

MRPC Environment, Recreation and Agriculture Committee Meeting

November 7, 2007 (draft)

Attendees include: John Oberhaus (IA), Bob Miller (WI), Shannon Cave (MO), Rep. Sheldon Johnson (MN), Don Frerichs (MN)

1. Elected Bob Miller (WI) as co-chair. Motion Minnesota. Second Missouri. Motioned carried.
2. Reviewed the meeting notes from Quincy, IL
 - Clarifications were added that the proposal for funding an Agritourism promotional piece would happen after the inventory is complete
 - Cave noted that he had begun reviewing inventory options, and he didn't have any questions or concerns on completing the project by the deadline. All agreed and stressed getting participation from each state.
 - Frerichs discussed the Pilot's interest in creating a "Tourism and Recreation" committee and making a "Environmental and Agriculture" committee. Miller questioned which committee their initiative for Agritourism would go into. Frerichs and Oberhaus expressed concerns with having enough state commission members to fill another committee.
 - Regarding finding speakers for the Dead Zone issue, the National Office will follow up with Bhowmik on his contacts. The committee discussed Jost's email and believed those were excellent resources to consider for speakers. Frerichs asked Rep. Johnson to include hosting a panel of Dead Zone speakers to the Semi-Annual meeting to their state agenda. Rep. Johnson agreed.
 - Regarding the creation of a resource library, Miller noted that once that objective is completed, the ERA committee should discuss educational opportunities to utilize the information. The National Office agreed to add that to the Quincy notes as part of the 2008 Work Plan.
 - Oberhaus discussed materials from the Nature Conservancy he received from the Pilot on biodiversity in the upper Mississippi River region. He will distribute to the National Office to mail to the committee members.
 - Cave stated that non-profits might be a good contact with models to be used for review.
 - Miller agreed and said he had seen a great video on the Hiawatha Group. Rep. Johnson offered to contact Sheron Mulry to learn more about the project and provide information to the National Office. Miller thought once that information is determined; the creators of the project might make a good speaker. Oberhaus agreed and said management of the river corridor effects erosion, which effects the Dead Zone.
 - Cave expressed concerns whether materials for the resource library exist in Missouri. He will continue researching. Miller noted that knowing whether they exist is also important information.
 - Frerichs reiterated the importance of each state participating. All agreed. Miller will note ERA's projects and state's involvement in the Board call.
 - Meeting adjourned at 9:31am