

Kentucky

Mississippi River Parkway Commission

2015 Annual Report

The Mississippi River Parkway Commission of Kentucky in partnership with the Kentucky Great River Region Organization promotes activities and development of the Great River Road in the Mississippi River Region. The Commission is composed of four citizen members (one from each of the counties adjoining the Mississippi River), County Judge/Executives from Ballard, Carlisle, Hickman, and Fulton Counties, the Secretary of the Kentucky Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet, and the Secretary of the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet.

2015 Program Accomplishments

Kentucky's Mississippi River Counties generated \$9,326,672 in direct tourism expenditures and \$14,661,528 in indirect expenditures during 2014.

KMRPC/GRR County Travel Expenditures

County	2014 Direct Expenditures	2014 Total Expenditure
Ballard	\$3,491,266	\$5,488,270
Carlisle	\$ 579,427	\$ 910,859
Fulton	\$4,862,418	\$7,643,721
Hickman	\$ 393,561	\$ 618,678
	\$9,326,672	\$14,661,528

Source:

<http://www.kentuckytourism.com/userfiles/Industry/Economic%20Impact%20of%20Kentucky%20Travel%20and%20Tourism%20Industry%202013-2014.pdf>

- KYGRRO in collaboration with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, KY District Office #1 continues to administer the National Scenic Byway grant project for the design, fabrication, and installation of new "way finding" signage to the Four River County GRR Scenic Byway, along Interstates 24 and 69. Designs have been completed, encroachment permits have been approved, and fabrication will soon begin, setting the stage for installation. The project has already added trail signs to Columbus-Belmont State Park, Wickliffe Mounds State Historic Site and marked the Trail of Tears Benge Route with National Park Service Historic Trail Signs.



- Kentucky Great River Region Organization (KYGRRO) promotes and encourages development of various amenities, assets, and treasures along the Great River Road. In 2012, approximately 27,500 regional brochures were printed and distributed acknowledging approximately 120 places to visit, shop, eat, and stay in the four-county region. In 2014, KYGRRO reprinted 28,000 brochures adding 45 new places for visitors.
- Through this partnership Kentucky has accelerated the effort to market KY Great River Road amenities through the use of social media resources, websites, and magazines articles.
- The Purchase Area Development District continued to administer the City of Wickliffe's Fort Jefferson at the Confluence Historic Site National Scenic Byways grant project. This site is being developed utilizing National Scenic Byways funding administered through the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, Office of Local Programs. Locally the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet District I Highway Office has also assisted with project development. The City is currently prequalifying contractors to work on this project and it is anticipated that the bidding process will be initiated in the fall of 2015. It is the Kentucky Commission's intent to develop this facility as a future Great River Road Interpretive Center.
- Used project funds to purchase 1,065 t shirts to promote the National Great River Road while also focusing attention on Kentucky's Mississippi River region.
- Wickliffe Mounds is an archaeological site of prehistoric Native American village on a bluff overlooking the Mississippi River. This State Historic Site regularly hosts events such as Family Fun Archaeology Day which includes hands on demonstrations of pottery & tool making. Other events include an observance of Earth Day 26 with planting of trees native to the region.
- Wickliffe Mounds State Historic Site also hosted Community Day in September, 2014, which provided free admission for over 90 visitors and a presentation on current research at the archaeological site for Kentucky.
- As part of Archaeology Month, Wickliffe Mounds presented a very successful Archaeology Day Camp program for kids in June. The campers participated in a mock excavation, artifact analysis, art & craft activities and Native American games.
- School tours and educational programs continue to be very important to Wickliffe Mounds State Historic Site. Students are able to visit Wickliffe Mounds and participate in a guided tour, hands-on activities and to see first-hand the exhibits of an excavated mound, exhibits of the lifeways of Mississippian culture the science of archaeology. Additional information regarding Wickliffe Mounds events may be found at <http://parks.ky.gov/parks/historicsites/wickliffe-mounds/>.



- The Ballard County River Bottoms Tourism Council was established to assist in developing tourism opportunities in the extensive Wildlife Management Areas in the County. The Council is currently focusing on developing a kayaking trail on Flat Lake as the first leg of a trail that will eventually connect multiple areas. As part of this effort the Four Rivers League of Sportsman was created to promote hunting and fishing opportunities in the area.



- In December, 2014, a prehistoric artifact from Wickliffe Mounds was featured in a Kentucky Educational Television (KET) program called, "A Historic of Kentucky in 25 Objects" along with other artifacts from across the Commonwealth. In addition, scientific research was performed on a rare archaeological feature from the Wickliffe Mounds site known as the "Sun Circle Floor Feature". The Sun Circle is a common symbol in Mississippian culture and the motif was discovered in an archaeological excavation at Wickliffe Mounds in the 1990s. The feature's paint pigment (red, black, white, tan) was analyzed by the Argonne National Laboratory and results will be forthcoming.
- Columbus Belmont State Park, an interpretive center on the Kentucky Great River Road Scenic Byway, hosted Civil War Days on October 10-12, 2014. This three day event included battle re-enactments, living history, encampments, museum tours, cannons fired from the bluff, a ghost walk through the confederate earthworks, Civil War Ball (includes a Beautiful Belle and Handsome Gent contest before the dance and a Best Beard and Scraggly Beard contest at intermission) along with authentic demonstrations of period trades. This event was attended by over 15,000 visitors over the three day period. For the first time ever, 2015 will host an extra day on the Thursday evening for a sneak peek of a film "Clarissa's War", by screenplay adapted by Greg Welsch from the book "This Time Forever" by Linda Swift.

- Columbus-Belmont State Park hosted the Annual Community Day at the Park. This event included a nature hike, reptile show and an organic gardening demonstration. The Park also hosted a National Trails Day History Hike which included a tour of the grounds, nature trail and historic earthworks. On two occasions Columbus-Belmont State Park hosted the American Queen Steamboat which brings visitors from all over the United States to the Great River Road. The most up to date information regarding Park activities may be accessed at <http://parks.ky.gov/parks/recreationparks/columbus-belmont/>.



- Columbus-Belmont State Park surpassed record sales three times in the snack bar during the 2015 season in its entire history of the Park, contributed predominately to additional social marketing of the Park by KYGRRO.

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- Throughout the past year Kentucky's Great River Region has hosted numerous festivals, which can be found at www.KyGreatRiverRoad.org/2015Calendar:

Wickliffe Harvest Festival	September 9-12, 2015
LaCenter BBQ & Music Day	October 3, 2015
Carlislefest BBQ competition & catfish tournament	October 16-17, 2015
Hickman County Chicken Festival	April 24-25, 2015
City of Fulton Banana Festival	September 12-19, 2015
Hickman Pecan Festival	September 7, 2015
Heritage Days @ Hickman Co Museum	September 8, 2015
Barlow Days	September 19, 2015
Civil War Days, Columbus Park	October 9-11, 2015
City of Fulton Zombie Walk	October 31, 2015

Kentucky

Mississippi River Parkway Commission

FY2015 Meeting Minutes

Minutes
Kentucky Mississippi River Parkway Commission
January 30, 2015

The Kentucky Mississippi River Parkway Commission (KMRPC) met on Friday, January 30, 2015, at 11:00 am CST, at the Hickman County Industrial Development Authority, 1171 US Highway 51S, Clinton, Kentucky.

Members Present:

Lynn Lane	Ballard County
Brandi Webb	Carlisle County
Judge/Executive Greg Terry	Carlisle County
Judge/Executive Kenny Wilson	Hickman County
Norma Pruitt	Hickman County
Tommy Hodges	Fulton County
Mike McGregor	Kentucky Transportation Cabinet

Guests:

Alma Blair	Hickman County
Charles Blair	Hickman County
Greg Pruitt	Hickman County
JL Atwell	Fulton County
Cindy Lynch	Columbus Belmont State Park
Mark Davis	Purchase Area Development District

1. Call to Order

Chairman Greg Terry called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for attending. Next retiring Commissioners Greg Pruitt and Alma Blair were recognized for their service to the KMRPC.

2. Approval of Minutes

Chairman Terry referred the Commission to the minutes of the June 19, 2014 meeting as printed on pages 1-4 in the packet. Ms. Lynn Lane made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. Brandi Webb moved to second this motion which passed unanimously.

3. KMRPC History

- 3 a. Chairman Terry called on Mr. Mark Davis to review background information on the KMRPC for new members. Mr. Davis referred the Commission to page 5 in the packet which included KRS 176.500 the statute establishing the KMRPC. KMRPC is comprised of each Mississippi River County Judge/Executive and one citizen member from each County as appointed by the Governor.
- 3 b. Next Mr. asked the Commission to review the contact list on pages 6-8 and note any necessary revisions.

- 3 c. The KMRPC contract with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet and the Tourism, Arts & Heritage Cabinet, as included on pages 9-15 in the packet was reviewed.
- 3 d. Mr. Davis reported that the budget consists of \$6,000 PADD administrative, \$7,500 travel, \$10,000 National MPRC dues and \$6,500 in project funds.

4. Financial Report

- 4 a. Mr. Davis reviewed expenditures through December 31, 2014 as described on page 16 of the packet. Expenses to date total \$4,511.41 for travel to the National MRPC Annual Meeting in Memphis, TN. Following a discussion of schedules and budget limitations Hickman County Judge/Executive Kenny Wilson made a motion to approve the financial report as presented and for Norma and Greg Pruitt (as proxy for Judge Terry) to represent Kentucky at the Semi Annual Meeting and that Ms. Pruitt would represent Kentucky at the upcoming Mississippi River Geotoursim Orientation Meeting. Tom Hodges seconded the motion which passed with no opposition.
- 4 b. Next Mr. Davis referred the Commission to the National MRPC dues invoice on page 17. Mr. Davis explained that even though the invoice was for \$15,000 the National Office understands that Kentucky has only \$10,000 in the budget for dues. Ms. Norma Pruitt made a motion to authorize the PADD to pay the KMRPC National dues in the amount of \$10,000. Ms. Brandi Webb seconded the motion with passed with all present voting yes.
- 4 c. Mr. Davis presented the National Trail of Tears Association 2015 annual membership dues. Judge Wilson made a motion to use project funds to pay the annual dues in the amount of \$150. Ms. Pruitt moved to second the motion which passed unanimously.
- 4 d. Mr. Davis reminded the Commission that project funds needed to be expended by June 1, 2015. Following a brief discussion, Ms. Lynn Lane made a motion to use \$6,350 for t shirts to promote activities in Kentucky's Mississippi River Region. Mr. Tom Hodges seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

5. National Scenic Byways Update

- 5 a. Mr. Davis reported that the only bid received on the Fort Jefferson project was approximately 30 percent over budget therefore Wickliffe rejected the bid. The Project Team anticipates completion of a new bid package modified to come in under budget on or about February 9, 2015.
- 5 b. Ms. Pruitt and Mr. Mike McGregor updated the Commission on implementation of the Kentucky GRRO Sign Program. All Trail of Tears signs are up and staff is currently evaluating options for placing the balance of signs in the most efficient manner possible.

6. Kentucky GRRO Update

As Kentucky's project representative, Ms. Pruitt reported on the National Geographic Geotourism program. This project will identify a network of local sites and attractions that will encourage the traveling public to visit the region. This information will be available through an online interactive web site.

7. 2015 National MRPC Semi Annual Meeting

Mr. Davis reported that the National MRPC Semi Annual Meeting was scheduled for April 22-24, 2015 in St. Cloud, Minnesota.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business Ms. Pruitt made a motion to adjourn and Judge/Executive Terry moved to second the motion which unanimously.

Greg Terry, Chairman

Brandi Webb, Secretary

Minutes
Kentucky Mississippi River Parkway Commission
June 23, 2015

Greg Terry
Kenny Wilson
David Gallagher
Mike Mangeot
Jayne Combs
Bob Jost

Brandi Webb
Norma Pruitt
Tommy Hodges
Jim Martin
Kimberly Clay

1. Call to Order, Welcome & Introductions – Judge Terry
 - a) Meeting called to order at 1:10 PM
 - b) Introductions (see attached Sign-in Sheet)
 - c) Greg Pruitt as proxy for Judge Wilson (see attached proxy 6/18/2015)

2. Minutes of the January 30, 2015 Meeting – Judge Terry

- a. No discussion

motion	second	vote
Norma Pruitt	Tommy Hodges	Approved

3. Financial Report – Bob Jost

Administrative Services & Travel (\$13,500) – Internally we have agreed to split these funds into \$6,000 PADD admin and \$7,500 travel. MRPC Annual Meeting Memphis, September 17-19, 2014 = \$4,511.41; National Geographic St Louis, February 25-25, 2015 = \$446.97; MRPC Semi Annual Meeting St Cloud, April 22-24, 2015 = \$2,196.36; Total travel to date = \$7,154.74 which leaves a balance of \$345.26.

PADD admin \$6,000;

Project funds (\$6,500) – National Trail of Tears dues \$150, KY MRPC T-shirts \$6,345.43 (invoice on page 5) which leaves a balance of \$4.57

Annual Dues (\$10,000) – the annual dues have been paid to the National MRPC Office.

motion	second	vote
Norma Pruitt	Tommy Hodges	Approved

4. Nominating Committee – Judge Martin being the representative of the Nominating Committee presided over the report.

- a. The committee members were Judge Wilson, Judge Martin and Lynn Lane.

b. Judge Martin provided the Committee's recommendation that the current slate of Officers be retained:

Chair	Judge Greg Terry
Vice Chair	Judge Vickie Viniard
Treasurer	Tommy Hodges
Secretary	Brandi Webb

A brief discussion followed

motion	second	vote
Greg Pruitt	Norm Pruitt	Approved

5. KMRPC KTYC TAHC Memorandum of Understanding

The MOU for the upcoming year was reviewed by Judge Terry/Bob Jost. The Kentucky Commission will start the second year of a two year contract on July 1, 2015. The Budget is unchanged with \$13,500 for PADD administrative services (\$6,000 PADD admin + \$7,500 for travel), \$6,500 project funds & \$10,000 national dues. MOU is for two years @ \$30,000 each year for a total two year contact amount of \$60,000. A brief reference was made to the preceding financial report. Mr. Jost provided a reminder that NToTA dues are due on a calendar year basis, therefore January. Action to be taken at the September meeting.

motion	second	vote
No vote required.		

6. National Scenic Byways Update

a. The Fort Jefferson at the Confluence Historic Site Project in Wickliffe, KY was reviewed by Mr. Bob Jost. In brief the history of the project to date was presented to include the environmental hurdle presented by the mold in the rehab building. The bidding process for the remainder of the work was discussed further by Mr. Jost and Ms. Jane Combs from the KYTC Office of Local Programs. This project had to be redesigned because it was substantially over budget. A new design was developed in conjunction with Dr. Ken Carstens and has been submitted to KYTC for approval. Ms. Combs detailed the efforts to acquire a "Waiver in Special Circumstances" from the Transportation Cabinet to be able to pre-qualify local contractors to be able to meet KYTC requirements and thus be able to bid on the project. Ms. Combs was pleased to announce that the City of Wickliffe has been given the go ahead to work with her on this process, and to start the City can contact local contractors directly to encourage them to submit pre-qualification packets. This measure is expected to generate more interest from local contractors.

Project Costs: \$261,508 Federal + \$65,385 local = \$326,893 – project includes the development of a welcome center, pavilion & interpretive kiosks.

- c) KYGRRO Sign Program – Norma Pruitt detailed the work still to be done. The "way finding" signs for the Great River Road with the MRPC Pilot's Wheel logo, are in the works and the encroachment permits have been completed for locations along the Purchase Parkway/I-69 Corridor, and I-24. Also three interpretive panels yet to be installed, two at Columbus-Belmont State Park, and one at Wickliffe Mounds State Historic Site. Two of those signs will be witness signs for the Trail of Tears Water Route on the Mississippi River. The third

will address the Benge Route. These are National Park Service designed and NPA art work “Wayside” signs.

d) Trail of Tears – Mr. Jost brought to the attention of the Commissioners that the KYMRPC is once again a sponsoring member of the National Trail of Tears Association and as such is entitled to attend the Annual meeting of the NToTA which this year will be in Cape Girardeau. Norma Pruitt asked that NToTA correspondence be scanned and provided to all MRPC Council members, a task for the PADD to execute. He mentioned briefly PADD support, in the form of providing data as requested to the contractor for the Benge Route sign Project led by KYGRRO. The discussion then was picked up by Norma Pruitt see “B” above. The National Trail of Tears Conference is the same week as the MRPC National meeting. Unfortunate timing noted by all.

e) Ballard Bottoms Tourism Council – Mr. Bob Jost discussed the PADD support to the Ballard Bottoms Tourism Council. Technical support consisted of multiple map versions of the two Wildlife Management Areas in Ballard County, attendance and input at the Council’s meetings by Mr. Mark Davis, who also supported the efforts by paddling Flat Lake twice to provide input to Ballard Bottoms Tourism Council Chair Matt Haney.

e. This topic generated a spirited discussion led by Norma Pruitt, the Executive Director of KYGRRO and MRPC Commissioner from Hickman County, regarding limited access allowed by Kentucky Fish and Game, and their grudging cooperation with the efforts of all interested parties; MRPC, Carlisle County, KYGRRO et al to create an interconnected trail network too and through the WMAs in the River Counties. The discussion was deemed essential for the understanding of, and enlisting the assistance of, the Department of Tourism, Art and Heritage Cabinet. Note: This generated action by Kimberly Clay of the Cabinet: “As a follow-up to the discussion during yesterday’s annual meeting regarding use of the 1.6 mile road included in the Fish & Wildlife management area to access Columbus-Belmont, I spoke with Matt Sawyer, TAH deputy secretary regarding the situation. He is knowledgeable of the issues involved and stated that the access road is open (although closed during hunting season) to pedestrians and horseback riders, but not for motorized access per Department of Fish & Wildlife policy. He also stated that if KMRPC members were interested in more detailed discussion, he would be happy to coordinate a meeting with the new Fish & Wildlife Commissioner. If you have any additional questions on the matter, you may contact Matt directly at Matt.Sawyers@ky.gov or the Department of Fish & Wildlife.”

7. Kentucky GRRO Update

In addition to the discussions KYGRRO’s stewardship of the Sign Project, and contributions to the Ballard Bottoms Tourism Council, Norma Pruitt completed outlining KYGRRO’s work on behalf of the MRPC, and participating counties, specifically progress made on trails promotion and working towards Trail Town status with the State.

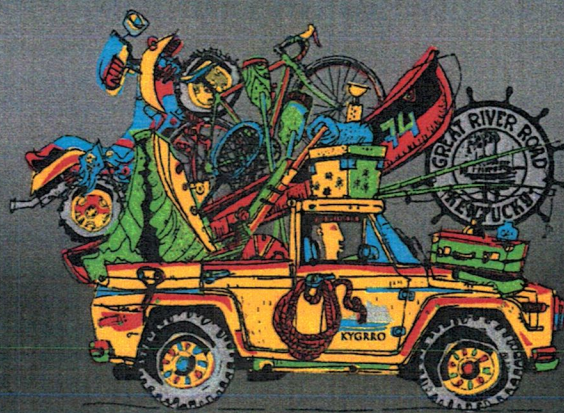
8. 2015 National MRPC Annual Meeting

Judge Terry brought to the attention of the committee the dates and locations of upcoming National MRPC meetings. Bob Jost floated the idea of KY MRPC members traveling as a group from Fulton using the City of New Orleans AMTRAK route. Judge Martin volunteered Fulton Transit to run any and all out to the station.

2015	Annual Meeting	October 6-8, 2015	New Orleans
2016	Semi-Annual Meeting	Spring 2016	Lacrosse, WI
2016	Annual Meeting	Fall 2016	Natchez, MS

9. Other Business: There being none.

10. Adjourned: By Judge Terry.



DO IT ALL

On the Trails

KyGreatRiverRoad.org

Kentucky

Mississippi River Parkway Commission

FY2015 Membership Listing

Kentucky Mississippi River Parkway Commission

2015-2016 Officers

Greg Terry
Vickie Viniard
Tommy Hodges
Brandi Webb

Chairman
Vice Chair
Treasurer
Secretary

Member	Representing	Committee/Term
Vickie Viniard Ballard County Courthouse Annex PO Box 276 Wickliffe, KY 42087 270/335-5176; 270/335-3010 fax bcjudge@brtc.net	Ballard County Judge/Executive	Environment. Recreation & Agriculture
Lynn Lane Ballard County Courthouse PO Box 145 Wickliffe, KY 42087 270/335-5168 bcclerk@brtc.net	Ballard County citizen member	Marketing
Greg Terry Carlisle County Courthouse PO Box 279 Bardwell, KY 42023 270/628-5451; 445-0051 cell 270/628-0190 fax judge@ccfcky.com	Carlisle County Judge/Executive	Culture&Heritage
Brandi Webb Carlisle County Courthouse PO Box 279 Bardwell, KY 42023 270/628-5451 bwebb@ccfcky.com	Carlisle County citizen member	Environmental, Recreation, Ag
Kenny Wilson Hickman County 116 South Jefferson St Clinton, KY 42031 270/653-4369; 270/653-4360 fax hickmancountyjudgeexec@gmail.com	Hickman County Judge/Executive	Transportation

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Kentucky Tourism, Arts
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