

MINUTES

Central Mississippi River Partnership
Board of Directors Meeting
7:30am Thursday, March 27, 2025
Sherburne County Government Center/Virtual

Board attendance:

Raeanne Danielowski*	Commissioner	Sherburne County	Present
Darek Vetsch	Commissioner	Wright County	Present
Lloyd Hilgart	Mayor	City of Monticello	Present
Dean Brenteson	Supervisor	Big Lake Township	Present
Ken Geroux	Councilmember	City of Big Lake	Present
Brian Kolbinger	Supervisor	Becker Township	Present
Mark Kolbinger	Mayor	City of Becker	Present
Chris Newman	Supervisor	Silver Creek Township	Absent

*Presiding officer(s)

Quorum:

A quorum was present.

Other attendees present:

Greg Lerud	City Administrator	City of Becker
Jacob Sanders	Community Development Director	City of Becker
Marie Pflipsen	Community Development Director	City of Big Lake
Keisha Broderick	Executive Assistant	Sherburne County
Marc Schneider	Planning & Zoning Administrator	Sherburne County
Dan Weber	Assistant County Administrator	Sherburne County
Andrew Witter	Public Works Director	Sherburne County
Clay Wilfahrt	Assistant County Administrator	Wright County
Angie Bersaw	Transportation Planning Group Leader	Bolton & Menk
Jacob Bongard	Transportation Project Manager	Bolton & Menk
Tom Cruikshank	Principal Planner	MnDOT
Emma Nelson	Gov't. Relations Practice Coordinator	Flaherty & Hood, P.A.
Shane Zahrt	Shareholder Attorney/Lobbyist	Flaherty & Hood, P.A.

Routine Business

1. Call to Order

Chair Raeanne Danielowski called this meeting of the Central Mississippi River Partnership (CMRP) Board of Directors to order at 7:31am on Thursday, March 27, 2025.

2. Roll Call

A roll call was taken and a quorum of the Board was present. See list of attendees on page 1 of these minutes.

3. Approval of Meeting Agenda

Motion: Approve the agenda for this meeting of the CMRP Board of Directors on 3/27/25 as presented. Moved by Darek Vetsch. Seconded by Dean Brenteson. No discussion. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

4. Approval of Minutes from 1/23/25 CMRP Board Meeting

Motion: Approve the minutes from the CMRP Board of Directors meeting on 1/23/25 as presented. Moved by Darek Vetsch. Seconded by Lloyd Hilgart. No discussion. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

5. Review of Joint Powers Financial Statements

The CMRP Board of Directors were presented with the financial statements for the CMRP Joint Powers Entity for February and March of 2025. There were no questions or discussion from the Board. The Board notes their acknowledgement of the financial reports, which will be formally considered at the next Joint Powers meeting.

Discussion/Information Items

1. Update on PEL Study

Angie Bersaw from Bolton & Menk provided the Board with an update on the progress of the PEL study. The final remaining milestone for the study is the PEL Study Report, which is anticipated to be completed in April. The report will summarize the PEL study process and recommendations and outline the next steps to transition to the Tier 1 EIS. Angie anticipates that transition steps to the Tier 1 EIS will begin in 2025.

2. Presentation on Local Projects & Studies

Jacob Bongard with Bolton & Menk and Tom Cruikshank with MnDOT presented an overview of other projects and studies being done separate from the PEL study, focusing on Highway 25 from I-94 to Big Lake. The technical study aims to inform MnDOT of potential improvements to incorporate into already-planned projects for Highway 25.

3. Nonprofit Next Steps Update

Shane Zahrt from Flaherty & Hood, P.A. updated the Board on the progress of the nonprofit transition and next steps. Since the previous CMRP meeting in January, the CMRP has obtained

an Employer Identification Number (EIN) and filed the IRS paperwork initially required to operate as a 501(c)(4). Flaherty & Hood staff have also worked on draft CMRP policies, marketing materials and branding, and a website. Following this meeting, the CMRP and staff will open a bank account for the organization, begin invoicing for membership dues, finalize the website and marketing materials, begin establishing a budget and financial management procedure, and continue to work towards winding down the Joint Powers Entity.

Action Items

4. Consideration of Government Partner Memberships

Emma Nelson presented the CMRP Memo re: Government Partner Membership Applications, which was included in the Board meeting materials and distributed to meeting attendees.

Staff at Flaherty & Hood have received resolutions to join the CMRP from Becker Township, the city of Becker, the city of Big Lake, the city of Monticello, Sherburne County, and Wright County. Additionally, Big Lake Township approved a resolution to join CMRP on 3/26/25 and will send a copy to staff. All entities listed are eligible for CMRP membership as Government Partners pending approval from at least 75% of the Board of Directors.

Motion: Accept Becker Township, the city of Becker, the city of Big Lake, the city of Monticello, Sherburne County, and Wright County as Government Partners of the Central Mississippi Partnership; accept Big Lake Township as a Government Partner of the Central Mississippi Partnership upon receipt of their passed resolution to join CMRP. Moved by Darek Vetsch. Seconded by Ken Geroux. No discussion. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

5. Consideration of Affiliate Membership Policy & Dues Schedule

The CMRP Board of Directors established an Affiliate Membership Tier for the CMRP at the meeting on January 23, 2025. Emma Nelson presented Board members with a draft CMRP Affiliate Membership Policy & Dues Schedule, which would establish the process by which Affiliate Members can join CMRP and the dues owed for Affiliate Membership.

Motion: Approve the CMRP Affiliate Membership Policy as presented. Moved by Dean Brenteson. Seconded by Darek Vetsch. No discussion. No discussion. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

6. Bank Account Authorization

Motion: Authorize the CMRP Treasurer and Flaherty & Hood staff to open a bank account for the CMRP at MidwestOne Bank, with Dean Brenteson and Dan Weber as signers on the account and Emma Nelson as an authorized user of the account for financial management and bookkeeping. Moved by Ken Geroux. Seconded by Lloyd Hilgart. No discussion. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

7. Consideration of CMRP Logo

Emma Nelson presented several logo designs to the group based on previous feedback. The Board consensus was in favor of option 1A.

Motion: Adopt logo option 1A as the official logo of the Central Mississippi River Partnership. Moved by Darek Vetsch. Seconded by Dean Brenteson. No discussion. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

8. Other Business

There was no other business.

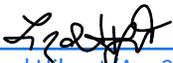
9. Adjourn

Darek Vetsch moved to adjourn the meeting. Dean Brenteson seconded the motion. No discussion. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote. CMRP Chair Raeanne Danielowski adjourned this meeting of the CMRP Board of Directors at 8:46am on Thursday, March 27, 2025.

Minutes recorded by:

Emma Nelson, Government Relations Practice Coordinator, Flaherty & Hood, P.A.

Approved by:


Lloyd Hilgart (Apr 22, 2025 10:27 CDT)

Dated: _____

Lloyd Hilgart,
CMRP Secretary


Raeanne Danielowski (Apr 14, 2025 11:40 CDT)

Dated: _____

Raeanne Danielowski,
CMRP Chair



Dated: _____

Emma Nelson,
Staff

3.27.25 CMRP Board Meeting Minutes DRAFT

Final Audit Report

2025-04-22

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