



Mississippi River Parkway Commission
701 East Washington Avenue, Suite 202
Madison, WI 53703



**MRPC Meeting, West Memphis, AR
October 23rd, 24th and 25th 2018
Report of the ERA Committee
Report Prepared By Jay Schweitzer of Iowa and Nani Bhowmik of Illinois**

In attendance: Nani Bhowmik, Illinois and Jay Schweitzer, Iowa.

- The 2018 Ten State Great River Road Corridor Management Plan essentially left out the issues and impacts of water, water quality, environment and the values of these resources on the Great Road travelers and its surroundings,
- For example, under Item 4, Great River Road Intrinsic Resources, and as a minimum the following items should be included:
 - Enable Travelers to view the 'river' from the GRR,
 - Make facilities available for travelers to recreate on the river, e.g. boating, fishing, hike and just sit down and look at the river. After all without the river, the GRR would not have been built.
 - The GRR should identify Ag. Tourism sites. Teach travelers how food is produced, transported, sold and finally ends up on someone's dinner table,
 - Have facilities to show that without better water quality, probably most of the travelers would not be visiting the river and or would not come back for the second time.
- Each State Commission must work very closely with the State agencies to encourage the participation of the Technical members who must come from the State Agencies,
- We needed to encourage our Federal Partners to work closely with MRPC and State Agencies to identify on how recreational benefits could be included in the benefit/cost analysis on any Federal Projects to be implemented on the Mississippi river.
- We need to encourage our Federal partners to attend our Meetings and provide their inputs,
- We must and should take advantage of the offer by Secretary Slater and visit the local offices of the Federal agencies in our State and if needed a delegation from the MRPC should be sent to Washington, DC to talk with our Federal legislatures.
- For State MRPC, participation by the stake holders will enhance the effectiveness of the respective States.