

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

Wednesday, October 24, 2007, 3:30 P.M.
Scott County Administration Building
600 West Fourth Street
Davenport, Iowa

MEMBERS PRESENT: O'Brien – Chair, Austin, Becker, Bohnsack, Breecher, Dean, Freemire, Gallin, Harris, Heninger, Lawrence, Lohse, Malvik, McDaniel, Minard, Nicholson, Rangel, Ripperger, Rockwell, Schwiebert, Sherwin, Spring, Tank, Volz, Washburn, Welvaert

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dumas, Hillman, Kelly, Sunderbruch, Thodos, Tossell, Wilkinson, Wilson, Winborn

COMMUNITIES

PRESENT: Lee Celske, Mayor of Aledo

STAFF PRESENT: Bulat, Connors, Miller, Moritz, Schmedding

Chair O'Brien asked Commissioner's to observe a moment of silence for Commissioner Charles Brooke who passed away the previous weekend.

Chair O'Brien, called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m.

1. Approval of the September 26, 2007 Minutes. Mayor Lohse moved approval of the minutes of the September 26, 2007 meeting as written and mailed. Mayor Spring seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.
2. Treasurer's Report. Mayor Freemire presented the Treasurer's Report for the month ending September 30, 2007, noting an ending total bank and book balance of \$443,229.77. Mayor Welvaert moved the report be accepted as written and mailed. Ms. Ripperger seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.
3. Finance and Personnel Committee.
 - a. Bills. Mr. Malvik presented the bills totaling \$35,683.26, as listed on the following addendum and bills listing dated October 24, 2007:

Addendum

Bancard Center, VISA charge card expenses related to one staff attending 2,322.98
The National Recreation and Park Association Conference; one staff
attending the Economic Development Administration Regional
Symposium; two staff attending the Illinois DOT Annual Fall Planning
Conference; Urban Transportation Policy Committee meeting (cost

reimbursed by participants); Quad City Riverfront Council meeting (cost reimbursed by participants); Managers & Administrators Advisory Committee meeting (cost reimbursed by participants); one staff attending the Illinois Chapter APA 2007 State Conference; Webhosting setup for member governments (cost reimbursed by member)	
Communications Data Services, printing of CEDS document	900.63
Louise A. Kerr, Treasurer	4,253.96
11/07 Rent	\$4,165.96
11/07 Internet Access	88.00

Bills List

Caliper Corporation, technical support for Base and Standard TransCAD license	\$ 995.00
Dacra, MUNICES Code Enforcement Database (cost reimbursed by municipal participants)	15,000.00
Dell Marketing L.P., computer purchase	1,655.69
McGladrey & Pullen, LLP, progress billing for FY 2007 audit services	8,300.00
Thomas A. Skorepa, P.C., Administrative Hearing Officer services (cost reimbursed by MUNICES)	2,255.00

Mr. Malvik moved approval of the bills totaling \$35,683.26 as presented above.

Ms. Dean seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

b. Report on Progress on Commission’s FY 2008 Program Budget as of September 30, 2007.

Mr. Malvik explained the Program Budget Status Report was mailed in the agenda packet. The Commission is 25.0% through the fiscal year with 24.1% 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 North Scott Community School District for an Attendance District Map. The contract is in the amount of \$5,080 and covers the period 8/16/07 - 11/30/07.
- Contract with the Village of New Boston for Website Design. The contract is in the amount of \$1,183 and covers the period 9/1/07 - 11/30/07.

5. Consideration of a Resolution for Annual Certification of the Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Plan.

Mr. Jim Tank, board member of the Bi-State Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Board, presented the Commission with information on the Bi-State Revolving Loan Fund Program. Mr. Tank stated since the inception of the program in 1986, approximately \$8.2 million has been loaned to 88 businesses in Rock Island and Scott Counties. These loans have helped generate approximately \$124 million in total investments, accessing city and state public financing programs, financial institutions, and company equity. In addition, 2,768 jobs have been created/retained in the two county area.

Currently, there is approximately \$376,000 available to loan with the repayment loan pool growing by \$30,000 each month. Mr. Tank also stated that if you know of potential projects that will create new jobs and needs public loan assistance to supplement conventional financing, to please contact your local government's economic development staff or Donna Moritz at Bi-State.

Mr. Tank moved approval of the Annual Certification of the Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Plan. Mayor Schwiebert seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously

6. Update on Major Transportation Projects – I-74 and Passenger Rail. Ms. Bulat updated the Commission on two regional level transportation projects – passenger rail service and the I-74 Corridor Project. Passenger rail efforts in the Quad Cities date back to the early 90's. Reestablishment of service to Chicago has been included in the 2020, 2025, & 2035 Quad City Area Long Range Transportation Plans. Rail service is a priority because it would provide for ease of business travel to Chicago, link higher education institutions in both metropolitan areas, provide a travel option for visitors, and provide access to national level events in the area such as the Bix and the John Deere Classic.

Ms. Bulat stated that area leaders followed the Midwest Rail Initiative in 1998 and were successful in advocating for the Quad Cities, Iowa City, Omaha Route to be selected, as the best route between Omaha and Chicago. Since then the project has been included in area federal priorities on trips to Washington and in Illinois Chamber trips to Springfield. Current efforts include the establishment of the Q.C. Rail Coalition has over 1700 supporters and is chaired by Rock Island County Board Chairman, Jim Bohnsack. A consultant study to determine the best rail station location in the Illinois Quad Cities is underway.

Ms. Bulat reported that the Amtrak Study on service to the Quad Cities will be completed in late November or early December. Funding to implement the project has been requested in the Illinois capital budget. It is hoped the project could begin in the 2008 construction season. Because construction would take two years, service could begin in late 2009 or early 2010, in a best case scenario. So that service can eventually be extended to Iowa City, work with IA DOT and legislators will be starting in 2007 pre-session to establish a rail program for the entire state. Commissioner Hap Volz is on the task force that is assisting with this effort.

Ms. Bulat then updated the Commission on the I-74 Corridor Project. The Environmental Impact Statement is being finalized with public meetings likely to be scheduled in January or February 2008. The Record of Decision is a sign-off process required by the Federal Highway Administration and is expected in March 2008. Final design of the project can then begin so the RFP for consultant design services has been posted by the Iowa DOT. Funding for Design and ROW acquisition is included in the Illinois and Iowa State Transportation Improvement Programs.

Ms. Bulat noted that there continues to be a need for additional federal dollars for ROW acquisition in 2008 and 2009 which will be requested in appropriations for those years. It is important to complete significant design tasks by 2009/10 so funds can be requested in an earmark in 2009/10 Transportation Act. The desire is to begin construction on the bridge in 2012.

7. Questions and Comments by Commissioners. There were no questions or comments by commissioners.
8. Other Business. Ms. Bulat congratulated Bi-State staff for completing another successful United Way campaign. All 22 Bi-State staff members participated in surpassing our United Way goal for a total contribution of \$12,844.60.
9. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Nicholson
Secretary