

**MINUTES OF THE  
BI-STATE REGIONAL COMMISSION**

Wednesday, December 20, 2006, 3:30 P.M.  
Scott County Administration Building  
600 West Fourth Street  
Davenport, Iowa

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** O'Brien – Chair, Austin, Becker, Bohnsack, Burns, Dean, Harris, Heninger, Hillman, Lohse, Malvik, McDaniel, Minard, Oberhaus, Ripperger, Rockwell, Schwiebert, Sherwin, Spring, Sunderbruch, Thodos, Volz, Welvaert

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Adams, Dumas, Freemire, Frink, Gallin, Lawrence, Nicholson, Rangel, Tank, Washburn, Wilkinson, Wilson, Winborn

**STAFF PRESENT:** Bulat, Connors, McCullough, Miller, Moritz

Chair O'Brien called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m. Chair O'Brien recognized Mr. Oberhaus for his service to the Commission.

1. Approval of the November 15, 2006 Minutes. Ms. Dean moved approval of the minutes of the November 15, 2006 meeting, as written and mailed. Mayor Spring seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.
2. Treasurer's Report. Ms. Connors presented the Treasurer's Report for the month ending November 30, 2006, noting an ending total bank and book balance of \$395,690.81. Mr. Oberhaus moved the report be accepted as written and mailed. Mayor Lohse seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.
3. Finance and Personnel Committee.
  - a. Bills. Mr. Malvik presented the bills totaling \$49,491.08, as listed on the following addendum and bills listing dated December 20, 2006:

Addendum

|  |            |           |
|--|------------|-----------|
| Associated Employers, annual membership    |            | \$ 525.00 |
| Louise A. Kerr, Treasurer                  |            | 6,574.90  |
| Rent                                       | \$4,165.96 |           |
| Internet Access                            | 88.00      |           |
| Postage                                    | 659.84     |           |
| Postage                                    | 1,467.27   |           |
| Printing                                   | 149.01     |           |
| Supplies                                   | 44.82      |           |
| McGladrey & Pullen, FY 2006 audit services |            | 3,900.00  |

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| Olson Concrete Service, Inc., demolition of property for the flood recovery acquisition program | 8,000.00 |
| RK Dixon, maintenance service on copier and color printer                                       | 514.54   |
| Thomas A. Skorepa, P.C., Administrative Hearing Officer services (cost reimbursed by MUNICES)   | 1,100.00 |
| TH Enterprises, Inc., 2007 financial software service agreement                                 | 6,480.00 |

Bills List

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Eastern Iowa Community College District, Rock Island County NEG (National Emergency Grant) administration and programs expense                                      | 4,114.75  |
| Mark Hunt, tuition reimbursement  | 656.25    |
| Mel Foster Company, Inc., annual premium for Business Owner's Package, Crime Policy, Auto Policy, Worker's Comp Policy, Umbrella Policy, and Professional Liability | 12,567.82 |
| Partners in Job Training & Placement, Rock Island County NEG (National Emergency Grant) administration and programs expense   | 3,173.13  |
| Corrections –   |           |
| Olson Concrete Service, Inc. (previously listed as \$8,000.00), additional demolition of property for the flood recovery acquisition program (\$1,800.00)           | 9,800.00  |
| RK Dixon (previously listed as \$514.54), maintenance contract & service (\$84.69)  | 599.23    |

Mr. Malvik moved approval of the bills totaling \$49,491.08, as presented above. Ms. Sherwin seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

b. Report on Progress on Commission's FY 2007 Program Budget as of November 30, 2006. Mr. Malvik explained the Program Budget Status Report was distributed at the meeting. The Commission is 41.7% through the fiscal year with 39.0% expended and within budget.

4. Report on Contracts Approved by the Executive Director. Ms. Bulat reported on the following contracts that were approved by the Executive Director and required no action because they were under \$7,500.

- Contract with the Village of Orion for Website Redesign. The contract is in the amount of \$1,787 and covers the period July 1, 2006 through September 30, 2006.
- Contract with the City of East Moline for Limited Comp Plan Revisions. The contract is in the amount of \$2,540 and covers the period August 1, 2006 through October 31, 2006.
- Contract with the Village of Cordova for Website Design. The contract is in the amount of \$900 and covers the period October 1, 2006 through December 31, 2006.
- Contract with the City of Silvis for preparation of a CDAP Application. The contract is in the amount of \$1,500 and covers the period September 1, 2006 through March 15, 2007.

- Contract with the Village of Atkinson for Website Design. The contract is in the amount of \$900 and covers the period November 1, 2006 through January 31, 2007.

Ms. Bulat requested approval of the following contract over \$7,500 that requires Commission approval:

- Contract with GeoComm, Incorporated for a Scott County Area Radio Communications Study. The contract is in an amount not to exceed \$80,000 and covers the period January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007.

Mr. Volz moved the Bi-State Regional Commission approve the contract as described above. Mr. Minard seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

5. 2007 Bridge Construction Schedule. Ms. McCullough noted that since 1981, Bi-State Regional Commission has annually contacted the authorities responsible for repairs and construction on the Mississippi and Rock River bridges in the Quad City Metropolitan Area. She then reviewed the Mississippi and Rock River Bridges Coordination handout with Commissioners. This handout provides the location, restriction, construction timeline, and a map for reference.

Ms. McCullough reported that residents can consider transit options by contacting Bettendorf Transit, Davenport CitiBus, or MetroLINK or visiting [www.qctransit.com](http://www.qctransit.com). Ms. McCullough noted that unforeseen emergency situations or weather may occur to revise the information provided in the handout.

6. Report from the Midwest High Speed Rail Association. Ms. Bulat reported on Department of Transportation (DOT) rail economic development grants, Iowa Interstate Rail switchyard relocation activities, and passenger rail efforts.

Ms. Bulat stated that both the Iowa and Illinois DOTs have grant programs that aid in rail improvements that create or retain jobs and assist in community and regional economic development efforts. In Iowa, the program includes a grant and/or revolving loan and recently funded part of the costs for the rail extension to the Eastern Iowa Industrial Center. The Iowa DOT recently loaned/granted all the dollars available and is requesting \$2 million in annual funding from the Iowa legislature. The Illinois DOT has a similar funding program. The process begins with communities, railroads, or other interested entities contacting the DOT and describing the project in a letter. Funding again is based on jobs created or retained. Questions regarding rail grants may be directed to Gena McCullough, Planning Director, or Ms. Bulat.

Ms. Bulat reported that there have been ongoing discussions with the Iowa Interstate Railroad to move their switching operations from the Rock Island riverfront to the Silvis railyards. The Iowa Interstate Railroad would prefer to move their operations because of expected increases in rail usage due to the construction of ethanol plants in both Iowa and Illinois. Moving the switchyards would free up property along the riverfront and decrease traffic conflicts caused by stopped trains. The project is estimated to cost approximately \$18 million. There is a new program in the transportation act, SAFETEA-LU, that could be used to fund the project. However, dollars have not been appropriated to the \$350 million annual program. This project has been identified as a key issue that will be discussed in Washington during the annual regional visit in March.

Ms. Bulat gave the Commissioners a report on passenger rail activities and noted that interest in passenger rail service has begun to increase. While the House had recommended funding Amtrak at the \$900 million level, the Senate increased the funding level to \$1.4 million. In addition, the new President of Amtrak has vowed to increase the efficiency of the organization. Rail service increases have also been occurring. The Illinois DOT has increased service frequencies to destinations such as Quincy and Carbondale. The first step in implementing Quad City service is a feasibility study for service and routes (either the prior Rock Island line or the Iowa Interstate via Wyanet and BNSF route). Elected officials have sent a letter to Illinois DOT to request such a study, which would be conducted by Amtrak and is estimated to cost \$100,000. It was noted that this will also be a topic in Washington.

7. Questions and Comments by Commissioners. There were no questions or comments by Commissioners.
6. Other Business. There was no other business.
7. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Nicholson  
Secretary