



Environment, Recreation and Agriculture Committee Meeting Minutes September 9, 2022

Attendees:

Edwin McDavis - TN
Katie - Louisa County, IA
Michelle - Port Gibson, MS
Nani - IL
Jim - Stuttgart AR
Lesley Webster - Clinton IA/Fulton IL

Paul - Wapello, IA
Sen. Dave Senjem - MN
Edwin - Greenville, MS
Norma – KY
Erin – MO
Sabrina – WI/MN

Topics discussed:

How to bolster the agriculture focus of our committee?

Agritourism - orchards and wineries, farmers markets. People enjoy experiential tourism...One of the river cruises has an excursion to a dairy farm.

MN- Drive the Great River Road Month (Sept) theme was agriculture, includes a map and themed trips.

Several folks mentioned regional food production signage that exists in Minnesota and Arkansas. EX. Stuttgart Rice signage. Using interpretive signs for agriculture at waysides to describe which crops may be growing in the fields.

Pollinators:

the idea of a coordinated promotional effort for pollinators, such as "May is Monarch Month" or "National Pollinator Week", that would highlight efforts along the GRR.

Use a monarch icon on the App to highlight resources or points of interest along the road related to pollinators.

Sell seed packets at IC's to raise money and awareness. Many mentioned that seed packets are already available for free give aways. Consider branding a GRR seed packet. Have an activity to make seed bombs that folks can take home with them.

Native Landscaping at ICs. They will need landscaping regardless, so encourage the use of native pollinator plants.

Better utilize existing resources and share those resources with the committee, the MRPC, and the public. Share success stories.

Cross-pollination of other committees - A Monarch Migration Bike ride along the entire 10 state region that has stops at certain ICs along the way to highlight pollinator conservation and how individuals can engage in the pollinator efforts. Would include all committees

Use Committee reports to share successes and stories for internal MRPC consumption to make sure our own folks understand the importance of pollinators and planting for pollinators.
Bring in technical resources, podcasts, TED talks, and webinars.

Other topics:

At a future meeting, request an update from Tyree with Memphis River Parks to share the progress of Tom Lee Park project.

Partner with Living Lands and Waters (Chad Pegracke) to do a project highlighting the river and the GRR

Mapping Electric Vehicle Charger availability on the GRR map and finding grants to add more charging stations.

Ask Technical experts from the Corps of Engineers to present webinars/updates on big projects on the river such as the Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program.