



Mississippi River Parkway Commission
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
July 9, 2021
(draft)

Participants:

- Anne Lewis – Pilot
- Sharon Calcote LA-MRPC & Marketing
- Norma Pruitt - Pilot Pro Tem
- Holly Cain-Secretary & IL MRPC Proxy
- Derick Biglane Treasurer & MS-MRPC
- Sherry Quamme - WI-MRPC
- Sen. Dave Senjem – MN-MRPC
- Martin Graber – IA-MRPC
- Mike McClanahan – TN-MRPC
- Joe St. Columbia - AR
- Kim Williams - Marketing
- Pat Audirsch – Culture and Heritage
- John Anfinson – Culture and Heritage
- Francis Schelfhout – Transportation
- Lindsey Killebrew - Transportation
- Sabrina Chandler – ERA
- Lisa Walsh – IA
- Shelby Campbell - TN
- Susanne Thiede-Barnet – National Office

Pilot called the meeting to order at 9:00am and a quorum was present.

The meeting began with a presentation by the Mississippi River Cities & Towns Initiative. The following mayors spoke: Sanders (AR), Elliott (MN), Gallagher (IA), Simmons (MS). MRCTI staff present included Colin Wellenkamp and Colin Brandt. They provided an overview of Safeguarding the Mississippi River Together (SMRT) Act.

A motion was made by AR to approve minutes from 4/14 and 5/14. Second by WI. Motion approved.

A motion was made by WI to approve the financial reports. Second by MN.

Discussion took place regarding what restrictions are on the Ameriprise and Endowment funds. WI thanked the Treasurer for educating the group on the differences and stated that we need a policy for fund usage. Pilot Pro Tem shared that we can spend the principal of the endowment but not the funds itself. Lisa Walsh reminded everyone that there was an Endowment Committee that created a resolution that the board passed on how to spend those Endowment principal funds. The Financial Committee, which is the Executive Committee will review the Ameriprise account and make a future recommendation to the board.

Motion approved.

The Pilot shared her written attached report.

The National Office shared the written quarterly report and reminded everyone of the upcoming September 1 deadline for nominations of the Distinguished Service Award, new interpretive centers, honorary membership and state reports.

Technical committees provided an update. The next Culture & Heritage meeting is July 27. Looking for a workshop idea on the history of the GRR, National Scenic Byway after that more comprehensive plan and 2021 All-American Road. What does it mean to be an AAR, especially looking ahead. Transportation continues to work on gathering documents – MRT, CMP, applications, etc. ERA is looking at picking a significant project, such as pollinators and extending the reach of the MS River. USFW have pollinator coordinator that help to guide us and we would look to connect with the other committees. More pollinators equal more birds, which enhances the byway. There are many cool overlaps and opportunities. Marketing will be the culmination of what the other committees are putting together. The Website will be number one and highlight the AAR intrinsic qualities and more story driven. It would be good to acquired videos from each state.

The national virtual Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 5 in the morning and include breakout sessions for the committees.

In other business, Pilot Pro Tem asked what we are now doing with the information from MRCTI. The board agreed that everyone needed to further read and research the information on the SMRT Act, as well as the competing bills.

Meeting adjourned at 11:08am.