

MINUTES

Central Mississippi River Partnership
Board of Directors Meeting
7:30am Thursday, June 12, 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
Hanna Klimmek	Community Development Director	City of Big Lake
Rachel Leonard	City Administrator	City of Monticello
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
Marc Mattice	Assistant County Administrator	Wright County
Greg Kryzer	County Administrator	Wright County
Chad Hausmann	Highway Engineer	Wright County
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 7:41am on Thursday, June 12, 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 6/12/15 as presented. Moved by Ken Geroux. Seconded by Dean Brenteson. Darek Vetsch offered a friendly amendment to add an informational item to the agenda pertaining to letters of support for the Corridors of Commerce application, which was accepted by the Board. No further discussion. The motion as amended carried with a unanimous voice vote.

4. Approval of Minutes from 3/27/25 CMRP Board Meeting

Motion: Approve the minutes from the CMRP Board of Directors meeting on 3/27/25 as presented. Moved by Ken Geroux. Seconded by Lloyd Hilgart. No discussion. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

5. Approval of Financial Report

The financial report was presented to the Board. Emma Nelson noted that the City of Becker has paid their dues, which is not reflected on this financial report but has been corrected.

Motion: Approve the financial report as presented, with the understanding that the City of Becker's dues have been paid and the error has been corrected. Moved by Lloyd Hilgart. Seconded by Dean Brenteson. No discussion. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

Discussion/Information Items

6. Update on PEL & Tier 1 Studies

Andrew Witter shared that the final stage of the PEL study is continuing to move forward to provide a final report and recommendations for transitioning into the Tier 1 EIS. The RFP solicitation process for the Tier 1 EIS has been delayed slightly while the group applies for funding from the Corridors of Commerce program to support the study. The Corridors of Commerce awards are expected to be announced on October 1, which would put the beginning of the Tier 1 EIS engagement in December 2025. The Board shared their desire to move forward with the Tier 1 EIS RFP process more quickly. Staff explained that they will consult with the state to get clarity on the timeline and what steps would be permitted while waiting for Corridors of Commerce selections. Staff also clarified that the Tier 1 EIS must be completed and there must be a preemptive route selected prior to beginning any new work on the project.

7. Corridors of Commerce Letters of Support

The Corridors of Commerce program funding application requires letters of support to be submitted by the cities and counties in the project area by July 12, 2025. They must receive support from 100% of the communities to receive points in that scoring area. Flaherty & Hood staff will draft a template letter by early next week to ensure that members can take action to approve it prior to the deadline. The Board agreed that the draft prepared by Flaherty & Hood should be reviewed and approved by Chair Danielowski and then sent out to members as soon as possible. Chad Hausmann believes that townships do not need to submit letters but will confirm. Chad will handle letter distribution and collection once the draft is finalized.

8. Membership & Public Engagement Update

Emma Nelson shared that the Monticello Chamber Luncheon went well and three Affiliate Members have joined CMRP so far. Emma will send out the Affiliate Membership materials and more information to the Board for ongoing recruitment efforts.

The Board discussed the expectations and benefits for Affiliate Members and how the CMRP will continue to engage with existing and prospective members. Board members suggested a survey of Affiliate Members assessing their relationship with the project and how potential improvements will impact their organization in preparation for further advocacy efforts. The Board would also like to send a newsletter to Affiliate Members on an annual basis and design window clings to be sent to Affiliates to show their support.

The Board also discussed the membership year and dues billing cycle for Affiliate Members, and agreed that any Affiliates that have joined or will join this year will pay their dues once to cover the remainder of 2025 and all of 2026, and will be billed again for the 2027 membership year.

Action Items

9. Consideration of Interim 2025 Operating Budget

Emma Nelson presented a proposed 2025 Operating Budget for the CMRP that would run from July 1 to December 31, 2025. This will allow the organization to budget for the remaining part of 2025 and then pass an annual budget for 2026 that aligns with the CMRP's fiscal year. The budget is based on membership dues already collected and an estimate of expenses for the next six months. Emma also noted that as in the Financial Report, the City of Becker's dues have been paid and the error will be corrected.

Motion: Approve the proposed 2025 CMRP Operating Budget as presented. Moved by Darek Vetsch. Seconded by Ken Geroux. No discussion. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

10. Consideration of 2026 Government Partners Dues Schedule

Emma Nelson presented the proposed 2026 Government Partners Dues Schedule, which would maintain the dues from 2025. Counties will be billed \$25,000 and cities and townships will be billed \$500. Following the approval of the 2026 dues schedule, staff will send a letter to each Government Partner noting their 2026 CMRP dues for their budgeting process. Invoices will be sent in late 2025 to be paid in 2026.

Motion: Approve the proposed 2026 Government Partners Dues Schedule. Moved by Lloyd Hilgart. Seconded by Darek Vetsch. No discussion. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

11. Consideration of Conflict of Interest Policy

Board members reviewed the draft CMRP Conflict of Interest Policy as presented. Once approved, Board members will be asked to sign a Conflict of Interest disclosure form once per year.

Motion: Approve the proposed CMRP Conflict of Interest Policy. Moved by Darek Vetsch. Seconded by Ken Geroux. No discussion. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

12. Consideration of Whistleblower Policy

Board members reviewed the draft CMRP Whistleblower Policy as presented. Once approved, it will be presented to the Board for review each year.

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

13. Consideration of Flaherty & Hood Contract for Services

Emma Nelson presented the proposed Flaherty & Hood contract for services to take effect July 1, 2025. Emma thanked the Board for their work with Flaherty & Hood over the past year and shared that the firm looked forward to continuing to work with the CMRP. The contract is very similar to the previous contract but will run for an 18-month term through December 31, 2026 so that future 1-year contracts will align with the organization's fiscal and operating year.

Motion: Approve the proposed Flaherty & Hood contract for services. Moved by Dean Brenteson. Seconded by Mark Kolbinger. No discussion. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

14. Other Business

The next CMRP nonprofit meeting is on August 28, 2025.

15. Adjourn

Mark Kolbinger moved to adjourn the meeting. Darek Vetsch 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 8:32am on Thursday, June 12, 2025.

Minutes recorded by:

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

Approved by:


Lloyd Hilgart (Aug 29, 2025 19:54:56 CDT)

Dated: _____

Lloyd Hilgart,
CMRP Secretary

Raeanne Danielowski
Raeanne Danielowski (Aug 29, 2025 12:04:37 CDT)

Dated: _____

Raeanne Danielowski,
CMRP Chair

Emma Nelson

Dated: _____

Emma Nelson,
Staff

6.12.25 CMRP Board Meeting Minutes For Approval

Final Audit Report

2025-11-04

Created:	2025-08-29
By:	Emma Nelson (ennelson@flaherty-hood.com)
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