



Mississippi River Parkway Commission
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
September 7, 2022
Peabody Hotel – Memphis, TN

Attendees:

Terri M - Pilot Emeritus
Anne L - Pilot
Norma P - Pilot Pro Tem
Holly C – Secretary
Derick B – Treasurer/ MS
Dave S – MN
Mike M - TN
Craig M – IL
Jim L - KY
Sherry Q – WI
Lisa Walsh – IA proxy
Mark K – MO
Joe S - AR
Sharon C – LA/ Marketing
Francis S - Transportation
John A –Culture and Heritage
Pat A – Culture and Heritage
Sabrina C – ERA
Nani B - ERA
Susanne TB - National Office

Meeting was called to order at 3:43pm by Pilot.

Pilot requested approval of minutes from 6/10/22 meeting. Motion to approve was made by WI and second by AR. Motion carried.

Treasurer presented the financial report from 7/31/22. Pilot requested approval of financial reports from 7/31/22. Motion to approve was made by WI and second by IL. Motion carried.

Pilot addressed letter from Iowa to the board and asked Iowa to speak. Iowa aired issues and brought up concerns about equality of states and what do we get. Iowa stated that their state DOT is concerned with what they are getting. Why should Iowa pay more than other states? Iowa feel it's better to use those funds within their own state. Iowa continued that non-dues paying states have voting rights. Iowa is raising awareness of fairness and said they are happy to pay full dues when they see more action.

Pilot reviewed the state's benefits as included in board packets and online. Louisiana suggested looking at other funding sources rather than trying to get state funds. Minnesota said all states have different circumstances and if we kick out non-dues paying states, we won't be a 10-state organization. Every state will have its day. Iowa said their intention was not to get rid of non-dues paying states. Wisconsin referenced the non-compliance of dues included in the letter and asked what was meant by that. Wisconsin said they don't see a non-compliance issue. It's important to be one organization. At one

point, Wisconsin shared that they had problems paying dues and knew the risks of losing our services and rights but we didn't want to take that chance. It's critical to function as a 10-state organization. Mississippi said they don't think there should be a penalty. We are one organization. I don't think it would be a problem to lose their voting right. Should that be considered as a change to the bylaws? Two or three years without payment and maybe you cannot host a meeting in your state or should it be one year behind but no matter? Tennessee looks at different levels of service for 10 states. Can we provide a service? We can't dilute the 10 states. Don't tamper with such a unique organization.

Pilot agreed that we are better off as 10 states. Perhaps we explore different models. Maybe other funding sources. Motion was made by Pilot Emeritus for the Board to maintain our focus on the 10-state alliance. Second by WI. Missouri abstained. Motion carried.

Pilot talked about national meetings and our committees as well as our productivity through meeting virtual. It's always great to get together but travel costs are rising. Should we go back to two in-person meetings or a Zoom/virtual and one in-person or all virtual.

Kentucky said it is valuable to meet in person at least one time per year and one virtual. Illinois said by going to virtual meetings you lose connections and therefore prefers two in person meetings. Pilot Emeritus said consistent focus failed by not meeting and recalled our reduction to in-person meetings during the recession. Technical committee meet quarterly through Zoom and it's been working great. Illinois said it will be harder to meet our goals if we do not meet in person.

Illinois made a motion to continue meeting in person two times per year. Second by Arkansas. Discussion included Iowa wanting to do one family meeting and one working meeting. Pilot Pro Tem suggested we not include excursions in registration fees and schedule them before or after the meeting. Louisiana said we've done fam tours for 30 years and it's expensive and puts more emphasis on the host. Pilot said technical advisors can only get their registration paid if they're documenting what they are getting out of this. Wisconsin said to look at what is the purpose of the meeting and what is the agenda and reinforced that the meeting is to learn and not to entertain. In favor of the motion: IL, AR, IA, MN, KY, Pilot Pro Tem, Secretary. Not in favor of motion: TN, LA, WI, MS. Abstained: MO.

We took time to recognize the pilot with gratitude for her work and years of leadership.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00pm.