

**MINUTES OF THE**

**BI-STATE REGIONAL COMMISSION**

Wednesday, November 19, 2008, 3:30 p.m.  
Bi-State Regional Commission  
1504 Third Avenue  
Rock Island, Illinois

MEMBERS PRESENT: Welvaert – Chair, Austin, Barnes, Becker, Bohnsack, Dean, Freemire, Gluba, Goodwin, Harris, Heninger, Hillman, Lawrence, Lohse, Malvik, McDaniel, Meeker, Minard, Nicholson, O’Brien, Ripperger, Rockwell, Schwiebert, Sunderbruch, Tank, Thodos, Volz

MEMBERS ABSENT: Breecher, Brown, Furlong, Gallin, Rangel, Sherwin, Tossell, Washburn, Wilkinson

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

Chair Welvaert called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m.

1. Approval of the October 22, 2008 Minutes. Ms. Dean moved approval of the minutes of the October 22, 2008 meeting as presented. Mayor O’Brien seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.
2. Treasurer's Report. Ms. Ripperger presented the Treasurer's Report for the month ending October 31, 2008, noting an ending total bank and book balance of \$544,702.71. Ms. Ripperger 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 \$58,451.04, as listed on the following addendum and bills listing dated November 19, 2008:

*Bills List*

Creative Images Center, printing of 2008 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)	\$ 1,528.86
Illinois Association of Regional Councils, Human Services Transportation Plan (HSTP) Contract Labor	831.25
Louise A. Kerr, Treasurer	7,847.64
12/08 Rent	\$4,165.96
12/08 Internet Access	88.00
10/08 Printing	661.74
10/08 Supplies	206.65

10/08	Postage	1,725.29	
10/08	Lighting Upgrade	1,000.00	
	McGladrey & Pullen, progress billing of the June 30, 2008 financial and compliance audit		4,000.00

Addendum

Bancard Center, VISA charge card expenses related to 2 staff attending the Illinois Association of Regional Councils 2008 staff retreat; Iowa Clean Air Attainment Program – Iowa Quad Cities Rider Appreciation Day; Managers and Administrators Advisory Committee meeting (cost reimbursed by participants); Washington DC trip; Chief Elected and Administrative Officials meeting (cost reimbursed by participants); Transportation Policy Committee meeting (cost reimbursed by participants); Iowa and Illinois Intergov meetings; webhosting; office supplies	4,401.49
City of Bettendorf, rehabilitation/repair assistance on flood damaged property	7,361.72
Blackhawk Hills Resource Conservation & Development Council, 2009 rural allotment	22,547.16
Caliper Corporation, renewal for support on TransCAD license	995.00
GeoStats, Trav Time software license	2,515.00
North Central Illinois Councils of Government, 2009 rural allotment	2,213.65
RK Dixon, maintenance service on network and monthly copier charges	744.27
Thomas A. Skorepa, P.C., Administrative Hearing Officer services (cost reimbursed by MUNICES)	3,465.00

Mr. Bohnsack moved approval of the bills totaling \$58,451.04 as presented above.  
 Ms. Ripperger seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

- b. Report on Progress on Commission’s FY 2009 Program Budget as of October 31, 2008.  
 Mr. Malvik explained the Program Budget Status Report was mailed in the agenda packet.  
 The Commission is 33.3% through the fiscal year with 33.3% expended and within budget.

- 4. Update on Regional Economic Development Projects. Mr. Mark Hunt, Senior Planner, provided Commissioners with an update on several economic development initiatives underway across the Region. As a federally designated Economic Development District (EDD), Bi-State is provided with annual planning and technical assistance funds, which allows BSRC to provide member governments with grant writing and other economic development related services. Bi-State staff must coordinate annually with local stakeholders to update the Bi-State Region Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).

With EDD designation and an annually updated CEDS, the Bi-State Region meets the initial criteria for project assistance from the federal Economic Development Assistance (EDA). However, to be fully eligible for an EDA project assistance, at least one county in the Region must display qualifying distress as measured through unemployment, per capita income, or special circumstance (such as a natural disaster or military base closing).

Recently, the Bi-State Region has become eligible for EDA project assistance due to the economic distress caused by the 2008 floods and the continued loss of jobs at the Rock Island Arsenal. This distress has led to development of four EDA project applications, one of which has been accepted. The four projects/applications are:

- **RiverTech-Business Research and Technology Park, Moline, Illinois.** The RiverTech project was accepted by EDA in September 2007. Eligibility was based on the Arsenal job loss. The project includes \$1 million federal investment and \$1 million local match to include cash and in-kind services. The funds are being used for site prep, road construction, and utilities. BSRC prepared the RiverTech application on behalf of the City of Moline.
- **Mercer/Muscatine Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Application.** Bi-State prepared and submitted to EDA an application for an economic development RLF to serve Mercer and Muscatine Counties, which are the only two counties in the Region without access to an EDA-funded RLF. Eligibility is claimed due to the impact of the 2008 floods on both counties. A response to the application is expected sometime after January 1, 2009.
- **Expansion and Site Prep at Eastern Iowa Industrial Center (EIIC).** Bi-State is currently working with the City of Davenport to prepare an application for land acquisition and site prep at the EIIC. Eligibility is claimed based on the impact of the 2008 floods. If accepted, the project will add 175 acres to the existing site, build roads, and create a rail dock.
- **East Moline.** Bi-State, along with East Moline staff, is working to identify an eligible EDA project within the city. Two possibilities are an expansion of water and sewer utilities at Gateway Industrial Park, or an economic development study of the pending annexation action. Both projects would claim eligibility based on the impact of the 2008 floods.

There are two other significant EDA-related projects currently underway. In July 2008, Bi-State received an additional \$15,844 in EDA planning funds to create a regional, web-based, data portal. Funds were available based on unspent EDA planning dollars from FY2008. Bi-State will match the grant with \$15,844 of in-kind costs. A request for proposals is under development to solicit qualified consultants to create the web-based data portal. Bi-State staff will provide the necessary data input.

The final project is a special economic development analysis to complement the forthcoming 2009 CEDS. The analysis is funded by a 2007 Department of Defense, Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA) grant that was awarded following the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) action at the Arsenal. The analysis will provide a detailed county-by-county listing of economic development projects and processes and recommend short-term strategies for achieving projects or making process changes to promote maximum economic benefit to the entire Bi-State Region.

5. Questions and Comments by Commissioners. Mr. Minard updated Commissioners on passenger rail activities.

6. Other Business. Ms. Bulat reviewed the following items which require Commission approval:

- Contract with the City of East Moline for assistance with a CDAP Administration. The contract is in the amount of \$20,690 beginning November 20, 2008 and ending ninety days after the contract ends.
- Agreement with Thomas A. Skorepa for Administrative Hearing Officer services to MUNICES program in the amount of \$140.00 per hour.
- Agreement with Joseph F. Fackel for Administrative Hearing Officer services to MUNICES program in the amount of \$140.00 per hour.

Mayor Schwiebert moved the Bi-State Regional Commission approve the contract and agreements as described above. Mr. Lawrence seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Bulat also updated Commissioners on air quality issues in the region.

7. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Minard  
Secretary