MRPC—ERA Committee

Minutes of the meeting, dated September 19, 2013

Place: Renaissance Hotel, St. Louis, MO

Prepared by: Nani Bhowmik from Illinois, Co-Chair of ERA Committee

The ERA Committee of the MRPC meet on Sept. 19th, 2013 at the Renaissance Hotel in Missouri in connection with the Annual meeting of MRPC. At the beginning, ERA committee and the Transportation Committee met jointly to address an important issue.

* The joint meeting of the ERA and Transportation Committee passed a resolution to request the Board to support the initiative being undertaken by the National Geographic Society and the Mississippi River Cities and Town Initiative on the Mississippi river. This resolution passed unanimously.

Then the ERA Committee met separately with the following attendance: Dan Peterson from Iowa, Jay T. Schweitzer from IOWA, Gip Robertson from Arkansas, Bob Ware from Arkansas, Bob Miller from Wisconsin, and Nani Bhowmik from Illinois. The following decisions were made:

1. The ERA Committee will try to partner with the group consisting of the Community Colleges along the main stem of the Mississippi River.
2. The ERA Committee are requesting all the State Chairs and the ERA Committee Members from all the States to recommend name(s) of citizen and or organizations working on the Mississippi River to be considered as the next recipient of the “MRPC STEWARDSHIP AWARD”. It is hoped that this Award may be given at the 2014 Annual Meeting.
3. The ERA Committee is requesting all the State Chairs to send revised and or new materials and information on Agri-tourism to the MRPC Headquarters.
4. The ERA Committee will attempt to put together an Issue Paper covering only the technical aspects of Hydraulic Fracturing.
5. The ERA Committee is also most respectfully requesting the Sate Chairs to share with us on what they consider are the Intrinsic Values of the Mississippi River. Several years back the ERA Committee completed a Survey to find out “Why people go to the Mississippi River”.
6. The ERA Committee would also most respectfully request all the State Chairs to send State Technical Members to the Spring and Annual Meetings of the MRPC to specifically participate in the ERA Committee.