

MINUTES

Central Mississippi River Partnership

Board of Directors Meeting

7:30am Thursday, March 12, 2026

Sherburne County Government Center/Virtual via Microsoft Teams

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	Absent
Brian Kolbinger	Supervisor	Becker Township	Present
Mark Kolbinger	Mayor	City of Becker	Present

*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	City Administrator	City of Big Lake
Rachel Leonard	City Administrator	City of Monticello
Dan Weber	Assistant County Administrator	Sherburne County
Marc Schneider	Assistant Zoning Administrator	Sherburne County
Andrew Witter	Public Works Director	Sherburne County
Gregg Felber	Commissioner	Sherburne County
Marc Mattice	Assistant County Administrator	Wright County
Greg Kryzer	County Administrator	Wright County
Chad Hausmann	Highway Engineer	Wright County
Emma Nelson	Director of Association Management and Client Services	Flaherty & Hood, P.A.
Angie Bersaw	Consultant	Bolton & Menk

1. Call to Order

Vice Chair Raeanne Danielowski called this meeting of the Central Mississippi River Partnership (CMRP) Board of Directors to order at 7:30am on Thursday, March 12, 2026.

2. Routine Business

a. 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.

b. Approval of Meeting Agenda

Motion: Approve the meeting agenda for this meeting of the CMRP Board of Directors. Moved by Lloyd Hilgart. Second by Darek Vetsch. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

c. Approval of Minutes from 1/22/2026 Board Meeting

Motion: Approve the meeting minutes from the 1/22/2026 meeting of the CMRP Board of Directors. Moved by Darek Vetsch. Second by Lloyd Hilgart. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

d. Approval of Financial Statements

Motion: Approve the January 2026 financial statements as presented. Moved by Lloyd Hilgart. Second by Darek Vetsch. No discussion. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

3. Discussion/Information Items

a. Roles and responsibilities of CMRP and LGU

This agenda item was originally item D. Emma Nelson shared that there had been a request to move it to the first discussion/information item that she had forgotten to mention when the agenda was brought up for approval. Board members agreed that the item could be moved earlier in the discussion.

Emma Nelson presented a slide with the roles and responsibilities of the CMRP nonprofit versus the Local Government Unit consisting of Wright and Sherburne counties. The slide was developed by the counties based on feedback from the group that additional clarity was needed to establish the roles and responsibilities of each entity. County staff clarified that the decision-makers for the LGU are the respective county boards.

b. River Crossing and Highway 10/CSAH 11 update

Angie Bersaw from Bolton & Menk presented on the status of the river crossing project and the Highway 10/CSAH 11 update. She explained how and why the river crossing project will need to proceed through federal processes and what work needs to be done to prepare the project for the Tier 1 EIS study. Angie also explained that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is the lead agency for the Tier 1 EIS and has said that

they will not support two federal actions within overlapping study areas. Bolton & Menk working with the LGU has tried to propose different approaches to address this issue, which have not received support from FHWA. Ultimately the staggered approach of pushing the TH10/CSAH categorical exclusion forward and then beginning the Tier 1 EIS when that process wraps up. FHWA won't even review the Purpose and Need updates for the river crossing project until the CATEX for the TH10/CSAH11 is complete. However, there is other preparation and environmental work that can be done as the group waits for the Tier 1 EIS to be able to move forward.

Angie also shared what was next after the Tier 1 EIS. The implementation and funding plans will be critical to give options to continuously work towards construction.

The group discussed the involvement of MnDOT in securing funding and support for the river crossing project. The consensus was that the project is a priority for the local governments but not a priority for MnDOT, and that one of the main purposes of CMRP will be to lobby for funding and for MnDOT support.

Lloyd asked about the impact of potential future interchange projects in Monticello on the project processes. Regardless of the crossing, they'll need an interchange. The consensus among Angie Bersaw and the county engineering staff was that the conversation will take place during the Tier 1. Part of the conversation during the Tier 1 is talking to the cities and the counties about future local projects and other plans. Argument that an interchange on 94 is a different situation since that's an area where there isn't a signal and it's already graded. During and after the Tier 1 EIS, they will be able to start looking at those projects.

c. BUILD Grant Background & Update

Andrew Witter shared that Sherburne County submitted an application for BUILD grant funding for design and construction on the TH10/CSAH11 project to move the project forward as quickly as possible. Chad Hausmann shared that Wright County submitted an application for the BUILD grant for \$2 million for the design and planning process for the river crossing project. They're expecting an answer by the end of June. Both counties have requested a letter of support from the CMRP nonprofit entity. There was group consensus that there should be a formal motion to approve the letters of support.

Motion: Approve the Letters of Support from CMRP for both the Sherburne and Wright County BUILD Grant applications. Motion by Lloyd Hilgart. Second by Darek Vetsch. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

d. Update on Tier 1 RFP Process and Timeline

Andrew Witter shared that with the Tier 1 EIS expected to begin in 2027, they anticipate beginning work on the RFP in Q3 of 2026 to allow for the RFP to go through the necessary approval processes. They could work on it earlier but would be asking the consultants to take on additional risk and liability by selecting a consultant before the Tier 1 has been fully approved to move forward. Wright and Sherburne County will

develop the RFP draft and circulate it to the county boards, MnDOT, and the CMRP group, and then send the final RFP to consultants in Q4.

e. Monticello Chamber Luncheon

Marc Mattice shared an update on the Chamber luncheon that will be taking place next week on March 17. Angie Bersaw, county staff, and MnDOT will be giving project updates. Darek Vetsch will give a CMRP organizational update.

4. Update on Other Area Projects

a. State Highway 25 Buffalo to Monticello

Wright County shared that they will have a pre-construction meeting with the contractor for this project next week, where they will confirm the expected construction schedule and will share any updates with CMRP.

b. State Highway 24, Clearwater

Wright County shared that this is two projects: an interchange project led by MnDOT which is opening bids in April, and another section led by the county with a bid date staggered behind the interchange.

Darek Vetsch shared that he had received several questions about whether there would be road closures for the project. Wright County staff anticipate that there will be intermittent bridge closures and will check on other potential road closures.

c. Wright County CSAH 39

Wright County shared that this is an ongoing project and is being completed in small chunks every few years, with a 1-2 mile section planned for construction in 2029. The total stretch is between 7 and 8 miles.

d. TH10/CSAH 11 Interchange

Sherburne County shared that they are meeting frequently to discuss the project and keep it moving forward. They have been working with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) who has been highly involved and interested in the project. Most of the anticipated improvements will be east of where the current alignment is to avoid impacting the businesses and industrial park on the west side.

e. TH 25 between Mississippi River and Big Lake

Sherburne County is working with MnDOT to focus on preservation and maintenance. Working on driving improvements on alignment. MnDOT has completed their study on Highway 25 between Monticello and Big Lake and have recommendations and improvements. They have the project slated for 2031, but it isn't clear exactly what the improvements will be yet.

5. Other Business

Lloyd Hilgart added an update on improvements to I-94 in Monticello. There is planned redecking next year, and then in 2031 further planned improvements, including a roundabout at 4th street and removing the signal at River Street.

6. Adjournment

Motion: Adjourn this meeting of the Central Mississippi River Partnership Board of Directors. Moved by Darek Vetsch. Seconded by Lloyd Hilgart. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8:45am on Thursday, March 12, 2026.

Minutes recorded by:

Emma Nelson, Director of Association Management, Flaherty & Hood, P.A.

Approved by:

Approved by the CMRP Board of Directors on June 11, 2026.


Lloyd Hilgart (Jun 14, 2026 09:07:56 CDT)

Lloyd Hilgart,
CMRP Secretary

Dated: _____


Darek Vetsch (Jun 15, 2026 12:59:24 CDT)

Darek Vetsch,
CMRP Chair

Dated: _____



Emma Nelson,
Staff

Dated: _____

3.12.26 CMRP Board Meeting Minutes For Approval

Final Audit Report

2026-06-15

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