnesota Presentation

A presentation was given by Lauren Bennett-McGinty, Executive Director, Explore Minnesota Tourism. Director Bennett-McGinty discussed Mississippi River Country program and the river tourism economy.

Discussion MRPC and LCC Roles

Co-Chair Anfinson introduced the topic, and Andrew George gave an overview of what the LCC can and cannot do. The LCC is looking for direction in this transition from Odyssey to the LCC to better serve the MRPC. The Executive Committee will continue this conversation.

Budget Report

Anne Lewis gave an update on the budget. No motion necessary.
Andrew George mentioned the requests for maps are outpacing our supply.

MRPC Committee Updates

The members gave updates on the committees of the MRPC.
An email will be sent to members to finalize attendance interest for the MRPC National Meeting.

Drive the Great River Road Month planning:

David Kelliher reported that the MN Historical Society has been planning promotion with a history related theme, including mobile app-based road trip scavenger hunts. More information can be found here: Mnhs.org/mn250/roadtrips

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Next Meeting: August 20, 2026, 2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.