

**MISSISSIPPI RIVER PARKWAY COMMISSION QUARTERLY MEETING  
EAST ARKANSAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE FINE ARTS CENTER  
FORREST CITY, ARKANSAS  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2019**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

Joe St. Columbia, chair  
Carole Bulloch  
Tyler Dunegan  
Anna Grizzle  
Dr. Terri Austin McCullough, Pilot, national Mississippi River Parkway Commission  
Kem Merrell  
Pat Audrisch

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT**

Sarah Dunklin  
Bobby Kennedy  
Jim Craig

**TECHNICAL ADVISORS**

Kim Williams, director, Arkansas's Great River Road  
Jeff Ingram, Arkansas Department of Transportation

**GUESTS**

Cynthia Dunlap, interim executive director, Arkansas Department of Parks & Tourism  
Kris Richardson, executive assistant, Arkansas Department of Parks & Tourism  
Jana Carey Merideth, City of Caruthersville Economic Advisory Committee chair

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Joe St. Columbia called the meeting to order at 10:53 a.m. on Monday, February 11, 2019. Williams introduced ADPT interim Executive Director Cynthia Dunlap and ADPT Executive Assistant Kris Richardson. Dunlap addressed the Commission and said she looks forward to working with them and extended an invitation to the upcoming Arkansas Governor's Conference on Tourism in Hot Springs. McCullough introduced Jana Carey Merideth, who is working with the City of Caruthersville to increase tourism along Missouri's Great River Road corridor.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

**Dr. Terri Austin McCullough moved to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Carole Bulloch seconded. The motion carried.**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- The Mississippi River Parkway Commission of Arkansas has been nominated for an Arkansas Delta Byways regional tourism association award. The awards banquet will be held at the Grand Prairie Center in Stuttgart on February 15.
- Williams reminded the Commission that the Arkansas Governor's Conference on Tourism would be held in Hot Springs on Feb. 24-26.
- McCullough reminded the Commission that the semi-annual meeting of the national Mississippi River Parkway Commission will be held at the Shack Up Inn in Clarksdale on April 2-4.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- Pilot McCullough discussed the Drive the Great River Road month, held each September.
- Members of the Commission discussed the upcoming Relay of Voices with Victoria Bradford, being held in September 2019. West Memphis, Marianna, Helena and Eudora will be included stops during the event, with the community getting involved in various events planned by Bradford and her team.
- Fantasy RV Tours is hosting a sold-out tour of the national Great River Road in September 2020. Organizers have requested 100 Arkansas Great River Road maps for the trip.
- McCullough reported on the upcoming Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative meeting in Washington, D.C., on March 7-9. She will be attending the meeting.
- McCullough and Ingram discussed the organization's Corridor Management Plan and the work that is being done on the plan.
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## **NEXT QUARTERLY MEETING**

**The Commission discussed locations for the upcoming MRPC meetings. May 13 in Brinkley; August 12 at Hampson Archeological Museum State Park in Wilson; November 4 in Monticello.**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Tyler Dunegan moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:18 p.m. Kem Merrell seconded. The motion carried.**

## **UPCOMING MEETING DATES & LOCATIONS**

- Monday, May 13 – Brinkley
- Monday, August 12 – Wilson
- Monday, November 4 – Monticello