

## **City Engineers (Municipal) Screening Board**

Minn. Stat. 162.13, subd. 3

Expiration: None

### **Mission Statement**

To recommend to the Commissioner of Transportation the miles and needs of the cities to be used in the annual distribution of municipal state aid street funding each year.

### **Membership and Compensation**

Current year membership is attached. Membership changes every year.

Each member and alternate is reimbursed mileage, lodging and meals for the screening board meetings twice a year. Mileage subcommittee and general subcommittee members are reimbursed for meetings when necessary, they do not meet every year.

### **Budget**

Screening board meetings are around \$6000.

### **2012-2013 Meeting Dates**

Meetings are held every June and October, dates vary.

- October 23 and 24, 2012
- February 1, 2013 (a special meeting, not held annually)
- May 21, 22, 2013
- October 22 and 23, 2013

### **Reports and/or Recommendations issued to the Commissioner, Legislature or Governor**

The screening board books are posted on the state aid

website: [http://www.dot.state.mn.us/stateaid/sa\\_msas.html](http://www.dot.state.mn.us/stateaid/sa_msas.html)

### **Website**

Information provided on MnDOT's state aid

website: [http://www.dot.state.mn.us/stateaid/sa\\_msas.html](http://www.dot.state.mn.us/stateaid/sa_msas.html)

# 2013 MUNICIPAL SCREENING BOARD

N:/MSAS/BOOKS/2013 JANUARY BOOK/SCREENING BOARD MEMBERS JANUARY 2013.XLS

28-Jan-13

OFFICERS			
Chair	Bob Moberg	Coon Rapids	
Vice Chair	Steve Bot	St. Michael	
Secretary	TBD		

MEMBERS				
District	Years Served	Representative	City	Phone
1	2011-2013	David Salo	Hermantown	
2	2012-2014	Dave Kildahl	Thief River Falls	
3	2012-2014	Brad DeWolf	Buffalo	
4	2013-2015	Jon Pratt	Detroit Lakes	
Metro-West	2013-2015	Rod Rue	Eden Prairie	
6	2013-2015	Steven Lang	Austin	
7	2011-2013	Troy Nemmers	Fairmont	
8	2012-2014	John Rodeberg	Glencoe	
Metro-East	2011-2013	Mark Graham	Vadnais Heights	
<u>Cities</u>	Permanent	Cindy Voigt	Duluth	
<u>of the</u>	Permanent	Don Elwood	Minneapolis	
<u>First</u>	Permanent	Richard Freese	Rochester	
<u>Class</u>	Permanent	Paul Kurtz	Saint Paul	

ALTERNATES				
District	Year Beginning		City	Phone
1	2014	Jesse Story	Hibbing	
2	2015	Rich Clauson	Crookston	
3	2015	Bruce Westby	Monticello	
4	2016	Jeff Kuhn	Morris	
Metro-West	2016	Steve Lillehaug	Brooklyn Center	
6	2016	Jay Owens	Red Wing	
7	2014	Jeff Johnson	Mankato	
8	2015	Jared Voge	Willmar	
Metro-East	2014	Klayton Eckles	Woodbury	

## 2013 SUBCOMMITTEES

The Screening Board Chair appoints one city Engineer, who has served on the Screening Board, to serve a three year term on the Needs Study Subcommittee.

The past Chair of the Screening Board is appointed to serve a three year term on the Unencumbered Construction Fund Subcommittee.

NEEDS STUDY SUBCOMMITTEE	UNENCUMBERED CONSTRUCTION FUNDS SUBCOMMITTEE
<p>Russ Matthys, Chair Eagan [REDACTED] Expires after 2013</p> <p>Steve Bot St. Michael [REDACTED] Expires after 2014</p> <p>Tim Schoonhoven Alexandria [REDACTED] Expires after 2015</p>	<p>Jeff Hulsether, Chair Brainerd [REDACTED] Expires after 2013</p> <p>Jean Keely Blaine [REDACTED] Expires after 2014</p> <p>Kent Exner Hutchinson [REDACTED] Expires after 2015</p>

## **County Engineer Screening Board**

Minn. Stat. 162.07, subd. 5

Expiration: None

### **Mission Statement**

To recommend to the Commissioner of Transportation the miles and needs of the counties to be used in the annual distribution of county state aid highway funding each year.

### **Membership and Compensation**

Current year membership is attached. Membership changes every year.

Each member and alternate is reimbursed mileage, lodging and meals for the screening board meetings twice a year. Mileage subcommittee and general subcommittee members are reimbursed for meetings when necessary, they do not meet every year.

### **Budget**

Screening board meetings are around \$6000.

### **2012-2013 Meeting Dates**

Meetings are held every June and October, dates vary.

- June 13, 2012 - Arrowwood, Alexandria
- October 24 & 25, 2012 - Chase on the Lake, Walker
- June 13, 2013 - Arrowwood, Alexandria
- October 23 & 24, 2013 - Rutger's Bay Lake, Deerwood

### **Reports and/or Recommendations issued to the Commissioner, Legislature or Governor**

The screening Board books are posted on the state aid website:

[http://www.dot.state.mn.us/stateaid/sa\\_csah.html](http://www.dot.state.mn.us/stateaid/sa_csah.html)

### **Website**

Information provided on MnDOT's state aid website:

[http://www.dot.state.mn.us/stateaid/sa\\_csah.html](http://www.dot.state.mn.us/stateaid/sa_csah.html)

## 2013 COUNTY SCREENING BOARD

Dave Betts	(12-13)	Cook County	District 1
Brian Ketrang	(12-13)	Roseau County	District 2
Loren Felbaum	(13-14)	Todd County	District 3
Jon Large, Chair	(12-13)	Mahnomen County	District 4
Lyndon Robjent	(10-13)	Carver County	Metro
Mitch Rasmussen	(12-15)	Scott County	Metro
Mike Hanson	(12-13)	Mower County	District 6
Roger Risser	(13-14)	Watsonwan County	District 7
Andy Sander	(13-14)	Yellow Medicine County	District 8
Doug Fischer	Permanent	Anoka County	Urban
Mark Krebsbach	Permanent	Dakota County	Urban
Jim Grube	Permanent	Hennepin County	Urban
Jim Tolaas	Permanent	Ramsey County	Urban
Jim Foldesi	Permanent	St. Louis County	Urban
Wayne Sandberg	Permanent	Washington County	Urban
Nick Anderson, Secretary		Big Stone County	

## 2013 SCREENING BOARD ALTERNATES

Mike Tardy	Carlton County	District 1
Lon Aune	Marshall County	District 2
Bruce Cochran	Mille Lacs County	District 3
Dave Overbo	Clay County	District 4
Joe Triplett	Chisago County	Metro
David Kramer	Winona County	District 6
Darin Mielke	Sibley County	District 7
Willy Rabenberg	Redwood County	District 8

## 2013 CSAH MILEAGE SUBCOMMITTEE

Wayne Sandberg	October 2013	Washington County
Dave Christy	October 2014	Itasca County
Nathan Richman	October 2015	Waseca County

## **Council on Transportation Access**

Minn. Stat. 174.285

Expiration: None

### **Mission**

MCOTA's mission (Statutory Purpose): The purpose of the Minnesota Council on Transportation Access is to "study, evaluate, oversee, and make recommendations to improve the coordination, availability, accessibility, efficiency, cost-effectiveness, and safety of transportation services provided to the transit public."

### **Membership and Compensation**

The MCOTA Membership list is attached.

Travel and meal reimbursement is provided for non state agency personnel.

### **Budget**

The annual budget for MCOTA is \$100,000

### **2012-2013 Meeting Dates**

MCOTA meets the fourth Tuesday of every month except December. The annual meeting for election of officers occurs in September.

The last three meeting dates for MCOTA were 4/23/2013, 5/28/13, and 6/25/13. (July's meeting was canceled.)

The next meeting is 8/27/2013.

### **Reports and/or Recommendations issued to the Commissioner, Legislature or Governor**

MCOTA issues an annual report to the legislature. Here is a link to the 2013 report.

[mndot.gov/govrel/reports/2013/mcotareport.pdf](http://mndot.gov/govrel/reports/2013/mcotareport.pdf)

### **Website**

MCOTA information is located at [www.coordinatemntransit.org](http://www.coordinatemntransit.org).

## **MCOTA Membership List 8/14/2013**

**Governor's Office** - Erin Cambell, Policy Advisor

**Metropolitan Council** - Gerri Sutton, Assistant Director Contracted Transit Services

**MN Board on Aging** - Harlan Tardy, Executive Director, Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency

**MN Department of Commerce** - Tina Armstrong, Director, Consumer Education and Outreach

**MN Department of Education** - Kelly Wosika, Program Finance

**MN Department of Employment and Economic Development** - Chuk Hamilton, Director, State Services for the Blind

**MN Department of Health** - Tim Held, Deputy Director, Office of Rural Health &

**MN Department of Human Services** - Steve Masson, Health Care Program Manager

**MN Department of Transportation** Tim Henkel, Assistant Commissioner, Mn/DOT Modal Planning and Program Management

**MN Department of Veteran Affairs** - Ron Quade, Director of Veterans Programs

**Minnesota Management and Budget** - Britta Reitan, Executive Budget Coordinator

**MN Public Transit Association** - Tony Kellen, President

**MN State Council on Disabilities** - Joan Willshire, Executive Director

## **Local Road Improvement Advisory Committee**

Minn. Stat. 174.52, subd. 3

Expiration: None

### **Mission Statement**

When a bonding bill is passed that requires a solicitation for projects, an advisory committee is assembled with membership consistent with the statute language. The committee makes recommendations for the how to prepare the solicitation and funding limits. It meets one time before the project solicitation is advertised.

### **Membership and Compensation**

The membership is different each time a committee is assembled.

There is no compensation; members volunteer their time to committee. This committee is one of the required responsibilities of the MnDOT State Aid Programs Engineer as manager of the program.

The 2011 LRIP advisory committee included the following:

- LRIP Program Manager – Patti Loken
- County Commissioner – Donald Jensen
- County Engineer – Bruce Hasbargen
- City Engineer – Brian Olson
- City council member city greater than 5000 – Roger Boughton
- City council member city less than 5000 – Robert Wolfington
- Invited to participate
- David Fricke – Township Association
- Abbey Bryduck – Association MN Counties
- Anne Finne – League of MN Cities
- Margaret Donahoe – Transportation Alliance
- Doug Fisher – President of MN County Engineers Association
- Jean Keely – President MN City Engineers Association

### **Budget**

There is no budget.

### **Meeting Dates**

The committee has not meet since 2011. The next meeting won't occur until a bonding bill passes that requires a solicitation for projects.

### **Reports and/or Recommendations to the Commissioner, Legislature or Governor**

The committee's recommendations are used to develop the project solicitation, but no official reports are issued. A list of projects that will receive funding is published.

### **Website**

[http://www.dot.state.mn.us/stateaid/sa\\_local\\_road\\_improvemnt.html](http://www.dot.state.mn.us/stateaid/sa_local_road_improvemnt.html)

## **Nonmotorized Transportation Advisory Committee**

Minn. Stat. 174.37

Expiration: 6/30/2014

### **Mission Statement**

To promote non-motorized transportation in Minnesota

### **Vision Statement**

Individually and collectively we will strengthen and encourage community support for non-motorized transportation throughout the state. We will do so through continuous and active participation with government agencies, and allied organizations through education, public affair campaigns and political initiatives.

### **Compensation**

Committee members serve without compensation, but members who are not employees of government agencies must be reimbursed for expenses in the same manner and amount as authorized by the Commissioner's plan adopted under section 34A.18, subdivision 2.

### **Budget**

Annually, we submit a purchase order for \$10,000. This includes travel reimbursement and meeting refreshments. Typically expenses are around \$6,000.

### **2012-2013 Meeting Dates**

November 15, 2012

February 21, 2013

April 11, 2013 – canceled due to weather

June 13, 2013

September 29th and 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013 – annual retreat (Brainerd)

### **Reports and/or Recommendations issued to the Commissioner, Legislature or Governor**

The committee reports annually to the commissioner of transportation. Last year's report can be found at <http://archive.leg.state.mn.us/docs/2012/mandated/120411.pdf>.

The committee also advises MnDOT offices on bicycle and pedestrian issues in plans, policies and design.

### **Website**

[mndot.gov/sntc/index.html](http://mndot.gov/sntc/index.html) (Under development)

## State Aid Rules Advisory Committee

Minn. Stat. 162.02, subd. 2 (County State Aid Advisory Committee)

Minn. Stat. 162.09 subd. 2 (Municipal State Aid Advisory Committee)

Expiration: None

### Mission Statement

The mission of the Rules Advisory Committee is to guide the Commissioner on the content of Rule 8820. This Rule, which has the force and effect of law, covers issues related to the designation of the state aid system, how funds are expended, and the design standards to be used.

### Membership and Compensation

Each member is reimbursed mileage, lodging and meals if requested.

#### 2012 RULES ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

D-1	Doug Grindall, County Engineer	Koochiching County
D-2	Dan Sauve, County Engineer	Clearwater County
D-3	Ewald Peterson, Commissioner	Sherburne County
D-4	Gordy Wagner, Commissioner	Pope County
M-W	James Grube, County Engineer	Hennepin County
M-E	Joe Triplett, County Engineer	Chisago County
D-6	Dave Kramer, County Engineer	Winona County
D-7	Jack Kolars, Commissioner	Nicollet County
D-8	Jon Schueller, Commissioner	Redwood County
D-1	Tom Pagel, City Engineer	City of Grand Rapids
D-2	Craig Gray, City Engineer	City of Bemidji
D-3	Jeff Hulsether, City Engineer	City of Brainerd
D-4	Tim Schoonhoven, City Engineer	City of Alexandria
M-W	Shelly Pederson, City Engineer (Alt)	City of Bloomington
M-E	Mark Maloney, City Engineer	City of Shoreview
D-6	Andru Peters, City Council	City of Lake City
D-7	Steve Koehler, City Engineer	City of New Ulm
D-8	Glenn Olson, City Engineer	City of Marshall
1st Class	Kevin Reich, City Council	City of Minneapolis
1st Class	Paul St. Martin, Asst. City Eng	City of St. Paul
1st Class	Cindy Voigt, City Engineer	City of Duluth

### Budget

Meetings can cost around \$3,000.

### 2012-2013 Meeting Dates

Meetings are scheduled based on the need to make Rules changes, which happens about every 3 years on average. The last Rules Committee met March 2012. The prior meeting was March 29, 2011, and prior to that was Nov 29, 2006.

### Reports and/or Recommendations to the Commissioner, Legislature or Governor

No official reports are issued. Rules can be seen at <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/rules/?id=8820>

### Website

None

## **Mississippi River Parkway Commission**

Minn. Stat. 161.1419

Expiration: 6/30/2016

### **Mission Statement**

The mission of the Mississippi River Parkway Commission of Minnesota is to promote, preserve and enhance the resources of the Mississippi River Valley and to develop the highways and amenities of the Great River Road.

### **Membership and Compensation**

See attached membership list.

Members are eligible to request per diem and expense reimbursement for approved meetings, activities and Commission business.

### **Budget**

The MN-MRPC operating budget for FY '14 - \$66,150, and for FY '15 - \$63,000. The Commission also facilitates/manages grant projects. The Legislative Coordinating Commission serves as fiscal agent for the MN-MRPC.

### **2013 Meeting Dates**

February 28, 2013

May 23, 2013

August 22, 2013

November 14, 2013

### **Reports and/or Recommendations issued to the Commissioner, Legislature or Governor**

The FY '13 MN-MRPC Annual Report is attached.

The Commission sent the attached letter to Governor Dayton in June of 2012.

Motions of support for various initiatives are listed in Commission meeting minutes, some resulted in letters of support for partner projects and funding applications. Those letters can be made available, if needed.

### **Website**

Meeting dates, minutes and materials are available  
at <http://www.commissions.leg.state.mn.us/mrpc/mrpc.html>

The MN Great River Road website is <http://www.mnmississippiriver.com>.



# **Minnesota Mississippi River Parkway Commission**

## **2012-13 Annual Report**

### **July 2013**



300 33<sup>rd</sup> Ave S, Suite 101, Waite Park, MN 56387 • 651-341-4196 • [www.MnMississippiRiver.com](http://www.MnMississippiRiver.com)

## **Mission**

The mission of the Mississippi River Parkway Commission of Minnesota is to promote, preserve and enhance the resources of the Mississippi River Valley and to develop the highways and amenities of the Great River Road. The Commission is organized and guided by Minnesota Statute 161.1419.

## **Quarterly Meetings of the Full Commission**

The MN-MRPC held four full Commission meetings between July 2012 and July 2013 – August 23, 2012; November 29, 2012; February 28, 2013 and May 23, 2013. Each meeting included updates from regional citizen Commissioners and state agencies. Work is carried out by the full Commission along with four work groups – Capital Improvement; Economic Development; Marketing; and Organization.

## **Projects & Activities**

### **Great River Road Corridor Management Planning and Implementation**

The Commission was awarded a 2011 National Scenic Byways Grant for Corridor Management Planning and Implementation. Required matching funds are being provided by the National Park Service. This project will develop a Corridor Management Plan to guide the work of Minnesota's Mississippi River Parkway Commission for the next 10 – 15 years. The project will also implement a current CMP key strategy - signing the Mississippi River Bicycle Trail (MRT) statewide. Partners include the MN-MRPC, MnDOT, National Park Service, Minnesota Legislative Coordinating Commission, and Trust for Public Land. The Corridor Management Plan will include an inventory and map of GRR resources; confirmed Great River Road Storybook content and locations; route assessment and recommendations; visitor impressions and analysis of visitor needs; corridor development strategies; byway organization business plan; and communications/public relations plan. The MRT implementation portion of the project includes signage; community information kiosks, maps and electronic traveler information. This will be a multi-year project carried out in phases, with completion tentatively planned for June 2015. Activity during 2013 included Commission project review and discussion; Project Management Team meetings; definition of information to be included in GIS resource database; documentation of funding flow/matching funds; draft Request for Proposal for Corridor Management Planning services; MRT/USBR 45 signage discussions/planning; revised MRT sign plan; municipal agreements for signage in Bluffs Region (Phase I); purchasing of signs for Phase I; and redesign of the National Park Service Mississippi River Companion (with GRR and MRT mapping).

### **Great River Road Visual Resource Protection Plan Project**

A National Scenic Byways grant was received by the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area (MNRRA) for this effort. The project will create a Visual Resource Protection Plan for the Metro Region of Minnesota's Great River Road that will serve as a prototype for protecting visual resources in the byway's six destination areas. During 2013, process development and beta testing of the viewpoint evaluation system took place, the public was invited to submit their favorite Mississippi views in the 72 mile corridor (on-line, by mail or in person), the top 50 views were identified and mapped, views were assessed by staff and volunteers during both leaf-off and leaf-on seasons, and a public meeting was held to provide information gathered to date and receive feedback. The final project report is now in development. It will include an overview of the project and methodology, data gathered, data applications, threat and opportunities, recommended infrastructure improvements, and recommendations for future use of the methodology in other areas. The report and plan will provide information for use as development and land management decisions are made. The process and results will be utilized in Corridor Management Planning for the full length of the Minnesota Great River Road. A project information sheet is attached.

### **Interpretive Panels**

Designs have been finalized for panels to be placed at New Albin, Itasca State Park, Bemidji, St. Cloud, and Mendota locations. Panels were fabricated and received during FY '13 for Mendota, St. Cloud and New Albin. The full project, to be completed in FY 2014, will result in an estimated 26 panels at six sites, utilizing stories from the Minnesota Great River Road Interpretive Plan.

### **Historic Roadside Property Restorations**

Contracts were finalized and most work completed during FY 2013 on the final four (of twelve) restoration projects along the Great River Road. The four sites are - Sibley Pioneer Church Memorial; La Crescent Overlook, La Crescent State Entrance Marker, and Reno Springs Roadside Rest Area. A state appropriation provided funds for restoration of 12 sites on or eligible for the National Historic Register.

### **Road and Bridge Projects**

The new Lowry Avenue Bridge in Minneapolis has received numerous state and national awards for engineering, environmental excellence, and overall project quality. The new four-lane, 1,600 foot span bridge accommodates vehicle, pedestrian, bicycle, rail and river traffic and relinks busy residential and business areas. The new Hastings Highway 61 Bridge is nearing completion. Work also continues on the I-90 bridge at Dresbach, Highway 43 bridge at Winona, and Highway 63 bridge at Red Wing.

### **Resource Protection - Silica Sand Mining**

Silica sand mining continues to be an important topic in the Mississippi Bluffs Region of southeastern Minnesota. Cities and counties have been considering moratoria, regulations and permits. The Minnesota Legislature passed a bill during the 2013 session directing the MN Environmental Quality Board to develop model standards and criteria for mining, transporting and processing silica sand, in consultation with local units of government; defining a technical assistance team to assist local units of government; and requiring completion of an environmental assessment worksheet for any new projects meeting or exceeding defined thresholds. MnDOT provided technical testimony and maps (attached) related to the Great River Road during legislative committee hearings. Commissioner Sheronne Mulry presented Great River Road information at a local Izaak Walton League Meeting in the region.

### **Mississippi River Bicycle Trail (MRT)**

The MN-MRPC and MnDOT continue to partner on efforts to fully implement and promote the MRT. The MN-MRPC's Corridor Management Planning and Implementation grant and a matching National Park Service grant will provide MRT signage, information kiosks, maps and electronic information for travelers. Several organizations worked together during the year to clarify signage requirements and plans after the MRT was designated as United States Bicycle Route 45 in Minnesota. A series of meetings and conference calls took place involving MnDOT, MN-MRPC, NPS, FHWA, AASHTO, MRT Inc., and Adventure Cycling. Issues included maintaining the MRT's ten state branding and signage while also meeting requirements of U.S. Bicycle Route designation. Final sign plans were completed, municipal agreements were secured with local units of government, and MRT signs were ordered for Phase I of the project (Hastings to Iowa Border region to be installed summer 2013). The MN-MRPC, in support of bicycling in Minnesota, placed ads in the 2013-14 Minnesota Bicycling Guide and 2013 Minnesota Biking Map.

### **Great River Road 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

In celebration and recognition of the Great River Road's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the MN-MRPC requested and received a Governor's Proclamation (attached). The proclamation designated May as Great River Road month in Minnesota, in conjunction with National Tourism Week and the Governor's Fishing Opener which was hosted in Park Rapids and included a visit to Lake Itasca, source of the Mississippi. The Minnesota Great River Road Map/Travel Planner was updated and reprinted featuring the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary on the cover (attached). Lapel pins were purchased for distribution at meetings and events. Explore Minnesota Tourism featured the Great River Road 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on their Group & Packaged Travel Planner (cover attached), American Bus Association (ABA) Marketplace booklet cover, and Minnesota Explorer spring/summer newspaper insert. The MN-MRPC also served as a sponsor for the Minnesota ABA booth/booklet and highlighted the GRR 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary and MN GRR interpretive centers. MN-MRPC and Explore Minnesota Tourism representatives staffed the Great River Road booth at the Great Race Kickoff/Back to the 50s Weekend at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds. Events along the Minnesota Great River Road were submitted to the National MRPC for inclusion on the anniversary events website.

## **National MRPC**

The MN-MRPC was represented at both the 2012 Annual and 2103 Semi-Annual MRPC meetings. Carol Zoff presented information on MAP-21 at both meetings. Karl Samp was elected as MRPC Treasurer, and received the MRPC Distinguished Service Award.

## **Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative Annual Meeting**

The Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative 2013 Annual Meeting was held in St. Cloud, June 27 – 30. St. Cloud Mayor Dave Kleis hosted the meeting. MN-MRPC member Karl Samp represented the MRPC.

## **Hospitality Training Partnership**

The MN-MRPC and DNR are in planning stages to update Minnesota Great River Road regional map tablets, develop a hospitality training PowerPoint, and roll out hospitality training at state parks along or near the Mississippi River, for local tourism/hospitality staff. Implementation is currently scheduled for spring 2014.

## **New Great River Road Interpretive Center**

The Winona County History Center was designated as Minnesota's newest member of the Great River Road Network of Interpretive Centers. The center is located in historic downtown Winona, near the Mississippi. A variety of exhibits tell the unique stories of the area, including an award winning children's exhibit featuring a river steamboat pilot house. For details, visit [www.winona.history.org](http://www.winona.history.org).

## **Funding/Great River Road Investments**

The Minnesota Great River Road and its amenities are supported by several funding sources, including those managed by the MN-MRPC as listed below (state operating budget, FHWA and state grants) and those managed by related organizations (other scenic byways, partner organizations such as the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area, State of Minnesota, etc.).

### **State Operating Budget**

The MN-MRPC operated with state funding at levels allowing the Commission to proceed with priorities. State operating funding for FY '13 was \$85,500 which included a base amount of \$63,000 along with carry-over from the previous fiscal year which allowed for special projects including the MN-GRR 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary map reprint.

### **Federal Highway Administration Grants**

- Minnesota Great River Road Corridor Management Planning & Implementation (\$560,000) - Grant work began during 2013. MRT signs were purchased for Phase I of the statewide signage project (Hastings to Iowa Border).
- Minnesota Great River Road National Scenic Byway Marketing (\$43,000) – Most grant tasks have been completed. A hospitality training project is being developed in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. This is the last project to be implemented under the grant, with completion of the grant planned by June 2014.
- Minnesota Great River Road Interpretive Panels, Phase 1 (\$50,000) - This project will place a series of interpretive signs in various Minnesota Great River Road destination areas. Panel designs have been finalized for remaining sites and panels were fabricated during FY '13 for three locations.

### **National Park Service Grant**

Great River Road Corridor Management Planning and Implementation (\$140,000) – Funds are local match for the National Scenic Byways Grant, and dedicated to specific tasks in the project that directly benefit the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area.

### **2012 National Scenic Byway Grants Funded**

Two projects along the Minnesota Great River Road were awarded 2012 National Scenic Byway Grants – Aitkin County, for a project to pave some of the last remaining gravel sections of the Great River Road; and Dakota County, to construct parking, trail connections, signage and restrooms near the Rock Island Swing Bridge.

### **Minnesota Transportation Alternatives Program**

MnDOT held regional meetings during the year to share information on MAP-21 and its impact on programs and funding sources, and to gather feedback on structure of the Transportation Alternatives Program moving forward. Options include funds being regionally administered through Area Transportation Partnerships, using a centralized approach for

the state, or some combination of both. The MN-MRPC passed a of support for allocation of Transportation Alternatives funds at the state level specifically for National Scenic Byways in the state due to statewide and national significance.

## **Local & Regional Activities and Amenity Development**

- **Minneapolis Riverfront Partnership** – The partnership held a Riverfront Vitality Summit in July 2012, with top priorities identified as riverfront parks and trails; private investment along the river; increasing riverside venues (restaurants, etc.). The Riverfront Partnership is also continuing its vitality indicators project, to measure impacts of investment along the Mississippi.
- **Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board** – A celebration was held to recognize recent renovations at Boom Island and B.F. Nelson Parks.
- **19<sup>th</sup> Annual St. Paul Great River Gathering** – This annual gathering of the community focusing on the Mississippi and City of St. Paul was held May 9 at St. Paul RiverCentre. Five members represented the MN-MRPC at the event and exhibit area.
- **MN DNR “Take Aim at Summer”** – Event held at DNR central region headquarters along the Mississippi River in St. Paul, focused on outdoor activities available within an urban area.
- **Mississippi National River and Recreation Area: Alternative Transportation Plan** – The goal of this plan is to increase visitation to national park without increasing congestion, via a multi-modal transportation system. An online transportation planning tool is nearing completion for travelers, which will provide information on Nice Ride bike stations, mass transit stops, river accesses, and more. On May 30, Nice Ride Minnesota, the National Park Service, MnDOT, Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Minnesota, Hennepin County, and Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board held a kick-off ride and rally to launch 24 new bike share stations along the Mississippi River and within the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area. Funding for the 24 new stations along the river was made possible through an NPS grant to Nice Ride Minnesota through the Paul S. Sarbanes Transit in Parks Program administered by the FHWA.
- **National Water Trail Designation** – The 72 miles of river within the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area was designated as the 2nd National Water Trail in the United States. The National Park Service is planning to submit an application to extend the designation to the full length of the Mississippi in Minnesota. A presentation was provided at the May 23 MN-MRPC quarterly meeting and the MN-MRPC has provided a letter of support.
- **Brainerd-Baxter Mississippi River Revitalization Project** – This group continues to work with the National Park Service’s Parks and Trails Program as they move forward with plans for the Brainerd-Baxter area, and plans to align efforts with the new Corridor Management Plan developed for the MN Great River Road. The City of Brainerd recently defined priorities and development of a River Walk is included.
- **St. Cloud Area** – “Mississippi Partners” was established in 2012 to champion implementation of the recently completed urban river plan by prioritizing, educating, marketing/promoting, advocating, and fundraising for future river initiatives. A new project website was launched in 2013 – [www.mississippipartners.org](http://www.mississippipartners.org).
- **Take a Day OFF\* (Outdoor Family Fun) on the Mississippi** - This annual event at Stearns County Mississippi River Park is organized by Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District, Minnesota DNR Benton County, St. Cloud State University and several other local partners. 1,300 people participated in the August 11, 2012 event. Free activities included fishing, river rides, archery, river education, nature hikes, kayaking, canoeing, kids games, native plantings, nature art, river shore landscaping, know your duck, and family picnics.
- **Cuyuna Lakes Mountain Bike Trail** – Trail usage grew from 15,000 in the first year to 25,000 in the second year.
- **New Trail Development** – Discussions are underway to create a bicycle trail along the Mississippi in the newly defined Mississippi Northwoods Heritage Complex (just outside Brainerd). The parcel includes 11 miles of Mississippi River frontage and the potential new trail would connect to existing trails in the Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area and City of Brainerd.
- **Milford Mine Memorial Park** – Crow Wing County is planning and seeking funding to create an interpretive/memorial park including boardwalk access at the site of the Milford Mine near Crosby. The site is about one mile from the Great River Road and marks the location of one of the worst mining accidents in state history. The MN-MRPC has passed a motion of support for this project.
- **Upper Mississippi Gatherings** – Mississippi Gathering 5 was held October 6, 2012, convened by the Initiative Foundation, Mississippi Headwaters Board and Trust for Public Land. The series of gatherings focuses on bringing together partners and initiatives along the first 400 miles of the river. MN-MRPC technical advisors Paul Labovitz and Carol Zoff were presenters on impactful river projects and the Corridor Management Planning project, and MN-MRPC member John Schaubach is a member of the planning team for the gatherings.

- **St. Cloud Riverbluffs Park** – MN-MRPC member Karl Samp attended the July 2012 ribbon cutting/dedication of this new park along the Mississippi featuring a boat landing and trails.
- **Historic Barn Preservation** – A group is working to promote and preserve the McDougall Barn site south of Little Falls, built in 1877 and listed on the National Historic Register. Karl Samp has served as MN-MRPC liaison.
- **Fort Snelling Upper Post Development** – The Minnesota DNR is partnering with Hennepin County on a project to reuse/develop barracks and other buildings in the “upper post” of Fort Snelling.

## **Membership**

The MN-MRPC is organized by state statute to include:

(2) Members of the House of Representatives

(2) Members of the Senate

(5) Members of State Agencies - (1) appointed by each: DNR, Mn/DOT, Historical Society, Agriculture & Tourism

(5) Regional Members – (1) from each of the Great River Road regions established by statute

(1) Member-At-Large – appointed by the other 14

New members welcomed over the past year: Scott Bradley, Minnesota Department of Transportation Appointee and Representative Mike Benson. Thank you to outgoing Commissioners Frank Pafko, Representative Branden Petersen and Jim Lucachick.

**This report is respectfully submitted on July 25, 2013.**

**Rep. Sheldon Johnson, MN-MRPC Chair**



## Mississippi River Parkway Commission of Minnesota

300 33<sup>rd</sup> Avenue South, Suite 101 • Waite Park, Minnesota 56387

Phone: 651-341-4196 • E-Mail: [info@MnMississippiRiver.com](mailto:info@MnMississippiRiver.com)

**Members of the House:** Sheldon Johnson (DFL – 67B) – Chair; Branden Petersen (R – 49B) **Members of the Senate:** David Senjem (R – 29); Patricia Torres Ray (DFL – 62) **State Agency Appointees:** Paul Hugunin – Agriculture, Frank Pafko – Transportation, Adam Johnson – Explore Minnesota Tourism, Keith Parker – Natural Resources, Andrea Kajer – Historical Society **Regional Appointees:** Jim Lucachick – Lake Itasca to Grand Rapids, John Schaubach – Grand Rapids to Brainerd, Karl Samp – Brainerd to Elk River, Cordelia Pierson – Elk River to Hastings, Sheronne Mulry – Hastings to Iowa Border **Member at Large:** Mark Anderson

June 20, 2012

The Honorable Mark Dayton  
Governor of Minnesota  
130 State Capitol  
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Governor Dayton:

The mission of the Mississippi River Parkway Commission of Minnesota is to promote, preserve and enhance the resources of the Mississippi River Valley and to develop the highways and amenities of the Great River Road. The potential for rapid expansion of silica sand (frac sand) mining is of significant concern related to this mission, as it would directly affect the Mississippi River Valley and Great River Road. Issues have been noted by both Commission members and stakeholders. We believe that further study is warranted prior to permitting new mining operations in order to preserve the unique qualities of the southeastern Minnesota Mississippi River Bluffs Region and evaluate potential cumulative impacts on the Great River Road.

The Great River Road has achieved the esteemed designation of a National Scenic Byway because it possesses characteristics of regional and national significance demonstrating intrinsic qualities in each of the following areas – archaeological; cultural; historic; natural; recreational; and scenic. It is imperative for our state to protect the byway, its intrinsic qualities and the river it celebrates for current and future residents and byway travelers. The Great River Road is a National Scenic Byway through ten states. Activities on the Minnesota side of the river also impact the Wisconsin Great River Road – and vice versa – since the scenic and recreational experiences of travelers cross the entire river valley and include the majestic bluffs on both sides of the Mississippi.

The Mississippi River Parkway Commission of Minnesota requests that cumulative impacts of silica sand mining be studied, specifically including potential impacts to the Great River Road and the Mississippi River. Until the study is complete, we recommend a statewide moratorium on new silica sand mining operations along Minnesota Scenic Byways. This approach would help preserve not only the resources of the Great River Road but also other areas of the state similarly affected by potential silica sand mining; and would provide consistent information to be used by the various jurisdictions involved in decision making.

Topics to be addressed include:

- Landscape and cultural resource degradation
- Increased road and bridge pressures and potential damage
- Road and shoulder safety
- Pedestrian and bicycle conflicts
- Air and water quality
- Noise
- Reduced tourism activity and related economic losses
- Cumulative impacts on the Great River Road National Scenic Byway

We appreciate your consideration. Our Commissioners and Technical Advisors are available to provide further information as appropriate, and we would also welcome the opportunity to provide a representative to serve on a committee and/or assist with the cumulative impact study. We look forward to hearing from your office on its position on this issue. I can be reached via phone at 651-442-4658 or email at [rep.sheldon.johnson@house.mn](mailto:rep.sheldon.johnson@house.mn), or through the Mississippi River Parkway Commission of Minnesota Office at 651-341-4196 or [info@mnmississippiriver.com](mailto:info@mnmississippiriver.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sheldon Johnson" followed by a stylized flourish.

For the MN-MRPC  
Representative Sheldon Johnson, Chair

cc: Minnesota Great River Road Bluffs Region (Hastings to Iowa Border) Cities, Counties and Townships  
Wisconsin Mississippi River Parkway Commission