

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

Wednesday, June 27, 2007, 3:30 P.M.
Scott County Administration Building
600 West Fourth Street
Davenport, Iowa

MEMBERS PRESENT: O'Brien – Chair, Bohnsack, Dean, Eccher, Gallin, Harris, Heninger, Kelly, Lawrence, Lohse, McDaniel, Minard, Ripperger, Rockwell, Spring, Tank, Thodos, Tossell, Washburn, Welvaert, Wilkinson

MEMBERS ABSENT: Austin, Becker, Breecher, Brooke, Dumas, Freemire, Hillman, Malvik, Rangel, Schwiebert, Sherwin, Sunderbruch, Volz, Wilson, Winborn

STAFF PRESENT: Bulat, Connors, Hunt, McCullough, Miller, Moritz, Waterman

Chair O'Brien called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m. Chair O'Brien introduced a new Commissioner, Mr. Kent Breecher, the Kewanee Mayor, and a new staff person, Chelsey Waterman.

1. Approval of the May 23, 2007 Minutes. Mayor Spring moved approval of the minutes of the May 23, 2007 meeting as written and mailed. Ms. Kelly seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.
2. Treasurer's Report. Ms. Connors presented the Treasurer's Report for the month ending May 31, 2007, noting an ending total bank and book balance of \$541,433.45. Ms. Dean moved the report be accepted as written and mailed. Mayor Spring seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.
3. Finance and Personnel Committee.
 - a. Bills. Ms. Connors presented the bills totaling \$199,064.59, as listed on the following addendum and bills listing dated June 27, 2007:

Addendum

Allmakes Office Furniture, office furniture	659.85
Bancard Center, VISA charge card expenses related to 1 staff attending the Iowa Counties Information Technology conference; 3 staff attending the Community Development Assistance Program application workshop; Chief Elected Officials meeting (cost reimbursed by participants); Quad City Riverfront Council meeting (cost reimbursed by participants); Transportation Policy Committee meeting (cost reimbursed by participants); 1 staff attending the Hazard Mitigation Planning seminar; 1 staff attending the Orientation to Transit Procurement seminar	1,604.92

City of Moline, Municipal Code Enforcement System proceeds	2,453.54
City of Rock Island, Municipal Code Enforcement System proceeds	60,825.36
Dell Marketing L.P., computer purchases	7,212.00
Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs, 2 staff attending the Midwest Community Development Institute conference	500.00
Iowa Workforce Development, Laborshed Survey & Analysis & Workforce Vacancy Assessment	12,450.00
Rock Island Tri-County Consortium, Rock Island County NEG (National Emergency Grant) administration and programs expense	7,248.63
Silver Oaks Communications, Workforce Video	19,517.50
Corrections –	
Eastern Iowa Community College District (previously listed as \$4,572.11), new invoice	4,533.23

Bills List

The Dispatch, employment advertising expense	712.66
Eastern Iowa Community College District, Rock Island NEG (National Emergency Grant) administration and programs expense	4,572.11
EMSI (Economic Modeling Specialists, Inc.), Rock Island NEG grant administration and programs expense	40,000.00
GeoComm, Inc., communication consulting	14,148.00
ITN America, annual freshman affiliation fee	17,500.00
Louise A. Kerr, Treasurer	7,724.40
7/07 Rent	\$4,165.96
7/07 Internet Access	88.00
5/07 Postage	1,616.19
5/07 Printing	1,712.65
5/07 Supplies	141.60
Thomas A. Skorepa, P.C., Administrative Hearing Officer services (cost reimbursed by MUNICES)	1,974.50

Ms. Ripperger moved approval of the bills totaling \$199,064.59 as presented above.
 Mr. Bohnsack seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

b. Report on Progress on Commission's FY 2007 Program Budget as of May 31, 2007.

Ms. Connors explained the Program Budget Status Report was mailed in the agenda packet. The Commission is 91.7% through the fiscal year with 84.9% expended and within budget.

c. Consideration of Recommended FY 2008 Commission Planning Budget.

Ms. Bulat explained the Finance and Personnel Committee met in April and May for budget development and recommended the Commission approve the FY 2008 budget as presented in detail at the May Commission meeting. Ms. Bulat stated she had not received any questions regarding the budget.

Ms. Kelly moved the Bi-State Regional Commission approve the FY 2008 Commission Planning Budget. Mr. Washburn seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

4. Consideration of the following Contracts and Grants. Ms. Bulat reviewed the following items which require Commission approval:

- Contract with Citizens to Preserve Black Hawk Park Foundation for financial management support. The contract is for actual costs incurred for the period 7/1/07 - 6/30/08.
- Contract with Emergency Telephone System Board of Rock Island County for staff support. The contract is for actual costs incurred for the period 7/1/07 - 6/30/08.
- Contract with Rock Island County Waste Management Agency for staff support. The contract is for actual costs incurred for the period 7/1/07 - 6/30/08.
- Contract with Scott County KIDS Program for financial management services. The contract is for actual costs incurred for the period 7/1/07 - 6/30/08.
- Contract with Scott County Housing Council for financial management services. The contract is for actual costs incurred for the period 7/1/07 - 6/30/08.
- Contract with Iowa Association of Regional Councils for Iowa Department of Economic Development funds for planning and technical assistance to local governments. The grant is in an amount up to \$10,000 for the period 7/1/07 - 06/30/08.
- Contract with Iowa Northland Regional COG for assistance with a Scott County Evacuation Plan. There are two contracts totaling \$19,700. One with funds allotted to the City of Davenport in the amount of \$9,700, and the other allotted to the City of Bettendorf in the amount of \$10,000 for the period 7/1/07 - 3/31/08.

Mr. Tank moved approval of the contracts and grants as presented above. Mayor Thodos seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

5. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Progress Report and Consideration of Supporting Resolution. Mr. Hunt presented the 2007 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Progress Report to the Commission. The 2007 report details the Bi-State Region's progress toward achieving the economic development goals that were adopted in the 2006 CEDS.

Mr. Hunt reported that local, state, and federal data indicate the Region's economy is healthy as it enters the third quarter of 2007. Year-end data from 2006 show that the Region's labor force is larger than any time in the past 25 years, while unemployment averaged just 4.1%. Retail sales also showed strong growth in 2006, growing by almost 4% from 2005 to 2006.

Mr. Hunt stated that the core economic development threat continues to be the forthcoming loss of more than 1,000 jobs at the Rock Island Arsenal. However, recent growth in manufacturing, food processing, and other industries will help mitigate these losses. Anticipated growth is expected to come from the new businesses such as Triumph Foods in East Moline, and AT&T/Cingular in Scott County, and from expanding businesses such as HNI and MUSCO in Muscatine and ANCad in Rock Island County. Also noted was the establishment of economic development local government staff additions in the Region, including Mercer County, East Moline, Milan, and West Liberty.

Mr. Rockwell moved approval of the CEDS Supporting Resolution as presented. Mayor Thodos seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

6. Air Quality Update. Ms. McCullough reported that on June 20, 2007, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) released notice of a proposed lowering of the national ground-level ozone standard from 84 parts per billion (ppb) to 70 ppb. The lower standard is being revised on new health-based scientific evidence that adverse public health effects occur following exposure to ozone at levels lower than the existing standard. USEPA is taking comments through mid-September on this standards review. The Quad City Area three-year average (2004-2006) is 68 ppb, roughly 80% of the existing standard, but would be 97% of the proposed standard. The new standard would bring the QCA closer to nonattainment of the ozone standard. Nonattainment can have significant impacts on the ability to build new roads and site new development.

Ms. McCullough reported that five years ago the area was 93% of the 84 ppb standard for ozone. This means improvements have been made in air quality based on the current standard. Better air quality is attributed to national regulations on reducing emissions from small spark engines (lawnmowers, leafblowers, chainsaws, etc.), coal-fired power plants and cleaner diesel fuels. USEPA has already lowered the threshold for fine particulates, another air pollutant.

Ms. McCullough presented Commissioners with a fact sheet outlining the ozone standards review process and provided contacts to obtain more information. Comments to USEPA should be identified by Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2005-0172 and submitted by one of the following methods:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal (<http://www.regulations.gov>)
- E-mail (a-and-r-docket@epa.gov)
- Mail (EPA Docket Center, Environmental Protection Agency, mail code 6102T, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460)

Ms. McCullough stated that locally, the Quad Cities Air Quality Task Force keeps apprised of air pollution issues, particularly ozone, and strives to inform local officials and businesses of potential voluntary emission reduction measures, as well as the general public. Carpooling, using transit, walking or bicycling – just one day a week for a year – can save a typical commuter 1,200 miles on their vehicle and \$455 in total driving costs. To celebrate the implementation of new bus routes, the City of Davenport has proclaimed Monday, July 9th,

"Transit Rider Appreciation Day" and no fare will be charged on any of the fixed routes that day! To make a great day even better, Bettendorf Transit and MetroLINK are joining the celebration by also charging no fares that day! Try transit, save fuel, and improve the air all in one! Visit www.qctransit.com for more information on transit in the Quad City Area.

Mayor Welvaert presented information on the City's green fleet effort. The City of Moline received a rebate check of more than \$6,600 from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (ILEPA) through its www.greenfleets.org program. The program recognizes individuals, businesses, organizations, and communities that do an outstanding job of building an alternatives fuels fleet and utilization of alternative fuels, such as E-85, propane, liquid or compressed natural gas, and hydrogen. ILEPA offers a rebate program for purchase of alternative fuel vehicles, as well as fuel.

Mayor Welvaert reported that Moline had been recognized as one of the top 100 fleets in North America. They had 26 total flex fuel vehicles as of 2006 and purchased 7,100 gallons of E-85 fuel in the same year. By 2008, the City will purchase another 9 alternative fuel vehicles, plus add hybrids to the fleet. They are working on acquiring an E-85 ethanol tank at the public works facility. Currently, city staff fuel vehicles in Silvis. Additionally, the City has used B-20 biodiesel fuel in 64 road use vehicles which have logged 550,000 miles. Mayor Welvaert also noted reuse and recycling efforts related to their fleet for fluids and other materials used for maintenance.

7. Passenger Rail Update and Consideration of Supporting Resolution. Ms. Bulat reported that recently, the Illinois DOT commissioned Amtrak to conduct a preliminary engineering study to determine the costs of needed improvements to implement passenger rail service between Chicago and the Quad Cities. This is similar to a study recently completed for service from Chicago to Dubuque.

Ms. Bulat stated that in 2001, the Illinois Department of Transportation had developed initial preliminary engineering figures for a rail connection in Wyanet, Illinois and for Iowa Interstate Railroad improvements between Wyanet and the Quad Cities. Costs related to this route will be updated as well as the costs of an alternative route using the Rock Island Line.

In addition, the Iowa Department of Transportation has requested cost estimates for upgrades to railroad lines between the Quad Cities and Iowa City.

Following is a summary of the expected information that will be provided in the study:

- Comparative Route Lines
- Comparative Running Time
- Comparative Annual Ridership Revenue
- Comparative Annual Expense
- Comparative Annual Subsidy

Ms. Bulat reported that the study will be completed this fall, and immediate implementation will be requested. The federal budget, currently under consideration, includes funding for Amtrak and the creation of a matching grant program to assist states in improving rail

infrastructure. It is hoped this as well as other funding resources will be available to implement the project.

Ms. Bulat stated that business and travel opportunities throughout the Midwest will be improved, relieving congestion on Interstate 80 and providing for freight as well as passenger service. The Quad City Rail Coalition was formed to provide grassroots support for passenger rail service to the Quad Cities. Rock Island County Chairman Jim Bohnsack is also Chair of the Coalition and reported there are already over 400 members of the Coalition.

Mayor Thodos moved approval of the Passenger Rail Resolution as presented. Mr. Rockwell seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

8. Questions and Comments by Commissioners. There were no questions or comments by Commissioners.
9. Other Business. There was no other business.
10. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Nicholson
Secretary