



Minnesota Mississippi River Parkway Commission Commissioner Position Description

The mission of the Mississippi River Parkway Commission of Minnesota 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 both shores of the entire Mississippi River, from the headwaters in Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico.

In Minnesota the MRPC was formally recognized as a state legislative commission in 1963 under Minnesota Statute 161.1419. In 2000 the Great River Road segments in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa and Illinois received National Scenic Byway designation by the Federal Highway Administration; followed by Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee all achieving designation by 2010 recognizing, preserving and enhancing the entire Mississippi River byway journey.

MN-MRPC MEMBERSHIP

The Minnesota Mississippi River Parkway Commission is comprised of 15 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

- To enact the mission of the MRPC at national, state and local levels, serving as liaison between the Commission and the State Agency or Region they represent.
- To participate in four meetings of the MN-MRPC annually.
- To participate, as schedule and funding allows, in bi-annual National Mississippi River Parkway Commission meetings and to serve year-round on National Standing Committees as appointed by the MN-MRPC Chair.
- To actively support special events related to the Mississippi River and/or Great River Road.

In addition, regional commissioner's responsibilities are:

- To enable their regional stakeholders to maximize the benefits of the Great River Road.
- To act as liaison between the MRPC/MN-MRPC and the Great River Road region from which he/she is appointed.
- To foster partnerships and cooperation within their region, harnessing local resources to implement the mission.
- To coordinate meetings and lead Corridor Management Plan implementation for their Regional Citizen Committee.