



Pilot's Report
March 11, 2022

- All MRPC Technical Committees have met this year so far and I've been able to join in by Zoom. Their engagement has been enhanced with the opportunities that virtual meetings provide and they are all working toward goals they hope to address at the Memphis meeting.
- National Scenic Byways Application for a New Traveler Website and App: While the Marketing Committee has been working to share information on what can be done to prepare for an application, I have been working to find a state that would serve as our applying entity. States are asked to identify community leaders and congresspeople and their staffs that might be tapped for letters of support.
- State Thank You Reports: Two more reports have been made to the Wisconsin and Iowa Commissions. If you would like the Stakeholder report presented to your state, please contact me.
- MRPC Annual Meeting Planning: Plans for an outstanding, in-person MRPC Annual Meeting have been moving forward with ad hoc committee members Susanne Thiede-Barnet, Mike McLanahan and Norma Pruitt. The plans so far will be reported at the Board meeting.
- Executive Committee Resolutions: The MRPC Executive Committee met to discuss an issue that arose early in the year related to staff and volunteer working environment atmospheres. The meeting needed to be of a confidential nature. Two resolutions have emerged and will be presented to the Board for consideration.
- Illinois Commission – Update: Following an ERA Committee meeting Nani Bhowmik and Erin Holmes and I talked about Illinois' efforts to reestablish their state's commission. Progress is being made on payment.
- Missouri Commission – Update: James Lundgren, Exec. Dir. Of the Mark Twain Boyhood Home met with me, John Anfinson, Mark Kross, Frank Nickel and Susanne Thiede-Barnet to share historical information about Missouri's commission and to explore possible pathways to reestablishing that state's commission. James reported in this week that he has had some success in discussions with Missouri state officials and other Mississippi River leaders. We will continue to assist James in whatever ways we can.
- National Scenic Byway Funding: It appears from a recent Scenic America communication that an additional \$6 million has been appropriated in the 2022 FY spending bill for the National Scenic Byways program.