

MINUTES OF MISSISSIPPI PARKWAY COMMISSION ERA COMMITTEE MEETING MARQUETTE, IA
September 21, 2017

The following members of the commission were present for this meeting: Joe St. Columbia (AR), Sherry Squamme (WI), Karl Samp (MN), Jay Schweitzer (IA), Jenna Pollock (IA), Michelle Burrell (MS), Dan Peterson (IA), Nani Bhowmil (IL), Susanne Theide-Barnet (WI). There were no technical representatives and the lack thereof was discussed at some length. Nani reported that the technical support was much greater years earlier and our credibility was enhanced by the technical support.

Next was a discussion of a management plan coordinated through all ten states. In the future this might save money for the individual states as the overall plan could encompass an outline for each state.

Next the stewardship award was discussed. The two nominations were approved by the committee to be presented by the pilot at the awards banquet. Michelle moved and it was seconded that all nominations be in to the ERA committee by April the 1st of each year. In that way the nomination could normally come before the semiannual meeting and be ironed out before the annual meeting.

Nani and Susanne had a discussion that all state chairs should get the committee membership to her well in advance of the meetings.

We have been encouraged to coordinate a ten state bike ride. Minnesota reported that they have a complete state bike ride but no other states other than Iowa reported such an elaborate event. Iowa has a small bike ride that entails the three counties of Des Moines, Louisa and Muscatine.

All states are encouraged to make an inventory of the scenic ag and the most important time to view it, such as timber, oats, corn, tobacco, soy beans, canola, sun flowers, alfalfa, nuts, truck farming, fall foliage, etc. Kentucky and Iowa have provided a small list.

Finally we were to try to envision where we will be in 5 to 15 years. The ERA committee felt we needed more legislative support, a strong and supportive national organization, more paid staffers, encouragement of economics and recreation, and finally to work on a broader vision.



Jay T. Schweitzer

