

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

Wednesday, February 27, 2008, 3:30 P.M.
Scott County Administration Building
600 West Fourth Street
Davenport, Iowa

MEMBERS PRESENT: O'Brien – Chair, Barnes, Becker, Breecher, Dean, Freemire, Furlong, Gluba, Goodwin, Harris, Hillman, Lohse, McDaniel, Meeker, Nicholson, Rangel, Ripperger, Rockwell, Schwiebert, Sherwin, Thodos, Tossell, Volz, Welvaert

MEMBERS ABSENT: Austin, Bohnsack, Brown, Gallin, Heninger, Lawrence, Malvik, Minard, Sunderbruch, Tank, Washburn, Wilkinson

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

Chair O'Brien, called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m. Chair O'Brien recognized Bi-State staff member Gena McCullough for 20 years of service to the Commission and presented Gena with a Certificate of Appreciation.

1. Approval of the January 23, 2008 Minutes. Ms. Dean moved approval of the minutes of the January 23, 2008 meeting as written and mailed. Mr. Meeker seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.
2. Treasurer's Report. Mayor Freemire presented the Treasurer's Report for the month ending January 31, 2008, noting an ending total bank and book balance of \$524,763.69. Mayor Freemire moved the report be accepted as written and mailed. Mayor Gluba seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.
3. Finance and Personnel Committee.
 - a. Bills. Ms. Connors presented the bills totaling \$14,813.06, as listed on the following addendum and bills listing dated February 27, 2008:

Addendum

Bancard Center, VISA charge card expenses related to I-74 Design Engineering Interviews, January 22, 2008 (cost reimbursed by participants); Complete Streets meeting (costs reimbursed by participants); Executive Committee meeting; I-74 Bridge meeting in Washington D.C.; Managers & Administrators meeting (cost reimbursed by participants); Quad City Riverfront Council meeting (cost reimbursed by participants).	1,436.65
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Bills List

Nickalaus Brown, Municipal Code Enforcement System reimbursement	580.00
Dacra, Municipal Code Enforcement System technical support (cost reimbursed by municipal participants)	1,500.00
Louise A. Kerr, Treasurer	8,005.11
03/08 Rent \$4,165.96	
03/08Internet Access 88.00	
01/08 Printing 2,246.27	
01/08 Postage 1,368.64	
01/08 Supplies 136.24	
Quad-City Times, one-year subscription, advertising for Technical GIS Technician	1,063.80
Thomas A. Skorepa, P.C., Administrative Hearing Officer services (cost reimbursed by MUNICES)	2,227.50

Ms. Ripperger moved approval of the bills totaling \$14,813.06 as presented above.
Mr. Nicholson seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

b. Report on Progress on Commission's FY 2008 Program Budget as of January 31, 2008.

Ms. Connors explained the Program Budget Status Report was mailed in the agenda packet. The Commission is 58.3% through the fiscal year with 57.3% expended and within budget.

4. Commission Committee Assignments for 2008-2009. Chair Elect Welvaert presented the listing of the 2008-2009 committees distributed in the agenda packet. Chair Elect Welvaert moved to approve the Commission committee assignments as presented. Mayor Thodos seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.
5. Report on Contracts Approved by the Executive Director. Ms. Bulat reported on the following contracts that were approved by the Executive Director and requires no action because they were under \$7,500.
 - 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 12/15/07 – 02/29/08
 - Contract with the City of Long Grove for Website Design. The contract is in the amount of \$900 and covers the period 01/01/08 – 03/31/08
 - Contract with Illinois District 5 Little League for Mapping. The contract is in the amount of \$2,550 and covers the period 02/01/08 – 06/30/08
 - Contract with the City of Silvis for Website Redesign. The contract is in the amount of \$1,183 and covers the period 01/01/08 – 03/31/08
6. Wind Energy in Henry County. Mr. Tom Nicholson, Commissioner and Henry County Board Chairman, reported on wind energy projects in Henry County. He summarized some general facts regarding wind turbines and wind energy. The height of a two megawatt wind turbine from the ground to the top of the rotor is equal to a 30-story building, and 600 households could run on the energy from one of these turbines. North Dakota has the greatest potential wind resource for

the turbines in the U.S., but Texas has the most wind power installed. He noted that Iowa has the third most wind power installed in the country. Wind power accounts for only two-tenths of one percent of the U.S. energy supply, but the U.S. goal is for 20% of the country's power to one day be provided through wind energy. It is not surprising that coal supplies the majority of the energy in the U.S.

Mr. Nicholson stated that a wind study is very important to determine the viability of a wind turbine project. A wind study should be conducted over at least one year, and the average wind speed needed is 13 miles per hour. Henry County conducted a study, and the average speed was 17 miles per hour. Other factors that weigh into the competitive advantage of establishing a wind energy center are the existence of electrical transmission lines, the availability of land, and willing land owners and local governments. Three different companies are looking at establishing wind centers in Henry County and would use 57,000 acres. This would involve the construction of 571 wind turbines that could supply energy to 250,000 homes.

Mr. Nicholson reported that the factors used to determine the cost of wind-generated electricity are the size of the wind farm, the wind speed at the site, and the cost of installing the turbines. If the wind turbines are constructed, the County will receive nearly \$4 million in building permits, approximately \$7,000 per turbine. The annual real estate taxes that would be generated for the turbines would be \$7.5 million. Schools would benefit from the increased tax base, and each megawatt of wind power generally results in 2.5 full-time jobs in addition to hundreds of construction jobs. Farmers providing acreages for the turbines will yield approximately \$7,500 annually for each 1-1.5 mega watt turbine on their land for approximately 40 years.

Mr. Nicholson noted that there are no turbines of this scale as yet in Henry County. He also mentioned the tax credit for wind energy in the federal economic stimulus package failed. While this would help promote the consideration of wind energy projects, viable projects will likely continue to move forward.

7. Air Quality Issues Update. Ms Gena McCullough reported that the mission of the Quad Cities Air Quality Task Force is to support good standing for air quality in the Quad Cities Area through voluntary air emission reduction efforts and cooperative sharing of experience and knowledge. The Task Force provided comments on the suggested lowering of the ozone standard and is monitoring activities on fine particulate pollution. Currently, the Quad Cities Area is 80% of the 8-hour standard for ground level ozone, commonly known as smog. Over the last few years, reductions in the number of unhealthy air days from smog have been realized through local emission reduction efforts, national emission regulations, and favorable weather conditions. In contrast, the area is 91% of the fine particulates standard for years 2004-2006, which is a relatively new pollutant being monitored under the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). Fine particulate pollution results from the combustion process, via vehicles, power plants, industrial processes, forest fires, and even wood-burning stoves and fireplaces. Both ozone and fine particulate have been linked to health problems, such as asthma, chronic bronchitis, and decreased lung function. This is an especially important issue for sensitive populations – young children, older adults, outdoor workers, and those who already have respiratory problems.

Ms. McCullough stated that recently, the Quad Cities Air Quality Task Force learned more about the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) process for designating areas for non-attainment of the fine particulate standard. Based on initial evaluations by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, consideration is being given to designating Scott and Muscatine Counties for nonattainment of the fine particulate standard. By the end of April 2008, state recommendations will be made to the USEPA who will review and re-evaluate the state data and make a final recommendation. Final designations will occur in December 2008.

Whatever the outcome of the designation process, voluntary emission reductions measures can “add up” to cleaner air today. Commissioners are encouraged to purchase of cleaner fleet vehicles and fuel, accelerate replacement of small spark engines that now have emission controls, limit engine idling, take transit or bicycle on short trips, walk instead of driving, and use greener products with fewer evaporative fumes.

8. Questions and Comments by Commissioners. Mayor Gluba asked if the Bridge Construction schedule was set by the Departments of Transportation (DOTs) or if Bi-State had any input into the scheduling. Ms. McCullough stated that the scheduling is set by the DOTs, and routine maintenance is conducted annually to keep the bridges safe. Bi-State coordinates schedules with the DOTs to minimize overlap of lane restrictions when possible.
9. Other Business. Chair O’Brien introduced new Commissioners Davenport Mayor Bill Gluba and Muscatine County Board Chair Tom Furlong.
10. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Nicholson
Secretary