

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

Wednesday, May 27, 2009, 3:30 p.m.  
Scott County Administration Building  
Sixth Floor Conference Room  
600 West Fourth Street  
Davenport, Iowa

MEMBERS PRESENT: Welvaert – Chair, Barnes, Becker, Bohnsack, Gary Brown, Dean, Eccher, Freemire, Gallin, Gluba, Harris, Heninger, Hillman, Lawrence, McDaniel, Meeker, Minard, O’Brien, Ripperger, Rockwell, Sherwin, Sunderbruch, Thodos, Washburn, Wilkinson

MEMBERS ABSENT: Austin, Nathan Brown, Goodwin, Malvik, Pauley, Rangel, Shoultz, Tank, Tossell, Volz, Williams

OTHERS PRESENT: Catherine Foes, Henry County Tourism Bureau; Heather Shoppa, Muscatine County Convention and Visitor’s Bureau; Joe Taylor, Quad Cities Convention and Visitors Bureau

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

Chair Welvaert called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

1. Approval of the April 22, 2009 Minutes. Ms. Dean moved approval of the minutes of April 22, 2009 as presented. Mayor Gluba seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.
2. Treasurer's Report. Ms. Ripperger presented the Treasurer's Report for the month ending April 30, 2009, noting an ending total bank and book balance of \$622,116.62. Ms. Ripperger moved the report be accepted as written and mailed. Mr. Minard seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.
3. Finance and Personnel Committee.
  - a. Bills. Ms. Hillman presented the bills totaling \$49,067.04, as listed on the following bills listing and addendum dated May 27, 2009:

Bills List

Bancard Center, VISA charge card expenses related to one staff attending the Henry County Economic Development Partnership in Springfield, Illinois; one staff attending the National APA Conference; Travel Demand Modeling 101 meeting (cost reimbursed by participants); Finance Meeting; Iowa Intergov meeting; one staff attending the National Council for Public Private Partnerships; office supplies	\$ 2,272.38
Far Reach Technologies, consultant for data portal website	3,675.00

Louise A. Kerr, Treasurer		5,542.75
6/09 Rent	\$4,165.96	
6/09 Internet Access	88.00	
04/09 Printing	162.35	
04/09 Supplies	212.95	
04/09 Postage	913.49	
Mel Foster Co., Inc., Workers Compensation audit premium for 1/1/08 – 1/1/09 and Auto Policy premium		4,910.38
River Bend Transit, Iowa Quad City Transit Manager’s registration reimbursement for Community Transportation Association of America 2009 Expo		657.00
Thomas A. Skorepa, P.C., Administrative Hearing Officer services (cost reimbursed by MUNICES)		2,345.00
Village of Coal Valley, reimburse for MUNICES software		1,762.50

Addendum

Basile Baumann Prost Cole & Associates, Inc., business assistance study and short range economic development project		17,535.00
City of Davenport, Jumpstart monies		10,045.05
Correction –		
Louise A. Kerr, Treasurer (previously listed as 5,542.75), additional invoice for cell phone March-June 2009 (\$321.98)		5,864.73

Ms. Hillman moved approval of the bills totaling \$49,067.04 as presented above.  
 Ms. Sherwin seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

- b. Report on Progress on Commission’s FY 2009 Program Budget as of April 30, 2009.  
 Ms. Hillman explained the Program Budget Status Report was mailed in the agenda packet. The Commission is 83.3% through the fiscal year with 79.5% expended and on budget.
- c. Consideration of recommended revised FY2009 Commission Planning Budget. Ms. Bulat reported the Finance and Personnel Committee reviewed and recommended the proposed revised FY 2009 Commission budget. She asked if anyone had any questions regarding the changes in the right hand column of the line item budget. There were no questions.

Ms. Hillman moved approval of the Revised Recommended FY2009 Commission Planning Budget, as presented. Mr. Meeker seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

- d. Presentation of recommended FY 2010 Commission Planning Budget. Ms. Bulat reviewed the draft FY 2010 Budget, as recommended by the Finance and Personnel Committee. Ms. Bulat reported revenues for FY 2010 are projected to be up \$12,000 (1%) from the current year, primarily attributable to increases in need for hazard mitigation plans and administration of Community Block Grant programs. Membership dues for local governments are proposed not to increase. It is felt that this recognizes the current fiscal constraints of member governments in the economic situation. A cost of living adjustment

of 1% is recommended, as well as continuation of the merit performance review program, which the projected average is 2.5%.

In the 43-year history of Bi-State funding, federal/state funding has gone from over 76% to 56% of the total budget. Membership dues now make up 22% of revenues and contractual revenue provides 18%.

The proposed budget will lay on the table until consideration by the Commission at its June 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.

4. Consideration of the following Contracts. Ms. Bulat requested approval of the following contracts over \$7,500 that require Commission approval:
  - Amendment of the MUNICES agreement to include Milan and remove Coal Valley’s participation in the Municipal Code Enforcement System effective July 1, 2009. Mayor Freemire moved the Bi-State Regional Commission approve the amendment as described above. Mayor O’Brien seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.
  - Contract with McClure Engineering Associates, Inc. for the East West Circulation Arterial Corridor Study in Rock Island and Henry Counties. The contract is not to exceed \$80,000 and will be completed by January 2010. Mayor Gluba moved the Bi-State Regional Commission approve the contract as described above. Ms. Dean seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.
  - Acceptance if awarded of additional funds to the existing grant with the Economic Development Administration to expand the Web-based Data Enhancement project. The additional grant funds are in the amount of \$10,189 and requires \$10,189 of local match through existing dues. Also, to increase the contract with Far Reach Technologies, Inc. by \$10,189 for the expansion of the Data Portal Website project. Mr. Bohnsack moved the Bi-State Regional Commission approve the contract as described above. Mayor Freemire seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.
5. Report on Tourism Activity. Mr. Joe Taylor, Quad Cities Convention and Visitors Bureau (QCCVB) reviewed their service area: Henderson, Mercer, Rock Island and Warren Counties, Illinois and Scott County, Iowa. In Muscatine County, they partner with the Muscatine County Convention and Visitor’s Bureau, as well as work with Henry County on special events. The Quad Cities Area averages 1.3 million visitors per year with \$143 million in direct economic impact. He spoke of recent accomplishments, such as implementation of a Wayfinding system, one of the first 47 convention and visitors bureaus to be accredited by Destination Marketing Association International, consolidation of offices for professional staff, upcoming riverfront transit circulator, to name a few. QCCVB is working with the QC Rail Coalition on establishing passenger rail service from Chicago to Quad Cities. They have also participated in several international sales trade shows to promote the Quad Cities destination globally.

Ms. Catherine Foes, Henry County Tourism Bureau, spoke of a number of their efforts. They are a relatively young CVB but committed to promoting Henry County. Funds are derived from lodging, restaurants, and motor tax. The bureau is working with Friends of Hennepin to raise

awareness and reestablish recreational boating on the canal. The canal celebrated its centennial in 2007. It is only one of 3 canals left in the world for recreational boating. The Hennepin Canal parkway is part of the American Discovery Trail and Grand Illinois Trail. The parkway offers bicycling, hiking, fishing, and snowmobiling. She noted events at Bishop Hill, which reopened in April after a closure due to the state budget cuts. Bishop Hill will host a Folk Festival August 1-2, 2009. In Atkinson, a barn raising event is planned August 10-22, 2009, which will be the facility site for the annual tractor show.

Ms. Heather Shoppa, Muscatine County Convention and Visitors Bureau reported on programs and activities in the Muscatine Area. A newer attraction is the Route 92 bridge across the Mississippi River which was recently lighted using LED technology. Muscatine County ranked 16<sup>th</sup> of 99 counties in tourism economic impact in the State of Iowa. With its rich river history, Muscatine has highlighted its button manufacturing heritage with the Button Factory Museum. An enhanced aquatic center and sports tourism with the soccer and baseball complexes and rugby were noted as very beneficial to the community. Over Memorial Day, bicycling criterion are held on consecutive days in Burlington, Muscatine, and Rock Island. Her slide show featured “Eagles and Ivories” a winter jazz event that draws eagle watchers and jazz fans.

6. Questions and Comments by Commissioners. There were no questions or comments from Commissioners.
7. Other Business. There was no other business.
8. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Minard  
Secretary