



**Minnesota Mississippi River Parkway Commission
3rd Quarter Meeting – August 11, 2016
State Office Building, St. Paul MN
MINUTES – Approved November 10, 2016**

Commissioners Present

Karl Samp – Brainerd to Elk River
Anne Lewis – Grand Rapids to Brainerd
Rep. Sheldon Johnson – Chair
Scott Bradley – Transportation Appointee
Keith Parker – DNR Appointee
Sheronne Mulry – Hastings to Iowa Border
Adam Johnson – Explore Minnesota Appointee

Technical Advisors & Staff Present

Carol Zoff – Transportation
Gina Bonsignore – DNR
David Kelliher – Historical Society
John Anfinson – National Park Service
Greg Hubinger - LCC

Diane Henry-Wangenstein – LCC
Chris Miller – Staff

Commissioners & Technical Advisors

Absent

Paul Hugunin – Agriculture Appointee
Sen. Patricia Torres-Ray
Sen. David Senjem
Nancy Salminen – Lake Itasca to Grand Rapids
Andrea Kajer – Historical Society Appointee
Cordelia Pierson – Elk River to Hastings

Guests Present

David Larson, MnDOT

The meeting was called to order at 2:35 by Chair Johnson, followed by introductions. A quorum was present.

Review of Agenda and Minutes from 5/19/16 Meeting

The draft agenda was reviewed along with draft minutes from the 5/19/16 meeting. Motion by Karl Samp and seconded by Anne Lewis to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried. Motion by Keith Parker and seconded by Scott Bradley to approve the 5/19/16 minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Commission Business

Budget Updates – FY'16 Final Report and FY '17 Allocation: Chris Miller provided information on reports included in the meeting packet. The FY '16 budget is soon to be finalized and carry over will roll forward into the FY '17 budget. Motion by Sheronne Mulry and seconded by Karl Samp to approve the budget reports as presented. Motion carried.

At Large Member Election: Chair Johnson announced the vacancy due to the resignation of Mark Anderson and called for nominations from Commission members. Karl Samp nominated Anne Lewis for the At-Large Member position. Anne is currently a Regional Member representing the Grand Rapids to Brainerd Region but will be moving to the Twin Cities. She has represented the Commission well at both the state and national levels. Chair Johnson called for additional nominations from the floor. None were received and so a vote was called by the Chair. Anne Lewis was elected as the At-Large Member and will resign her regional position. She expressed thanks to the Commission for their votes and confidence.

Regional Elections Update: Bluffs and Metro Regional Meetings/Elections will be held this fall. The Bluffs Regional Meeting will be held on September 23 in Red Wing, and the Metro Meeting is yet to be scheduled. Options are being explored to align the Metro Meeting with another meeting involving a similar audience.

Executive Committee and Commission Bylaws/Rules: Members reviewed the draft committee description included in the packet. This description will be included in bylaws when developed. Several edits were made to the Executive Committee description. The Commission approved of the draft as edited and asked that interest in serving on the committee be solicited via email. The Commission would then appoint/elect the Executive Committee at a future meeting, potentially on November 10.

Member Recognition: Two proposed recognition resolutions were distributed to Commission members for review. Chair Johnson referenced Mark Anderson's service to the Commission as At-Large Member and read a draft resolution of appreciation from the Commission. Motion by Anne Lewis and seconded by Sheronne Mulry to approve the resolution of recognition for Mark Anderson. Motion carried. Karl Samp provided background on his recommendation to recognize Carol Zoff in lieu of a nomination for a National MRPC Distinguished Service Award, which she is ineligible for since she has received it in the past. Karl noted Carol's dedication and commitment, with additional comments of support shared by David Larson and Scott Bradley. Karl read a resolution of appreciation for Carol. Motion by Karl Samp and seconded by Scott Bradley to approve the resolution of recognition for Carol Zoff. Motion carried.

Corridor Management Plan

Grant Closeout: Both CMP grants had end dates of June 30, 2016. Final reports are being prepared and grant accounts are being closed out. Full printed copies of the CMP were sent to members of the Project Advisory Team and materials posted on the website have been finalized, checked and revised for ADA compliance. A suggestion was made to send a print copy of the CMP to the National MRPC office. Chris Miller noted that this is the last time the CMP will be a separate agenda item. Specific projects will now be listed on the agenda as they are being implemented.

Initial Implementation Projects – Status & Needs: Carol Zoff reviewed the four initial implementation projects. They are – Wayfinding Signage; Plan Your Project Interactive Mapping Tool; Plan Your Trip Interactive Mapping Tool; and Great River Road Ambassador Development. Work is needed on the Plan Your Project Tool prior to signage being addressed since it will include sign locations and other information for project management. MnDOT is in the process of determining how to move forward with Plan Your Project – whether as a separate program or within regular processes. As it moves forward, Carol will need a GIS/database contact from each MN-MRPC member state agency to ensure coordination and appropriate use of data. She will be in touch with MN-MRPC members individually regarding this request. Plan Your Trip will be implemented after Plan Your Project is up and running. NPS www.rivertripplanner.org is being looked at as an example. The two online mapping tools will provide tools for Ambassador Development. One of the first ambassador tasks may be vetting the information in the traveler resources database (Plan Your Trip).

Karl Samp mentioned Blandin Community Broadband Grants as a potential source of funding, possibly as a community of interest or linear community project including virtual meetings involving towns along the river. These opportunities might exclude the Twin Cities and St. Cloud areas.

Explore Minnesota Marketing Grant Application/MN GRR Map Project: Chris Miller referenced the project overview sheet in the meeting packet. The MN-MRPC's supply of Minnesota Great River Road Map/Travel Planners is nearly depleted and requests continue to be received. The CMP includes a recommendation for a drivable map – both in print and online. Explore Minnesota is currently accepting applications for marketing grants. Matching funds would be required from non-state sources. MN-MRPC project management and coverage of distribution costs and tax would also be necessary. Motion by Scott Bradley and seconded by Anne Lewis to move forward with seeking funds for a map project as defined on the overview sheet including a grant application to EMT if required match is secured. Motion carried. Karl Samp will share the need for match funds with initiative foundations. Other potential sources of funding were discussed for consideration if an application to EMT is not feasible.

National Advisory Council and Travel & Tourism Infrastructure: Anne Lewis provided a summary of past discussions regarding the FAST Act and the Travel & Tourism Advisory Council to be developed, including a phone discussion with staff from Sen. Klobuchar's office regarding Great River Road representation on the council. In early July, information was received on a notice posted in the Federal Register seeking applications for membership on the council. The MRPC submitted an application for Diana Threadgill of Tennessee. MnDOT submitted an application for Commissioner Zelle. Status of applications/acceptance should be known sometime in fall 2016.

National MRPC Updates

2016 Annual Meeting - Natchez, MS: Restrictions on travel to Mississippi and North Carolina for state agencies/commissions remain in effect. Karl Samp will attend the Natchez meeting as National Pilot, and Anne Lewis plans to attend as part of a personal trip.

GRR Interpretive Center Nominations: Nominations were submitted to the National MRPC Office this week for the Oliver Kelley Farm and Charles A. Lindbergh Historic Site. Special thanks to Andrea Kajer, John Crippen, Lindsey Dyer, Ann Olson Bercher and Melissa Peterson at MNHS for their work. The nominations will be considered for approval at the MRPC Annual Meeting in September.

Drive the Great River Road Month: September is annual Drive the Great River Road Month. All were asked to watch for information on the sweepstakes and promotional efforts, and to help spread the word.

Old Business

Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area Rule Comments: Chris Miller referenced the letter in the meeting packets, regarding resubmission of MN-MRPC comments. Special thanks to the subcommittee of David Kelliher, Cordelia Pierson and Carol Zoff for their work reviewing the proposed rules and providing a comparison to the MN-MRPC's comments.

Agency and Regional Updates

Grand Rapids to Brainerd: Anne Lewis reported on upcoming events including the KAXE Mississippi River Music Festival on July 16 and the Grand Rapids Library hosting speakers about the river. On August 8, a travel writer/paddler will begin travel from Lake Itasca to the Louisiana. The Aitkin Chamber of Commerce reports little activity on the river this year, since the local riverboat/showboat is currently being repaired. Celebrations will take place when the repairs are completed. Grand Rapids is waiting on a possible special session for a decision on \$750,000 included in the bonding bill for a pedestrian bridge over the Mississippi River.

Brainerd to Elk River: Karl Samp reminded everyone of the 2017 Governor's Fishing Opener in the St. Cloud/Sartell/Sauk Rapids area. He also reported on the MRT Kiosk dedication event held on July 12 in conjunction with the 2nd Annual Headwaters to Hills Ride (see handout in packet). The Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area is planning for expansion of trails and has funding included in the bonding bill currently on hold. 12 new businesses have opened in Crosby since the mountain bike trails were created including a resort for riders. ATV trail projects are continuing in the region. Shore Excursions will be taking a group of American Queen travelers from St. Cloud to Itasca State Park in August and Karl will be serving as a guide. Discussions are also taking place on possible future Great River Road excursions. The Brainerd Lakes Area Community Foundation has approved the 2nd (of up to 3) year of funding for the Brainerd Riverfront Project. Current priority is the "Three Bridges Project" including possibilities such as a raised trail and sculpture park.

Hastings to Iowa Border: Sheronne Mulry mentioned a new business in Lake City – Eagle Hang Gliding. The National Eagle Center in Wabasha recently received a new resident eagle from Washington State. Dredging is underway near Reads Landing and Minneiska, and road/bridge construction projects continue at Red Wing, Winona and Dresbach.

Explore Minnesota Tourism: Adam Johnson expressed congratulations to Anne Lewis on her election to the Commission's at-large position. He also reported on a travel blogger exchange conference being held along the Mississippi River in Saint Paul featuring the NPS Centennial; preparations for 2,000 European visitors to Saint Paul during the Ryder Cup September 27 – October 2; and French American Lines bringing a new boat up the Mississippi on October 8. Visit Saint Paul is working with partners to improve the visitor experience in the boat docking area.

Historical Society: David Kelliher provided an update regarding activities at Fort Snelling and noted thanks to the Commission for their letter of support for funding. Regardless of whether there is a special

session and the outcome of that session, MNHS will continue to work with stakeholders to develop more programs representing new perspectives at Fort Snelling. The Pioneer Press did a special June insert on Historic Fort Snelling. Activities to revitalize the Upper Post continue as overseen by a Joint Powers Group. Construction on the new visitor center at the Oliver Kelley Farm continues and is going well; completion is scheduled for mid-fall followed by winter preparation for a spring opening. The MN-MRPC was invited to consider holding a meeting at the new facility.

Natural Resources: Keith Parker described the DNR's role in Fort Snelling activities, including partnering on work to restore and reuse 26 Upper Post buildings. NPS is helping to facilitate this work. The 2017 Governors Fishing Opener will be in the DNR Central Region and there is great enthusiasm for the event. An internal DNR Mississippi River Team continues to work on habitat improvement out of the Lake City office. An aquatic habitat restoration project is occurring at Weaver Bottoms to restore depth and appropriately dispose of sediment. DNR collaborates with the USACOE on such efforts. Minnesota will be hosting the Upper Mississippi River Conservation Committee Conference in March of 2017 and recommendations for host sites along the river are welcome. Gina Bonsignore reported on record use of state parks during this 125th anniversary year. Fort Snelling State Park is taking on the role of Gateway Park along with Itasca State Park, and Whitewater State Park is hosting a recreation "try it" event. A tour was recently provided for a group of planning professionals at the Warner Road site with discussion focused on how to engage youth and diverse populations. Planning is taking place for a "Bike to Nature" ½ day tour of river parks, just prior to National Public Lands Day. 800 people participated in the annual "Take a Day OFF" event at Stearns County Mississippi River Park. The Blufflands State Trail is in planning stages with a master plan likely to be complete in a few months.

Transportation: Scott Bradley reported on a June meeting within MnDOT regarding byways and byway organizations and how to continue this work with reduced/different funding and support structures. There is a commitment at MnDOT to find \$1.5 million annually to support Minnesota Byways including flexibility for projects beyond infrastructure. The Minnesota Scenic Byway Commission has updated the Memorandum of Understanding between member agencies and is working on strategic planning. DEED and MnDOT are working on a potential solicitation for economic development/transportation funds. Objectives, applications and scoring are being discussed. Carol Zoff mentioned an open funding solicitation for tribal transportation grants through FHWA. Also, the next Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) program funding solicitation will be released soon. Kimley-Horn Associates, CMP project consultants, will be doing a presentation/mobile workshop at the MN APA Conference, late September in St. Cloud. Carol will be serving as one of the presenters.

National Park Service: John Anfinson announced that August 25 is NPS Founders Day, being celebrated as part of the 2016 NPS Centennial. The Centennial activities continue throughout the year and are resulting in attention and press coverage. The Paddle Share Program had a pilot soft open which went very well, to be followed by a grand opening during the week of August 25. The MNRRA Visitor Center in the Science Museum of Minnesota has been closed for remodeling and is scheduled to reopen by the end of the month. The St. Anthony Falls Visitor Center has seen increases in visitor numbers – from 2,000 in past seasons to 12,000 this year after NPS began handling operations. Expanded activities will be planned for future years. The Minneapolis Institute of Art has installed 19 "frame stations" along the river as part of their Seeing Nature program. People can take photos and post them to social media them using #seenature or #parkconnection. The Minneapolis Riverfront Partnership has extended this year's Mississippi Minute Film Festival to include all 72 miles of the MNRRA corridor, in recognition of the NPS Centennial. John noted that the Administrative Law Judge's comments on the proposed Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area Rules were just released, and the DNR will now review. There were questions from the group on next steps and timelines and also whether the ALC comments are available online. DNR staff will review and incorporate ALJ comments. Keith Parker will check on the process and timeline for finalization, release and implementation of the rules. John expressed thanks to the MN-MRPC for their letter and comments on this important topic.

Other Business

Geotourism Program Rollout Events: Karl Samp described the plan for rollout of the National Geographic Mississippi River Geotourism Website. The formal launch will be on September 14 in Natchez, Mississippi in conjunction with the Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative Meeting and Mississippi

River Parkway Commission Annual Meeting. A series of regional rollout events will then follow. An event is planned for October 12 in the Quad Cities. A question was raised about a Twin Cities event and how that would be planned. John Anfinson mentioned that he and Sabrina Chandler of USFWS have been listed as possible contacts for a Twin Cities event. Karl reported that the Mississippi River Connections Collaborative (umbrella partnership handling the geotourism project along with other project collaborations) recently updated their Memorandum of Understanding for signature by all partners, including the MRPC.

Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative: Karl Samp mentioned that Anne Lewis had a conversation with a representative of Saint Paul Mayor Coleman's office regarding the potential for partnership between the MRPC and MRCTI. This will be further explored at the National Office level, and Karl will follow up when both groups meet in Natchez.

U.S. Bicycle Route 41: Liz Walton provided an email update about development of US Bicycle Route 41. USBR 41 will link the MRT/USBR 45 to Grand Portage/Canada. MRT shows up on the general planning and public engagement materials and is clearly noted as a connection on the "about" page: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/bike/usbr41/about.html>. If MN-MRPC members are interested in seeing how the two routes connect and would like to vote on a USBR 41 name, their input is welcome. The survey can be found here: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/bike/usbr41/index.html> at bottom of home page--or directly here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/USBR41>.

2017 Governor's Fishing Opener: This event will be held on the Mississippi River hosted by the St. Cloud-Sartell-Sauk Rapids communities, May 11 – 14, 2017. There is a community picnic planned for Friday, May 12, 4:00 – 8:00 p.m. at Lake George that may be an opportunity for MN-MRPC/Great River Road involvement. Commission members recommended exploring options for this.

Next Meeting

Thursday, November 10, 2016
2:30 – 5:00 p.m.
State Office Building Basement Hearing Room

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.



**Minnesota Mississippi River Parkway Commission
4th Quarter Meeting – November 10, 2016
State Office Building, St. Paul MN
MINUTES – Approved March 2, 2017**

Commissioners Present

Karl Samp – Brainerd to Elk River
Anne Lewis – At Large Member
Rep. Sheldon Johnson – Chair
Keith Parker – DNR Appointee
Sheronne Mulry – Hastings to Iowa Border
Cordelia Pierson – Elk River to Hastings
Nancy Salminen – Lake Itasca to Grand Rapids
Amanda Mac Donald – Grand Rapids to Brainerd

Technical Advisors & Staff Present

Carol Zoff – Transportation
Gina Bonsignore – DNR

David Kelliher – Historical Society
Greg Hubinger - LCC
Chris Miller – Staff

Commissioners & Technical Advisors

Absent

Scott Bradley – Transportation Appointee
Paul Hugunin – Agriculture Appointee
Adam Johnson – Tourism Appointee
Sen. Patricia Torres-Ray
Sen. David Senjem
Andrea Kajer – Historical Society Appointee

The meeting was called to order at 2:35 by Chair Johnson, followed by introductions. A quorum was present. Chair Johnson and all welcomed new member Amanda MacDonald, representing the Grand Rapids to Brainerd Region.

Review of Agenda and Minutes from 8/11/16 Meeting

The draft agenda was reviewed along with draft minutes from the 8/11/16 meeting. Motion by Karl Samp and seconded by Cordelia Pierson to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried. Motion by Sheronne Mulry and seconded by Nancy Salminen to approve the 8/11/16 minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Commission Business

Budget Report: Chris Miller provided an overview of the budget report included in the meeting packet. The budget includes carry over funding from FY '16, which must be spent during FY '17. Great River Road needs include a printed map and website updates. A question was raised about whether the Commission can enter into a map sponsorship arrangement or sell advertising to help cover printing costs. LCC will check into this.

Regional Meetings/Elections Update: A Bluffs Regional Meeting was held in Red Wing on September 23 and Sheronne Mulry was re-elected to the Regional Commissioner position. Sheronne described the meeting attendance and response and special thanks were noted to Red Wing Ignite, the meeting location. A Metro Regional Meeting was held at Historic Fort Snelling on October 27 and special thanks were noted to meeting hosts Historic Fort Snelling and the Minnesota Historical Society. Cordelia Pierson was re-elected to the Regional Commissioner position. Cordelia shared information on the meeting attendance and feedback and also noted the Mississippi River Geotourism Website rollout meeting that followed, including a welcome by St. Paul Mayor Coleman. Amanda MacDonald, Executive Director of the Aitkin Chamber of Commerce, was recently elected to fill the remainder of the term in the Grand Rapids to Brainerd Region following the move by Anne Lewis to the At-Large Position.

Executive Committee Confirmation and Initial Tasks: The Executive Committee description in the meeting packet was referenced as edited and approved at the last meeting. By definition, the committee is to include the Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary-Treasurer. Two additional positions are to be filled by the MRPC and overall membership is to include a House or Senate member, regional member and agency member. Rep. Johnson recommended Andrea Kajer (MNHS – agency member) and Sen. Dave Senjem (MN Senate) to fill the two positions. Both have indicated willingness to serve. Motion by Anne Lewis to approve the proposed Executive Committee membership (Rep. Johnson, Sheronne Mulry, Anne Lewis,

Andrea Kajer and Sen. Senjem), seconded by Cordelia Pierson. Motion carried. A meeting of the Committee will be set early in 2017.

Confirm 2017 Quarterly Meeting Dates: Quarterly meeting dates for 2017 were confirmed as follows – March 2, June 8, August 31 and November 9. Meetings will be from 2:30 to 5:00 p.m. in the State Office Building unless otherwise noted. In addition, a special meeting was set for consideration of letters of support for Transportation Alternatives Program grant applications. That meeting will be Thursday, January 5 at 2:30 p.m. in the State Office Building. Length of the meeting will be determined by the number of projects to be considered for support and members can participate and vote by phone.

National MRPC Updates

2016 Annual Meeting - Natchez, MS: Anne Lewis reported. The City of Natchez was a beautiful riverfront location and provided wonderful Southern hospitality. Anne participated in multiple committee meetings to represent the MN-MRPC. There was discussion at the MRPC Board meeting regarding development of a ten-state Corridor Management Plan (CMP) that will align with individual state CMPs as well as coordinate ten state efforts and provide help for states without a CMP in place. GIS route files from all ten states have been received by the National Office and they are working with a consulting firm to utilize the route information for drivable mapping in the GRR app as well as future printed maps. A launch event was held for the Mississippi River Geotourism Website, in conjunction with the Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative Meeting and MRPC Annual Meeting. The event included discussion on the importance of tourism as an economic driver along the Mississippi River. Regional rollout meetings have been subsequently held in several locations. The MRPC 2017 Semi-Annual Meeting will be held in Paducah, Kentucky in mid-April and the 2017 Annual Meeting will be in Iowa during the third week of September.

GRR Interpretive Centers – MN Additions: The MRPC Culture and Heritage Committee approved the Charles A. Lindbergh Historic Site and the Oliver Kelley Farm for inclusion in the Network of Great River Road Interpretive Centers, and forwarded the nominations to the MRPC Board for final approval.

Drive the Great River Road Month Report: Anne Lewis referenced the summary information included in the meeting packet. Minnesota's Drive the Great River Road Month promotion centered on the concept of "10 Glimpses of America via the Great River Road." A press release was distributed, different "glimpses" were highlighted each week on the MN GRR website and Facebook page, and the ten-state sweepstakes was promoted. Special thanks to MN-MRPC agency partners who helped with the promotion through social media, newsletters, sharing of photographs, etc. Their efforts were invaluable and much appreciated.

MRPC Marketing Committee Update: Anne Lewis reported and referenced the MRPC Quarterly Marketing Report in the meeting packet. Upcoming plans for the Marketing Committee include bicycling and birding promotions in 2017 in addition to the Drive the Great River Road month promotion; a new print run of a National GRR map – due to the popularity and rapid distribution of the previous printing; GRR navigation app update to include a ten state drivable route map; and exploration of sponsorships to help fund initiatives. The committee will be holding more frequent calls/meetings to continue the positive momentum.

Old Business

Plan Your Project/Plan Your Trip Interactive Maps: Carol Zoff announced that MnDOT will be hiring a student worker through their SEEDS Program. The position description focuses on taking the mapping information provided by Kimley-Horn for the CMP and then developing the "Plan Your Project" online tool for use by road and facilities managers followed by future development of the "Plan Your Trip" tool for travelers. The student worker position will include 10 – 20 hours per week during the school year and 20 – 40 hours per week in the summer. A position posting was distributed and all MN-MRPC members and partners were encouraged to share the information.

Mississippi River Geotourism Website Launch: A Twin Cities Regional Rollout Meeting for the National Geographic Mississippi River Geotourism Website was held on October 27. Contributor

recognition certificates were presented to those in attendance. Certificates were also provided to all contributors via email.

Mississippi River Trail (MRT) Update: Chris Miller shared information provided by Liz Walton. MRT signage in Minnesota has a few gaps remaining and there would be interest in partnering on any signage projects pursued for the Great River Road. MnDOT and NPS have been receiving inquiries about the ten state MRT. The MRT Inc. website is no longer operational and travelers/bicyclists are seeking information. Questions were raised regarding the potential of MRT Inc. becoming part of the MRPC. The MRPC Board has requested a draft agreement/proposal from the MRT Inc. Board.

New Business

Minnesota GIS/LIS Consortium Conference – Speaker Request: A letter from the Minnesota GIS/LIS Conference Chair was included in the meeting packet. They are requesting a Minnesota Great River Road keynote speaker after reading the GRR article featured in the spring edition of Lake Time Magazine. A vendor booth is also being offered for GRR materials and promotion. There was discussion about the request and potential presenters. Anne Lewis and Carol Zoff volunteered to do a shared presentation, to be designed after discussion with the conference chair. MN-MRPC members agreed to this approach and several members offered to help staff the vendor booth (Salminen, Mulry, Samp). Keith Parker offered assistance from the DNR as the presentation is prepared. Based on the discussion, Chair Johnson confirmed acceptance of the presentation invitation on behalf of the MN-MRPC and requested that staff contact the conference chair.

MN Great River Road Map Project: There was discussion on options for development and printing of a MN GRR map prior to the 2017 travel season. The supply printed in 2015 has been depleted and bulk orders are no longer being fulfilled. A limited supply of the maps remains in stock for fulfillment of individual orders from the MN GRR website and for use at meeting/events. A marketing grant application was not submitted to Explore Minnesota due to lack of matching funds which are required to be from non-state sources. Sponsorships or advertising might be options to help fund future print pieces, if determined to be allowable under the MN-MRPC statute. There was support for the use of 2017 MN-MRPC operating budget funds to develop and print a new map or revise/re-print an existing piece. Cost will determine what is possible. It was agreed that a drivable map would be most helpful, especially as signage remains a concern. Staff will look into options. Members volunteered to assist on the project – Anne Lewis, Sheronne Mulry, Keith Parker, Karl Samp, Nancy Salminen. A recommendation was made to consider the regional map tablets for a re-print.

Letters of Support – Transportation Alternatives Applications: Carol Zoff provided background on the Transportation Alternatives funding solicitation currently open at MnDOT. The opportunity is available statewide except for the Twin Cities Metro area. The first step is for local projects to submit letters of interest. 75 letters have been received, 14 of the projects are in Great River Road communities, and 12 are projects along the byway (four have self-identified as byway projects). The 12 projects are requesting a total of \$7.3 million which would be matched by an additional \$12.9 million. These potential project applicants will receive notice from MnDOT in late November indicating whether they are approved to submit a full application. Applications are due in mid-January. Letters of support from the byway organization are not required but would be of help. A special meeting of the MN-MRPC has been scheduled for January 5 at 2:30 p.m. to act on requested letters of support. MN-MRPC staff will contact TAP applicants regarding the timeline and process for letters. Letter requests and project summaries will be provided to MN-MRPC members in mid to late December for review and consideration.

Crown Hydro Proposal –MN-MRPC Role: Cordelia Pierson shared information on the proposed Crown Mill Hydroelectric Project in Minneapolis and referenced the comment letter from Friends of the Lock and Dam (included in the packet) and MNRRA/NPS (distributed). Comments were due on November 2, though additional comments may be accepted after that date. NPS has not taken a position on the overall project but has noted specific concerns and supports the determination that a new license application is the appropriate mechanism to license the project, as well as an Environmental Impact Statement to adequately address impacts. The existing license was received 17 years ago, prior to much recent and current riverfront activity. David Kelliher provided historical perspective and information. Keith Parker noted that the DNR will be submitting comments related to permitting. Consensus of the

Commission was that more information is needed about the project and its potential impacts. The Great River Road is directly alongside the project location in Mill Ruins Park. There was discussion about scenic impact to the byway if there are changes to the water volume of St. Anthony Falls.

Motion by Nancy Salminen and seconded by Keith Parker authorizing a letter from the MN-MRPC to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission stating interest in the project, noting concerns over potential impact to byway intrinsic qualities, noting support of member agency comments submitted (NPS, DNR, DOT, MNHS) and asking to be in the loop for future communications and comment opportunities regarding the project. Motion carried.

Agency and Regional Updates

Lake Itasca to Grand Rapids: Nancy Salminen reported that the Lady's Slipper Byway (partially co-located with the GRR) has obtained traffic counts for two of its interpretive sites. Information was shared and details will be emailed to Commission members. Traffic counts might be good information to collect at points along the GRR in the future. A pre-design meeting will be held on November 17 in Bemidji for the Mississippi River pedestrian bridge project along Highway 39. Stakeholders including MN-MRPC members are invited and details will be shared via email. The Lady's Slipper Byway is also working on plans for a new 1/3 mile accessible walking trail which could be constructed next summer.

Brainerd to Elk River: Karl Samp shared an update including information on the plans for expansion of the Cuyuna Lakes Trail system. The Brainerd Riverfront Project continues to meet and is planning for "three bridges trail" along the river. The group is pursuing Transportation Alternatives funds for the project. Two tour groups from Shore Excursions took bus trips to Itasca State Park in late summer, connected with American Queen cruises. There are plans for future tours as well and preliminary discussions have taken place regarding a Great River Road bus tour in the future. Karl also mentioned a recent strategic planning session with the MN Farmers Market Association and interest of their members in promoting sites via the Great River Road.

Elk River to Hastings: Cordelia Pierson provided information on the State of the River Report recently released by Friends of the Mississippi River and the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area; and suggested it as a presentation topic for a future MN-MRPC meeting. The Federal Lands Access Program is currently accepting funding applications and local groups are considering submitting requests. Elk River has new conservation land along the Mississippi River; Minneapolis is continuing with potential plans for an amphitheater along the river; East River Trail now provides an improved bicycle/pedestrian route; St. Paul recently hired a new Great River Passage Coordinator; NPS launched a pilot paddle share (kayak) program in conjunction with Nice Ride stations; and many restoration and volunteer clean-up programs have been taking place along the river recently.

Hastings to Iowa Border: Sheronne Mulry reported that Wabasha County will be accessing funds to assist with August flood damage. Goodhue County has nominated the Cannon Valley Trail for inclusion on the Mississippi River Geotourism Website by Goodhue County. A new exhibit – Memories of Vietnam – just opened at the Winona County History Center. Sheronne recently joined the Lake Pepin Legacy Alliance and has been sharing information about the MN-MRPC and Great River Road. The Alliance works to protect and restore the natural heritage of Lake Pepin. Information is available at - <http://www.lakepepinlegacyalliance.org/>.

Historical Society: David Kelliher announced that attendance was up this season at Minnesota Historic Sites. There was an overall 3% increase in visits even with the Capitol closure. Work at the Oliver Kelley Farm is now 98% complete and a suggestion was made to hold a future MN-MRPC meeting at the new facility. The Historic Fort Snelling visitor center project is continuing including community engagement efforts and increased involvement of Native American partners.

Natural Resources: Keith Parker noted the DNR's comments in process regarding the Crown Mill Hydroelectric Project and also provided a status update on the Mississippi Corridor Critical Area Rules. The DNR is working on final adoption of the rules after information was received back from the Administrative Law Judge. A new manager is being hired for Fort Snelling State Park after Larry Peterson moved into a new role with the Fort Snelling Upper Post Project. Progress continues on work at the

Upper Post and hopefully funding will be available to continue the affordable housing project. Camp Ripley has been designated as a Sentinel Landscape (one of five nationally), allowing for continued placement of buffer zones as land becomes available. Gina Bonsignore announced that the Upper Mississippi River Basin Association Conference will be held in Red Wing on March 2017. A "Bike to Nature" ride was held with participants including Commissioner Landwehr, Mayor Coleman, and Superintendent Anfinson. The bicycle ride followed the MRT from the DNR Central Region Headquarters to Fort Snelling and is now expected to be an annual event. Public Lands Day activities at Hidden Falls were a success with approximately 600 people attending. Kudos were given to students from the Metro Deaf High School who came out to volunteer on clean-up projects.

Transportation: Carol Zoff provided updates. Commissioner Zelle of MnDOT and Diana Threadgill of Tennessee (representing the MRPC) have been selected for participation on the National Advisory Committee on Travel and Tourism Infrastructure. The first meeting will be held in December. This committee could have impact on restoring funding sources for byways, especially for activities not allowable under current funding structures. Current ineligible activities for Transportation Alternatives funds are – Corridor Management Plan development and implementation, marketing and interpretation. The 2016 Minnesota Scenic Byways Workshop will be held November 29-30 in Willmar. Agenda details were included in the meeting packet and any Commission members interested in attending were asked to contact MN-MRPC staff. The National Scenic Byways Foundation is planning a December event in Washington D.C. to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the National Scenic Byways Program. In September, Carol and Brian Smalkoski of Kimley-Horn presented a mobile workshop at the MN APA Conference in St. Cloud. The workshop focused on the Great River Road and Mississippi River Trail in the area.

Next Meeting

Special Meeting – Transportation Alternatives Funding Letters of Support

Thursday, January 5, 2017

2:30 p.m.

State Office Building (Members can participate by phone instead of in-person)

2017 1st Quarter Meeting

Thursday, March 2, 2017

2:30 – 5:00 p.m.

State Office Building

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.



**Minnesota Mississippi River Parkway Commission
Special Meeting – January 5, 2017
State Office Building, St. Paul MN
MINUTES – Approved March 2, 2017**

Commissioners Present

Anne Lewis – At Large Member
Rep. Sheldon Johnson – Chair
Sheronne Mulry – Hastings to Iowa Border
Sen. David Senjem

Technical Advisors & Staff Present

Carol Zoff – Transportation
John Anfinson - NPS
Diane Henry-Wangentseen - LCC
Chris Miller – Staff

Commissioner Participating by Phone

Karl Samp – Brainerd to Elk River
Keith Parker – DNR Appointee
Cordelia Pierson – Elk River to Hastings
Nancy Salminen – Lake Itasca to Grand Rapids
Amanda Mac Donald – Grand Rapids to Brainerd
Scott Bradley – Transportation Appointee
Andrea Kajer – Historical Society Appointee

Commissioners & Technical Advisors

Absent

Paul Hugunin – Agriculture Appointee
Adam Johnson – Tourism Appointee
Sen. Patricia Torres-Ray
David Kelliher – Historical Society
Regina Bonsignore - DNR

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 by Chair Johnson, followed by introductions. A quorum was present.

Consider and Act on Letter of Support Requests for Transportation Alternatives Funding Applications

Chris Miller reviewed questions received from members - Why are some projects included that are not directly on the GRR? How does the TAP process work and will some of these projects be competing against each other? Should the Commission be prioritizing projects within regions? How much funding is being requested for each project?

Carol Zoff provided background on the projects and process for Transportation Alternatives applications. All projects requesting letters of support would benefit byway travelers, address byway intrinsic qualities and/or help implement the Great River Road Corridor Management Plan. Some projects did not self-identify as being byway related because the form asked whether they are located on the byway, rather than asking about impact to intrinsic qualities, byway experience and CMP implementation. Project applications will be submitted to Area Transportation Partnerships (ATPs) for consideration and funding decisions. All ATPs except the Metro Area (Met Council) are accepting applications in January for funding in 2021. The Met Council handles solicitations on a different timeline. Regional Great River Road projects may be competing against one another and are also competing with other proposals from throughout each region. Currently, there is not a process in place for prioritization of projects along a byway. The MN-MRPC would indicate support of the attached projects if it deems appropriate, or could choose not to provide support. The process would be to provide a letter to the applicant for inclusion with the funding application.

Commission member consideration and discussion followed, including discussion on impact of support letters. It was noted that each ATP develops its own criteria and process for selection and that letters are one of several factors included. It is important to demonstrate that projects are part of a plan and have broad impact. Supporting local projects also helps build/strengthen relationships between the Commission and local communities.

Summary of TAP funding being requested (estimates, not numbers from final applications):

- Aitkin – requesting \$192,000 with \$48,000 match
- Brainerd – requesting \$1,000,000 with \$8,150,000 match
- Cass County- requesting \$1,200,000 with \$300,000 match

- Grand Rapids – requesting \$540,000 with \$126,000 match
- La Crescent – requesting \$1,000,000 with \$1,671,000 match
- Little Falls – requesting \$480,000 with \$120,000 match
- Red Wing – requesting \$900,000 with \$1,253,081 match
- Sauk Rapids – requesting \$294,664 with \$73,666 match
- Stearns County – requesting \$800,000 with \$800,000 match

There was an opportunity for public testimony with no testimony received.

Motion by Anne Lewis and seconded by Sheronne Mulry to authorize letters of support for all nine Transportation Alternatives funding applications described in the attachment. A roll call vote was taken by Chair Johnson. Yes – Nancy Salminen, Amanda MacDonald, Cordelia Pierson, Sheronne Mulry, Andrea Kajer, Keith Parker, Scott Bradley, Sheldon Johnson, David Senjem, Anne Lewis. Abstention – Karl Samp due to involvement with the Brainerd project. Motion carried. Staff will provide the letters as requested pending final approval by the Chair.

Next Meeting

2017 1st Quarter Meeting
Thursday, March 2, 2017
2:30 – 5:00 p.m.
State Office Building

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.



**Minnesota Mississippi River Parkway Commission
1st Quarter Meeting – March 2, 2017
State Office Building, St. Paul MN
MINUTES – Approved June 8, 2017**

Commissioners Present

Karl Samp – Brainerd to Elk River
Cordelia Pierson – Elk River to Hastings
Nancy Salminen – Lake Itasca to Grand Rapids
Adam Johnson – Tourism Appointee
Paul Hugunin – Agriculture Appointee
Sen. David Senjem (partial meeting)

Commissioners Participating by Phone

Scott Bradley – Transportation Appointee
Amanda MacDonald – Grand Rapids to Brainerd
Anne Lewis – At Large Member

Technical Advisors & Staff Present

Carol Zoff – Transportation

David Kelliher – Historical Society
Millie Phillip - Tourism
Diane Henry-Wangenstein - LCC
Chris Miller – Staff

Commissioners & Technical Advisors

Absent

Rep. Sheldon Johnson
Sen. Patricia Torres-Ray
Andrea Kajer – Historical Society Appointee
Sheronne Mulry – Hastings to Iowa Border
Keith Parker – Natural Resources Appointee

Guests/Speakers Present

Boxuan Xia, MnDOT

The meeting was called to order at 2:35 by Acting Chair Karl Samp followed by introductions. A quorum was present. All welcomed new technical advisor Millie Phillip from Explore Minnesota Tourism, Boxuan Xia of MnDOT and Paul Hugunin of Minnesota Department of Agriculture.

Review of Agenda and Minutes from 11/10/16 and 1/5/17 Meetings

Motion by Cordelia Pierson and seconded by Nancy Salminen to approve the 3/2/17 agenda, 11/10/16 minutes and 1/5/17 minutes as presented. A roll call vote was taken by Acting Chair Samp. Yes – Nancy Salminen, Amanda MacDonald, Karl Samp, Cordelia Pierson, Paul Hugunin, Scott Bradley, Adam Johnson, Anne Lewis. No votes in opposition were recorded. Motion carried.

Commission Business

Budget Report: Chris Miller provided a summary of the budget report included in the packet followed by questions and discussion including clarification on line items that will fund the MN GRR map reprint.

Review/Edit Process for Letters of Support or Comment: The MN-MRPC approved process for letters of support and comment was referenced in the meeting packet, with a proposed addition that notes discretion of the Chair in determining whether a special meeting will be called. There was discussion about general practices that have been followed including reissuance of letters for different funding sources if previously approved by the Commission. It was noted that changes in funding sources could impact the support decision of the Commission and that this should be considered prior to provision of letters.

Motion by Cordelia Pierson and seconded by Nancy Salminen to approve the proposed addition to the process for MN-MRPC letters. A roll call vote was taken by Acting Chair Samp. Yes – Nancy Salminen, Amanda MacDonald, Karl Samp, Cordelia Pierson, Paul Hugunin, Scott Bradley, Adam Johnson, Anne Lewis. No votes in opposition were recorded. Motion carried.

Executive Committee Report: The MN-MRPC Executive Committee met on January 5, 2017 and addressed topics as approved by the Commission in the committee description. Minutes were referenced in the meeting packet. Statute revisions recommended in the Corridor Management Plan were recommended by the committee to address MN-MRPC sunset date, term length of MN-MRPC regional members, staggering of regional member terms, and an edit to a MnDOT statute that references the

MN-MRPC. MN Statute 161.20, subdivision 3 currently states that the MN-MRPC does not further a highway purpose. MnDOT is in support of changing this language but recommends that the request originate from the MN-MRPC. Carol Zoff and Scott Bradley provided additional background and confirmed MnDOT's support. LCC is working on a bill draft for consideration by MN-MRPC legislative members to amend MN Statute 161.1419 regarding details of the MN-MRPC structure and MN Statute 161.20 to remove the MN-MRPC from the list organizations not fulfilling a highway purpose.

National MRPC Updates

2017 Semi-Annual Meeting, Paducah, KY: Karl Samp reported that the 2017 MRPC Semi-Annual Meeting will be held April 19 – 21 in Paducah. He will be attending as MRPC Pilot and the MN-MRPC has requested out-of-state travel approval for Anne Lewis and Sheronne Mulry to attend. Carol Zoff will be attending as well, funded by MnDOT. The meeting will include technical committee working sessions along with field sessions highlighting Kentucky riverfront communities. Carol reported that the Transportation Committee will also have a conference call prior to the meeting and is working on a 10 state Corridor Management Plan and gathering historic documents to maintain planning and designation records. Anne reported that the Marketing Committee will be having a conference call as well and one of the priorities will be discussion on edits and process for a reprint of the 10 state Great River Road map this spring. Nancy Salminen reminded everyone that the Culture and Heritage Committee accepts new nominations for Great River Road Interpretive Centers annually (due Sept. 1) and encouraged consideration of additional nominations.

2017 Annual Meeting, Marquette, IA: The 2017 MRPC Annual Meeting is scheduled for September 19 – 21 in Marquette, Iowa. Headquarters will be the Cobblestone Inn and a great agenda is being planned by the Iowa MRPC. MN-MRPC members were asked to consider attending and more information will be shared as it becomes available.

Confirm/Update Technical Committee Membership: The MRPC's work is facilitated by four technical committees – Culture & Heritage; Communications & Marketing; Environment, Recreation & Agriculture; and Transportation. A list of MN-MRPC members currently on these committee rosters, along with the MRPC Board of Directors, was included in the meeting packet. Members were asked to review and consider participating if not already involved with a committee. Please contact the MN-MRPC office for more information or if interested in serving. Much of the committee work is handled via conference call. In particular, the Environment, Recreation & Agriculture Committee and Transportation Committee could use additional representation from Minnesota.

Old Business

Plan Your Project Interactive Mapping Update: Carol Zoff introduced Boxuan Xia, SEEDS student worker at MnDOT and University of Minnesota senior; and described work underway on the Plan Your Project Interactive Mapping Tool. Data gathered and recorded by Kimley-Horn during the CMP process is being expanded upon to result in a tool for use by local road management authorities and other project managers. Traveler resource information is also included in the database and will provide the basis for the Plan Your Trip Mapping Tool. Current work includes field checking and confirming Great River Road sign data for use in completing a system wide sign replacement estimate and seeking funding. Boxuan demonstrated sorts that can be used to display available data. The traveler resource data includes listings for over 750+ locations. Review of the listings will be helpful to provide additional local perspective and photographs as well as confirm the information to be included in the Plan Your Trip tool. MN-MRPC member, agency and partner participation will be needed as part of the process. A question was raised about whether video of the resources is or could be included. Although video is not currently included it was noted as a good idea for consideration as the tool continues to evolve. MN-MRPC member agency assistance will be needed as links to available state data are included in the tool, such as the Minnesota Grown directory with potential sort or filtering functions to show sites along the GRR and also provide promotion for Minnesota Grown.

National Advisory Council and Travel and Tourism Infrastructure: Carol Zoff reported on recent activities of this council. MnDOT Commissioner Charles Zelle is a member of the 25 member council along with one other state DOT Commissioner and a variety of other stakeholders including Diana

Threadgill of Tennessee, representing the MRPC. Carol provides staff support for Commissioner Zelle and participates in the meetings. The council is charged with development of a strategic plan for the US DOT on how to incorporate the needs of tourism and tourists into transportation plans and projects. Council members have been asked to provide lists of shovel ready projects that would enhance tourism and transportation. Minnesota was asked to narrow their list to three projects, which are – 1) I-94 lane expansion from St. Michael to Albertville; 2) Hwy 14 improvements between Dodge Center and Owatonna; and 3) Rail crossings in the Moorhead area. The National Park Service was also asked to provide recommendations and those include Natchez Trace road construction and Blue Ridge Parkway road and bridge reconstruction – both projects would result in improvements to iconic byways.

Mississippi River Trail (MRT) Update: Thank you to Liz Walton for the update included in the meeting packet.

MN GRR Map Reprint Status: Chris Miller reported that plans are underway for a spring reprint of the MN GRR Map/Travel Planner, with costs to be covered by the MN-MRPC operating budget. Printing quotes have been obtained and quantity information has been requested from partner distribution sites. The project is likely to be completed in April or early May.

New Business

Mississippi River Connections Collaborative (MRCC) Update: John Anfinson provided an update on the MRCC after attending their most recent meeting in New Orleans. He is now the Midwest Region representative to the MRCC. The MRCC was formed by representatives from the National Park Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service and other federal agencies to enhance communication and leverage efforts of entities and promotions along the Mississippi River. Over time other partners have signed on, including the National MRPC. The MRCC coordinates “Year of” initiatives along the full length of the river, such as Year of Fishing, Year of Birding and currently Year of Trails for 2017. 2019 will be Year of the Great River Road. Recently much of the MRCC’s focus has been on development of the Mississippi River Geotourism Program in partnership with National Geographic. Discussion is taking place on how to sustain the Geotourism Program over time and how leadership should be handled. The MRCC itself will also be looking at its own focus moving forward and John will be involved in drafting a position statement for the organization. A sponsorship plan is being developed to provide long term funding for the Mississippi River Geotourism website and a Geotourism Stewardship Council will oversee the project long term. Sponsors would purchase ads on the website with inaugural sponsorships to begin in 2017. At least one sponsor from each state will likely be sought for the inaugural effort. Anne Lewis reported hearing similar information at the Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative (Mississippi River mayors) meeting this week. She also noted discussion on the possibility of community nominations being accepted for inclusion on the website. There was discussion on ways to encourage more participation from Minnesota on the website, including whether a meeting focused on Minneapolis and Saint Paul nominations would be beneficial.

Report on Meetings with US Senators and Members of Congress: As discussed at the Executive Committee meeting, letters highlighting the recent 25th anniversary of National Scenic Byways and the importance of the Great River Road were sent to Minnesota’s US Senators and Representatives. A sample letter was referenced in the meeting packet. Since Anne Lewis was planning to be in Washington for the Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative meeting, she offered to set meetings with congressional staff while there. Anne reported on meetings with staff from the offices of Senator Klobuchar, Representative Lewis, Representative Walz and Representative Nolan. She also delivered an information packet to Senator Franken’s office. Main takeaways from the visits – staff members are very aware of the work of the National Advisory Council on Travel and Tourism Infrastructure and are keeping an eye on it; ideas, suggestions and identification of needs are welcome; and the information about the MN Great River Road was appreciated. Acting Chair Samp expressed thanks to Anne for making these visits.

MN GRR Ambassador Development Pilot: Anne Lewis and Sheronne Mulry volunteered to work on a plan to begin implementation of a GRR Ambassador Development initiative as described in the CMP. The CMP includes recommendations for a comprehensive program that would likely require significant resources including member time. A smaller initiative on an experimental basis would allow for feedback,

partnership development and then refinement prior to large scale implementation. An outline was included in the meeting packet for discussion. Anne shared background and asked for feedback. In general, the approach would be to identify someone willing to serve as MN-MRPC liaison to each MN GRR region, and then make visits to approximately 3 locations in that region (GRR Interpretive Centers and/or Convention and Visitor's Bureaus or Chambers of Commerce). A discussion outline and toolkit would be provided. The toolkit would include GRR information for use by local sites as appropriate. The MN-MRPC is asked to visit GRR Interpretive Centers annually as part of the 10-state MRPC process as well, and some of the Ambassador Development visits could help address this requirement. Future applications could also include confirmation and refinement of the 750+ site listings in the traveler resource database. Amanda MacDonald noted that she'd be happy to be involved and would like to learn more. Karl Samp also offered to help. Karl also raised the idea of having ambassadors present at schools in the future. Cordelia Pierson asked about the role of social media in the plan and Anne responded that the toolkit will include resources that can be utilized by local partners on their social media platforms. Anne asked members to review the Ambassador Development outline, send feedback and indicate if interested in participating. A cost estimate will be prepared by staff for consideration as part of the FY '18 budget.

Partnership Request – Source Song Festival: A request for partnership from Source Song Festival was received by the MRPC and forwarded to the MN-MRPC. Members reviewed the request in the packet, asked for additional details to be gathered by staff, and generally approved posting of information on MN GRR social media. Posting on National MRPC social media platforms was also suggested.

Agency and Regional Updates

Lake Itasca to Grand Rapids: Nancy Salminen shared information about the Mississippi River Pedestrian Bridge Project, which is on both the Lady's Slipper Scenic Byway and Great River Road. Houston Engineering has been contracted for bridge design and public meetings have been held as well as meetings with the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe. A final design will be complete in April and funding will then be sought for construction. As noted in the MRT report, the 3rd Annual Headwaters to Hills Bicycle Ride is planned for August 23 – 30. The route has changed a bit this year, with the end point in La Crosse and Amtrak transportation back to Saint Paul.

Tourism: Adam Johnson reported on attending the Meet Minneapolis Annual Meeting, and noted the Destination Transformation 2030 initiative which includes a strong focus on the Mississippi River. Information is available at <http://www.minneapolis.org/partners-and-community/meet-minneapolis/destination-transformation-2030/>. The new Saint Paul Visitor Guide is out and covers 15 months including the 2018 Super Bowl. There is a two page spread about the Mississippi River and river focus throughout the publication. Discussions are underway to redevelop the site of the River Centre Parking Ramp, potentially to include a riverfront hotel that would help serve convention needs. The Twin Cities is in the running to host the 2023 World's Fair – with the site announcement expected later this year. Millie Phillip provided an overview of upcoming international outreach to promote Minnesota in Germany and Denmark.

Grand Rapids to Brainerd: Amanda MacDonald is planning to visit other communities in her region this spring. Aitkin is excited about the upcoming opening of the Mississippi Showboat. The Showboat is located about a ½ block off the Mississippi, will host performances and also be featured during Riverboat Days. Both Grand Rapids and Aitkin have been featured in the press related to the Showboat including a recent story by KBJR Duluth. Amanda noted that she's been reviewing websites for Mississippi River information to link to and share, since the Aitkin Chamber of Commerce doesn't have maps on its site and travelers are interested in this information. The GRR Ambassador Development Program will likely help provide this type of information for Aitkin and other river communities and could also help facilitate sharing of local information, events, etc. via social media. Anne Lewis mentioned the new Grand Rapids Visitor Guide and its focus on the Mississippi River along with lakes and forest. Copies of the guide were distributed, courtesy of Visit Grand Rapids.

Brainerd to Elk River: Karl Samp reported that the Cuyuna Lakes Trail Association continues to work toward expansion of the Cuyuna Mountain Bike Trail to result in 75 miles of trail options. Partners are watching the bonding bill where the project is currently included. 15 new businesses have opened in the

area since the mountain bike trail was created. The Brainerd Riverfront Committee is meeting today and continues to move forward toward a suspended trail project on the riverfront, with SEH under contract for the third year to coordinate. The St. Cloud Riverwalk Committee is meeting tomorrow to review preliminary designs for the riverfront from downtown north to St. Cloud hospital, which will connect to the recently completed trail extension downtown and provide increased focus on and access to the river. Karl is a member of the committee representing the MRPC/MN-MRPC. The St. Cloud area also continues to plan for their role hosting the 2017 Governor's Fishing Opener on the Mississippi River.

Elk River to Hastings: Cordelia Pierson recently spoke to the Northeast Business Association regarding the National Geographic Mississippi River Geotourism Program. Cordelia has also been working with downtown employers and reported an increased interest in volunteerism. She will be involved in upcoming meetings of the Superbowl Sustainability Committee. Work is underway to address missing links for the MRT in Minneapolis with partners including the University of Minnesota and Burlington Northern. Cordelia also announced that she will be running for Minneapolis City Council, in an area where 8 of 10 neighborhoods are on the Mississippi River.

Hastings to Iowa Border: Karl Samp congratulated Red Wing on being selected as a finalist in the Small Business Revolution Main Street competition. They narrowly missed winning in a very close competition and had wonderful community involvement throughout the process.

Agriculture: Paul Hugunin reported that the newly updated print version of the Minnesota Grown Directory will be available in April. The popular publication lists over 1,000 sites – including farmers markets, nurseries/landscaping, Christmas trees, specialty foods/beverages and more. The Minnesota Grown website features recent improvements with additional work planned. There were over 325,000 unique visits to the website last calendar year.

Minnesota Historical Society: David Kelliher noted that historic site season is approaching and sites are ready for visitors. Thanks were expressed to the MRPC for designation of two MNHS sites as new GRR Interpretive Centers. The new visitor center at the Oliver Kelley Farm will host a grand opening event on May 6 including a breakfast and ribbon cutting. The MN-MRPC is invited to hold an upcoming meeting at this newly renovated site, which features trails along the river in addition to showcasing the theme of agriculture over time. The MNHS capital budget request includes funding for Historic Fort Snelling, and thanks were noted to Sen. Senjem for introducing the bill and the MN-MRPC for their letter of support.

Transportation: Scott Bradley provided an overview of Transportation Alternatives Program status. In the current solicitation, applications were due January 13 with funding to be announced April 17. 14 byway projects had submitted letters of interest, including three for wayshowing, one bridge project and 10 trail projects. Not all submitted applications. In the previous year, nine byway applications were submitted with six receiving funds. MnDOT continues to work internally on options to make byway funding more stable and predictable. An effort has been underway to map all MN Scenic Byways and a web map is now available in the MnMap system. A bill has been introduced to clarify that MnDOT has the authority to continue ownership of scenic easements and also regulate billboards in scenic locations. There are over 300 scenic easements that were purchased with federal dollars. Carol Zoff reported that a Scenic Byway Advisory Committee has been created, based on suggestions received at last fall's MN Scenic Byways Workshop. A variety of byways and agencies are represented and an overall strategic direction will be developed and provided for MN Byways. The timeline will be completion for presentation at the 2017 MN Scenic Byways Workshop, scheduled for October 3 – 4 in Duluth. The Mississippi Headwaters Board is updating their comprehensive plan and Carol is serving on the committee to represent the MN-MRPC and MnDOT. She will be reviewing the MN GRR Corridor Management Plan to identify strategies that align with or leverage Mississippi Headwaters Board efforts. MN GRR sign data and historical information on installation is being reviewed to develop a plan with the goal of a completed signage project before 2019's Year of the Great River Road promotion.

Mississippi National River & Recreation Area/NPS: John Anfinson shared that recent renovation of the MNRRA Visitor Center has resulted in increased visitation – from 17,000 visitors in the first quarter of 2016 to 34,000 in the first quarter of 2017. The Paddle Share Program will be expanding to Brooklyn Park and Saint Paul during 2017. A process is underway to position NPS at the Upper St. Anthony Falls

Lock for the long term. NPS took over operation of the Visitor Center following the closure of the lock. The center traditionally had 2,000 visitors per year. NPS recorded 15,000 visitors between Memorial Day and Labor Day 2016, along with 300 tours involving 3,500 participants. Friends of the Lock has developed preliminary ideas for the visitor center and there is tremendous potential for increased visitation moving forward. John mentioned the possibility of this also functioning as a Great River Road visitor center.

Other Business

Karl Samp reported on status of the Mississippi Northwoods Project in Crow Wing County. An agreement has been reached between the county and the state, which will keep all previously designated motorized trails but designate all other areas as non-motorized use only.

Last summer, Karl served as a step on guide for two Shore Excursions tour groups from the American Queen. The groups spent a night in St. Cloud followed by a trip to Itasca State Park to see the source of the Mississippi River. One trip is planned for 2017 and scheduled to take place in August. Karl has also started conversations with Shore Excursions regarding potential for Great River Road bus tours that would utilize the Shore Excursions buses while their groups are on the river boats.

Anne Lewis noted that American Cruise Lines has built new river boats that will be going into service. Viking Cruise Lines is also continuing with plans to begin Mississippi River cruises.

Senator Senjem announced the Grand Reopening Event for the Minnesota State Capitol, to be held August 10 – 12.

Next Meeting

2017 2nd Quarter Meeting
Thursday, June 8, 2017
2:30 – 5:00 p.m.
State Office Building Room 500 North

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.



**Minnesota Mississippi River Parkway Commission
Agency & Regional Updates
March 2017**

Department of Natural Resources – Keith Parker

- DNR is hosting an eastside strategic landowner planning session tomorrow. The goal is to ensure communication and coordination when appropriate, for projects along the river on the east side of St. Paul. Attendees include National Park Service, Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary, the City of St. Paul, Met Council and MN DNR. This is a follow up to a larger meeting held at the Science Museum in January that included Mississippi River stakeholder organizations/entities from both Minneapolis and St. Paul.
- The Governors Fishing opener will be hosted in St. Cloud MN this year by the St. Cloud Convention and Visitors Center. Fishing will take place on the river which is a little different in that typically the event is on a lake. The MN DNR will be working in support of the event.



Minnesota Mississippi River Parkway Commission
2nd Quarter Meeting – June 8, 2017
State Office Building, St. Paul MN
MINUTES – Draft

Commissioners Present

Karl Samp – Brainerd to Elk River
Cordelia Pierson – Elk River to Hastings
Nancy Salminen – Lake Itasca to Grand Rapids
Anne Lewis – At Large Member
Andrea Kajer – Historical Society Appointee
Rep. Sheldon Johnson

Commissioners Participating by Phone

Keith Parker, Natural Resources Appointee

Technical Advisors & Staff Present

Carol Zoff – Transportation
John Anfinson – NPS
Gina Bonsignore – Natural Resources
David Kelliher – Historical Society
Greg Hubinger - LCC
Diane Henry-Wangensteen - LCC
Chris Miller – Staff

Commissioners & Technical Advisors

Absent

Sen. Patricia Torres-Ray
Sen. David Senjem
Sheronne Mulry – Hastings to Iowa Border
Paul Hugunin – Agriculture Appointee
Scott Bradley – Transportation Appointee
Adam Johnson – Tourism Appointee
Millie Phillip - Tourism

Guests/Speakers Present

Boxuan Xia, MnDOT
Liz Walton, MnDOT
John Shepard, Hamline University
Tracy Fredin, Hamline University

The meeting was called to order at 2:40 by Chair Johnson followed by introductions. A quorum was reached at 2:55.

Mississippi Multimedia Gallery Informational Presentation

Chair Johnson welcomed John Shepard and Tracy Fredin of Hamline University, who shared an overview of the Mississippi Multimedia Gallery. The Gallery is a placed based story telling tool featuring the full length of the Mississippi River via 55 inch kiosk. The river is brought to life using maps, videos, photos, and games. Searchable categories include River Games, The River Through the Arts, and The River Through Time and Place, providing six hours of total content. Customization is available to add content related to specific locations or regions, such as has been done for the kiosk to be placed within the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area. Different sizes of kiosks are also possible. Overview materials describing the Gallery are attached. The content was developed by the Center for Global Environmental Education at Hamline University and they are now looking for partners to assist with funding and placement of kiosks at locations along the river. Purchase and lease options are available. Kiosks have been or are soon to be placed at two locations in New Orleans, Itasca State Park and MNRRA's St. Anthony Falls Visitor Center. The National Eagle Center is seeking funds for a kiosk as well. Great River Road Interpretive Centers could be good options as placement sites. There are 12 such centers designated in Minnesota and over 70 in the ten river states. A demo was recently provided at the National MRPC Office in Madison, Wisconsin and the topic is being considered for inclusion on the 2017 Annual Meeting agenda. Opportunities include partnerships to seek funds and place kiosks, and/or jointly sponsoring a Great River Road version of the program.

Commission member questions and discussion followed the presentation. Questions included whether a kiosk could be used as a traveling exhibit (yes) and whether there are connections to education (yes – a curriculum framework will be available for grades 4 – 8). Site license costs were reviewed along with hardware variations and purchase versus lease options. Possible next steps include continued discussions, a defined partnership to promote and place the kiosks, and/or joint efforts to seek funding.

Review of Agenda and Minutes from 3/2/17

Motion by Karl Samp and seconded by Cordelia Pierson to approve the 6/8/17 agenda. Motion carried. Motion by Andrea Kajer and seconded by Cordelia Pierson to approve the 3/2/17 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Commission Business

Budget Report: Chris Miller referenced the budget report in the meeting packet, reminded members that fiscal year end is coming up on June 30 and that expense reimbursement requests are appreciated as soon as possible.

Legislative Updates: Greg Hubinger reported budget amounts steady at current levels were appropriated for the House, Senate and LCC for fiscal years 2018 and 2019. However, line item vetoes of the House and Senate budgets may result in litigation and all legislative offices are carefully managing and watching budgets in preparation for the new fiscal year start on July 1. LCC funds could potentially be used to support needs of the House and Senate. Chair Johnson reviewed the legislative session activity related to the MN-MRPC which included repeal language in the House State Government Finance Bill. The repeal did not carry into the final version of the bill due to the Senate version prevailing. Special thanks were noted to Sen. Senjem and Sen. Kiffmeyer and also to Commission public members who made contacts. There was discussion regarding the current House vacancy on the MN-MRPC, a recommendation that the position be filled, and offers by several Commission members to make calls or visits to determine interest of Representatives from their areas.

Officer Elections: Chair Johnson announced election of MN-MRPC officers as directed by the Executive Committee at their January meeting. Karl Samp facilitated election of the Chair. Rep. Johnson indicated willingness to serve one more term. Motion by Andrea Kajer and seconded by Cordelia Pierson to nominate Rep. Sheldon Johnson for the Chair position. Motion carried and the election was then resumed by the Chair. Motion by Karl Samp and seconded by Andrea Kajer to nominate Cordelia Pierson as Vice Chair. Pierson indicated willingness to serve followed by discussion. Motion carried. Motion by Nancy Salminen and seconded by Cordelia Pierson to nominate Anne Lewis as Treasurer. Motion carried. Thanks were noted to all current and past officers for their time and service.

Executive Committee Meeting – Confirm Date: The next Executive Committee Meeting has been scheduled for Monday, July 10, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. in Room 500 North of the State Office Building.

National MRPC Updates

2017 Semi-Annual Meeting, Paducah, KY (Karl Samp, Anne Lewis, Carol Zoff): The meeting included mobile workshops featuring small communities in the four Kentucky GRR counties as well as historic sites. Revitalization efforts are underway in the river towns visited, including unique businesses such as export of Asian Carp and related products. Kentucky uses their "Trail Towns" program to promote communities including those along the river. A presentation on the National Advisory Committee for Travel and Tourism Infrastructure by MRPC representative Diana Threadgill centered on the importance of maintaining lists of shovel ready projects. The committee will be looking for fast projects and results. Diana Threadgill and Carol Zoff developed a white paper on the NACTTI to share with DOTs and other partners. Barriers to transportation are important to identify along with shovel ready projects. A question was raised regarding MN shovel ready projects. MnDOT provided a list of projects when originally requested by the NACTTI. The projects are not on the GRR but would improve transportation flow overall. MnDOT also encouraged reinstatement of Scenic Byways funding and noted needs for the Rest Area Program and restoration of historic wayside properties.

The Transportation Committee is working toward development of a 10-state Corridor Management Plan. All four MRPC committees would be involved in implementation. GIS alignments for the GRR route in all ten states have been received. The Marketing Committee will be including a GRR Snapchat filter as part of the "Drive the Great River Road Month" promotion in September. Each state has been asked to identify one site for placement of a Snapchat filter over Labor Day weekend. Itasca State Park is the recommended site for Minnesota.

Viability of the 10-State MRPC was discussed. Marketing efforts have been successful - website and social media visits are up. State Commissions continue to face challenges in some cases, though others are rebounding. There has been lack of engagement of DOTs in some states though CMP development efforts will likely help address this.

2017 Annual Meeting, Marquette, IA (Karl Samp): The 2017 MRPC Annual Meeting will be September 19 – 21 and the Iowa MRPC has been working hard on the agenda which will be available soon.

Interpretive Center Visits (Chris Miller): The MRPC Interpretive Center visit checklist was included in the meeting packets as a reminder that all centers are to be visited by a state Commission member annually. A list of MN GRR Interpretive Centers was also provided.

CMP Implementation/Commission Projects

Plan Your Project/Plan Your Trip Interactive Maps (Carol Zoff/Boxuan Xia): Work is underway on story maps of destination areas for the Plan Your Trip tool, building on the resource listings developed during the CMP process. The story map for each destination area will begin with the MN GRR video for that region, followed by history, byway resources, attractions and community information. Eventually the story maps will be available on the MN GRR website. Text, photos and links from partner state agency websites are used and their help is greatly appreciated. One destination area story map at a time will be developed with a goal of a full prototype in time for the GIS/LIS Conference presentation. When the first draft or two are available, information will be gathered on what it will take to include the maps on the MN GRR website. The maps will then be expanded and finalized after the GIS/LIS Conference, and could be ready for launch by the 2018 summer travel season.

GRR Wayfinding Signage (Carol Zoff): Thanks were noted to the DNR for providing local match for the signage project allowing MnDOT to align funds for the entire project. Much planning and communication with local communities has been taking place. A contract will be let on July 28 to re-sign the Great River Road and five other Minnesota byways. In addition to the Great River Road, other byways to be signed are Lady's Slipper; Avenue of Pines; Paul Bunyan; Apple Blossom; and Historic Bluff Country. Wayfinding signage was a primary need identified in the Corridor Management Plan due to the number of signs missing or past their useful life/noncompliant with standards.

MN GRR Map Reprint (Chris Miller): 28,000 copies of the MN GRR Map/Travel Planner were printed in April. Most of the quantity was shipped directly to over 50 distribution partner locations. The remainder will be held at the MN-MRPC office for individual fulfillment request, use by Commission members, and use at upcoming events. Minor revisions were made such as adding the two newly designated GRR Interpretive Centers. New 10-State GRR Maps were also recently completed and shipped to GRR Interpretive Centers.

MN GRR Sense of Place Presentation and Plan (Anne Lewis/Carol Zoff): A proposal in the meeting packets was referenced. The intent is to maximize use of the presentation and materials being developed for the MN GRR keynote presentation at the Minnesota GIS/LIS Conference in October. The concept can also be utilized for the Drive the Great River Road Month promotion, as the core of an update event for partners and stakeholders, and a tool for Ambassador Development. The presentation concept focuses on sense of place and the importance of the Mississippi River and Great River Road, as well as how the MN-MRPC is meeting the goals of the CMP. In addition to preparations for the conference presentation, data and materials were put together during the recent legislative session that can be utilized. The current proposal is to hold a partner update event in conjunction with the November 9 MN-MRPC meeting. The event would be held prior to the meeting and invitations would be sent to key audiences including legislators, mayors, partner agencies/groups and the media. Assistance from members would be needed at the event. Members agreed on proceeding with a partner update event but suggested a different timeframe, potentially early in the 2018 legislative session. Meeting rooms on the 3rd floor of the Capitol were suggested. The Capitol tours that are regularly available weekdays each hour could be promoted to attendees.

New Business

Wildwood Community Solar Garden, Red Wing (Handouts): A newspaper article and map were included in the meeting packets describing the proposed solar garden and ultimate denial of a conditional use permit by the local township board. Sheronne Mulry attended a township meeting and provided information about the Great River Road.

Agency and Regional Updates

MNRRA/National Park Service (John Anfinson): The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is beginning a disposition study for Locks 1, 2 and 3. There will then be a 60 day decision making period. Friends of the Lock has raised funding to transform the Upper Lock into a world class visitor center. NPS is also completing a study on their future presence at the Upper Lock. A community meeting regarding potential options for the Mississippi River is scheduled for July 13 at St. Peder's Church in Minneapolis. Ideas under consideration include removal of Lock and Dam 2 and 3, allowing the river to be restored to rapids. This is a time of tremendous opportunity and change. A question was raised regarding what would happen with invasive carp if locks are removed. The Upper Lock would remain, serving as a barrier to movement and native fish species would increase if Locks 2 and 3 are removed and the river returns to rapids. There was discussion regarding impact on future hydropower projects. Overall this is big news coming more quickly than anticipated and there could be a role for the MN-MRPC such as a presence in the visitor center. It was advised that the Commission keep an eye on developments. The Paddle Share program opened for the season on June 2 with expansion planned for later this summer.

Minnesota Historical Society (Andrea Kajer/David Kelliher): The grand opening of the Oliver Kelley Farm was held on May 6. New facilities are beautiful and all were encouraged to visit. There will be work beginning soon at Mill City Museum in the ruins area to repair damage from fire and freezing in the past. \$4 million was included in the state bonding bill for design work on the new Historic Fort Snelling Visitor Center. This will allow the project to continue to progress toward opening in time for the bicentennial in 2020. Additional funds will be needed for the construction. Thanks were expressed to the MN-MRPC for their letter of support for the bonding funds.

Natural Resources (Keith Parker/Gina Bonsignore): A press release went out today describing the largest invasive carp ever caught in Minnesota. It was taken in a private gravel pit near Redwood Falls after likely getting there during high water from the Minnesota River. The DNR continues to monitor invasive species and is working with MSU Mankato and the Invasive Species Research Center at the University of Minnesota. Acoustic speakers have been installed at Lock & Dam 8 and similar deterrent systems are under consideration for Lock & Dam 5 to prevent invasives from entering both the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers. The 2017 Governor's Fishing Opener was held in the Greater St. Cloud area and focused on the Mississippi River. Keith Parker spoke at the opening dinner on behalf of the DNR. The City of St. Cloud, Greater St. Cloud Convention & Visitor's Bureau and Explore Minnesota Tourism did a fantastic job with the event. The City of St. Paul continues plans for the Great River Passage project, including the east side river district. Many partners including the DNR are involved in this effort and credit was noted to Mary deLaittre, Great River Passage Manager, for her work. DNR continues to plan summer outreach with activities scheduled for Get Outdoors Day and also an event at Hidden Falls.

Elk River to Hastings (Cordelia Pierson): Development plans continue for the Upper Harbor terminal in Minneapolis including an entertainment venue and mixed use area. The demolition of the former Fuji Ya site is underway in the Waterworks area, and 9 acres of land in the St. Anthony Historic District will be undergoing new development soon. Increased numbers of people will be moving near the river as a result. Dakota County recently dedicated a new MRT section. As new residents are moving into riverfront areas, it would be helpful to have user friendly GRR Ambassador materials available. A question was also raised about the role of the MN-MRPC and public-private partnership in maintaining a list of shovel ready projects as discussed earlier in the meeting. It was noted that the Corridor Management Plan includes an investment inventory list of projects that will be updated.

Lake Itasca to Grand Rapids (Nancy Salminen): The historic bath house on Lake Bemidji has been restored and a grand opening was held on June 2. The facility will be available for rentals. "Mississippi Music on the Waterfront" will be taking place each Wednesday this summer at the Bemidji City Park. The

Bemidji "Loop the Lake" festival is planned for June 17 and includes a bicycle event, food, and artists. Replacement of Enbridge's Line 3 pipeline is under discussion in the region. Meetings will be held in Park Rapids, Bemidji, Cass Lake and Grand Rapids. A draft Environmental Impact Statement has been released and is open for public comment. Details will be forwarded via email. Review of the EIS indicates that Native American communities appear to be disproportionately impacted by all route options, and all route options would impact the river. A grant from Beltrami Electric will fund new benches on the boardwalk at the Lady's Slipper Scenic Byway interpretive area.

Grand Rapids to Brainerd: Amanda MacDonald has resigned her position on the Commission due to changes in availability. The position will remain open until the planned regional meeting/election in late 2017.

Brainerd to Elk River (Karl Samp): The Brainerd Riverfront Group continues to pursue their priority project, the Three Bridges Trail, which would include trail suspended over the river. They are also looking at ways to connect Crow Wing State Park to the Mississippi Northwoods property, and would be interested in having John Anfinson come to a future meeting. The Brainerd Group is moving into the third year of a grant from the Brainerd Area Community Foundation which will now be used to fund a project coordinator to implement the plan. The River to Rails initiative aims to connect the Mississippi River to the NP Center in Brainerd which now offers event space in a historic rail center. The Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area and Cuyuna Lakes Trail continue to see increases in visitation and economic development. The trail association has raised \$600,000 for trail improvements. Funds were also included in the recently passed bonding bill to expand the system to 75 miles of trails which will eventually connect to the Paul Bunyan Trail. St. Cloud area information in the meeting packet was referenced including a recently installed selfie station featuring the Mississippi River, and an article on the St. Cloud Riverwalk Project. Chris Miller reported on the Riverwalk Concept Plan presented at the last committee meeting, which involves two phases and redevelopment of the riverfront area north of downtown with a goal of being a new river destination for visitors and residents alike. Shore Excursions will be offering another Headwaters Trip in August, affiliated with the American Queen. 23 people are already registered and Karl Samp will again be serving as a step on guide for the tour which begins in St. Cloud and goes to Itasca State Park.

Transportation (Carol Zoff): David Kelliher is a new member of the Minnesota Scenic Byways Commission, representing the Minnesota Historical Society – welcome! A strategic plan framework for Minnesota byways is being created and will be available at the MN Scenic Byways Workshop in early October. In preparation, all byway groups are asked to complete a short survey. The survey link was sent earlier today and deadline is June 14. MN-MRPC feedback is important to the process. Carol Zoff has been asked to provide interpretation for a day of the 2017 MN Commissioners on Wheels/Business First Stop Tour. The event includes Commissioners from eight state agencies and this year's tour will be in southeastern Minnesota including Mississippi River towns. Carol recently met with the Mayor and Economic Development Director in Lake City to discuss a variety of topics including redevelopment of the riverfront and opportunities for partnership. The city will look for resources needed to replace the deteriorated interpretive panel at the Lake City Concourse and their efforts are appreciated.

Other Business

Anne Lewis announced that there will be a presentation by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to the Pokegama Lake Association on June 19. Karl Samp added that the Corps is having conversations with a group in Cross Lake regarding creation of a potential Loon Center.

Next Meeting

2017 3rd Quarter Meeting
Thursday, August 31, 2017 • 2:30 – 5:00 p.m.
State Office Building Room 500 North

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.