



Mississippi River Parkway Commission

701 East Washington Avenue, Suite 202
Madison, WI 53703



MRPC - ERA Committee Minutes from Oct. 7, 2015; New Orleans, LA

Members Present: Karl Samp – chairing/facilitating/taking minutes for Nani; Jay S. – IA; Bob M. – WI; Michelle B. – MS; Steven Son – AR; Bob J. – KY

Mtg. called to order 2 p.m. on 10/7/15

Minutes approved Motion - KY; Second – WI; All in favor.

2016 – Year of Birding set by MRCC (lead- USF&W and NPS). We agreed we should participate and promote this activity and Bob M., Bob J., and Michelle B. all agreed to participate on planning calls and help keep MRPC informed and involved.

Nat. Geo. GeoTourism project – Meetings / workshops to be held in MN week of the 26th -30th. Bob M. will continue to be involved and plans on attending the MRCC meeting in NOLA on Nov. 17-18. There was consensus that all of the committee and states should be encouraged to contact their unique Agri-Tourism (and Rec.) sites and encourage them to attend a NG workshop and/or submit their nomination in for inclusion on the site.

Agritourism – all members/states should review their state’s agritourism sites for accuracy and completeness. We should also encourage our states to submit items (events, phenology, etc.) to Susanne/Lyn items for inclusion on our Facebook and web site to keep info fresh.

Visitor Survey: Someone in the group shared a draft survey that Nani had shared with her that was discussed at a previous meeting. Since everyone did not have a copy to review, we tabled discussion on this until the next meeting. Karl shared that as part of MN’s CMP process, a visitor survey was developed and hundreds of responses gathered. He will share that with the ERA asap.

MRT interest in joining/being part of MPRC- Karl and Bob shared discussion from the MRPC Board meeting where MRT presented the idea of being rolled into MRPC. They will bring a plan to the Board at our Semi Annual Mtg. in Lacrosse WI in April. There was Board discussion about how that might look and whether they be a separate committee, absorbed and included in all four committees, or joining in with ERA (i.e. ERA/MRT) with our focus on Recreation. Consensus was reached by the ERA members present that this would be a good idea to pursue and that MRT and their members would

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help bring a focus to our group, as well as energy, passion, and likely younger members. The committee suggested that as part of their plan they submit MRT should address/be asked to: a) have regular attendance at meetings; b) bring some ideas on how they can help support the added workload on MRPC staff and/or enhance opportunities to raise additional funding and c) identify where they can help accomplish goals/activities within our Strategic Plan and advance our Mission.

Stewardship Award: We have no nominations at this time.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:30 p.m.