

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

Wednesday, February 24, 2010, 3:30 p.m.  
Scott County Administration Building  
Sixth Floor Conference Room  
600 West Fourth Street  
Davenport, Iowa

MEMBERS PRESENT: Welvaert – Chair, Austin, Becker, Gary Brown, Dean, Fox, Freemire, Gallin, Gluba, Gordon, Lawrence, Malvik, McDaniel, Meeker, Minard, Nicholson, O’Boyle, O’Brien, Rockwell, Stoermer, Sunderbruch, Thodos, Volz, Washburn

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bohnsack, Goodwin, Heninger, Henry, Hillman, Pauley, Rangel, Ripperger, Sherwin, Shoultz, Tank, Tossell

STAFF PRESENT: Bulat, Connors, McCullough, Miller, Moritz, Overton, Patel, Waterman

Chair Welvaert called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. Chair Welvaert introduced Jason Gordon, Davenport Alderman, and Bill Fox, Mayor of Silvis.

1. Approval of the January 27, 2010 Minutes. Ms. Dean moved approval of the minutes of January 27, 2010 as presented. Mr. Minard seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.
2. Treasurer’s Report. Ms. Connors presented the Treasurer’s Report for the month ending January 31, 2010, noting an ending total bank and book balance of \$460,201.32. Mr. Nicholson moved the report be accepted as written and mailed. Mr. Washburn seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.
3. Finance and Personnel Committee.
  - a. Bills. Mr. Malvik presented the bills totaling \$21,897.64, as listed on the following bills listing and addendum dated February 24, 2010:

Bills List

Hurt, Norton & Associates, January legislative technical services (reimbursed by member government funds)	\$ 7,750.00
McClure Engineering Associates, Inc., East West Corridor Study	2,140.58
Thomas A. Skorepa, P.C., Administrative Hearing Officer services (cost reimbursed by MUNICES)	3,010.00

Addendum

The following additions should be made to the bills listing contained in the February 24, 2010 agenda packet:

Bancard Center, VISA charge card expenses related to Quad City Riverfront Council meeting (cost reimbursed by participants); one staff attending the	1,136.31
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Iowa Bicycle Summit; Urban Transportation Policy Committee meeting (cost reimbursed by participants); Chief Elected and Administrators lunch meeting (cost reimbursed by participants); Caucus for Small Community representative; Managers and Administrators Advisory Committee meeting (cost reimbursed by participants); office supplies			
Cardiac Science Corporation, Automated External Defibrillator (AED) with wall sleeve			979.20
Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI), software maintenance			1,600.00
Louise A. Kerr, Treasurer			5,281.55
03/10	Rent	\$4,165.96	
03/10	Internet Access	88.00	
01/10	Postage	1,027.59	

Mr. Malvik moved approval of the bills totaling \$21,897.64 as presented above. Ms. Dean seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

b. Report on Progress on Commission’s FY 2010 Program Budget as of January 31, 2010.

Mr. Malvik explained the Program Budget Status Report was mailed in the agenda packet. The Commission is 58.3% through the fiscal year with 54.2% expended and within budget.

4. Status of Transit Planning in the Bi-State Region. Ms. Waterman provided an update on transit planning activities in the Bi-State Region. Regional transit projects are derived from Bi-State’s Transit Development Plan, or TDP. The TDP is a four-year program of potential projects with a focus on human services coordination and reducing duplication of transit services. Ms. Waterman noted several projects within the urban and rural transit systems that have recently made significant progress and were included in the 2010 TDP update.

Ms. Waterman reported that in the urbanized Quad Cities area, The Loop riverfront circulator began service on February 4, 2010. The Loop provides a seamless trip among the downtown areas of Bettendorf, Davenport, Moline, and Rock Island, and extends service during evenings and weekends. The route was made possible with Iowa Clean Air Attainment Program (ICAAP) funds as well as a cooperative effort by the three urban fixed-route systems. Additionally, the urban fixed-route systems coordinated with Bi-State staff to hold a third Transit Training Workshop in November 2009. Participants received presentations from transit systems, an opportunity to provide input on future transit planning documents, and an interactive bus ride along the Mississippi River.

In the rural Bi-State region, River Bend Transit recently completed parking lot improvements and the construction of new bus wash bays using stimulus funds and Iowa’s Public Transit Infrastructure Grant (PTIG) program. River Bend Transit is exploring opportunities to develop a Muscatine to Iowa City daily shuttle in the future. In Illinois, RIM Rural Transit is a new public transportation system anticipated to begin service in Mercer and rural Rock Island Counties in late March 2010. RIM will be operated by Project NOW and will initially operate from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

In addition to current projects, Ms. Waterman explained regional transit needs that have been identified. In 2009, the Iowa Department of Transportation conducted a Public Transit Funding Study and determined that transit systems will need additional resources to begin serving choice riders. Current Federal programs often promote funding silos and transit systems are challenged to find projects that fit program eligibility requirements. Lastly, she explained that transit systems face

barriers in crossing geographic and jurisdictional boundaries. The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) was recently awarded a United We Ride Grant to further explore transportation coordination activities and develop a toolkit for other regions. IDOT has asked Bi-State to become a pilot for this grant, and staff hopes to utilize the program to develop coordination and funding strategies to meet these needs.

5. Census 2010 Update. Ms. Overton reported that the 2010 Census is approaching fast and informed Commissioners that April 1, 2010 is Census Day. The census is a historic snapshot of everyone residing in the United States. The U.S. Constitution requires a national census once every 10 years to count the population and determine the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives. The census began in 1790 and has been conducted every 10 years since. All residents of the U.S. must be counted regardless of whether or not they are legal citizens. Every year, the federal government allocates more than \$400 billion to states and communities based on census data. This adds up to more than \$4 trillion over the next decade. It is essential to your community to have a complete and accurate count in the census to assure the correct representation and funding.

Ms. Overton noted that one of the most significant changes to the 2010 Census is the removal of the long form. The long form has been replaced by the annual survey, the American Community Survey (ACS). Everyone will receive the short form that has 10 questions designed to take 10 minutes. Other changes for 2010 are the use of bilingual census forms, which will be mailed to areas of high Spanish-only speakers.

Ms. Overton explained that Census questionnaire forms will arrive in March. Places with traditional mail service will receive forms approximately March 15 – 17. Places without traditional mail service will have forms hand delivered by census workers March 1 – 30. Completing and mailing back the Census questionnaire form is the easiest and most efficient method of participation in the 2010 Census. Persons who do not respond will receive a replacement form, followed by visits from Census workers. Census workers will make up to six attempts to obtain data from households that do not respond by mail. It is estimated that census workers will need to visit 47 million households during the non-response follow up. New for 2010, daily mail participation rates will be available on the 2010 Census website ([www.2010census.gov](http://www.2010census.gov)). From March 22<sup>nd</sup> until May 3<sup>rd</sup> maps will be available with daily return rates from the national level down to the tract level. Approximately \$85 million is saved for every 1% increase in mail back participation and helps to ensure that your community is accurately represented.

The cities of Moline, East Moline, and Rock Island are hosting a Census Awareness Breakfast on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Census Awareness Breakfast will have Sandi Beveridge from the Census Bureau as a guest speaker and a visit from the Census Road Tour Van. Other local census activities include participation in the St. Patrick's Day Parade, and a collaborative effort for a local media campaign on Census Awareness.

6. Data Portal Website Update. Ms. Miller provided an update on the data portal website, [www.GreaterQCRegion.org](http://www.GreaterQCRegion.org). This is a new website for the distribution of data and information about the entire five-county Bi-State Region. The website is a portal to information on **Visiting & Living Here** and **Doing Business Here** – with links to the websites for appropriate agencies or organizations that focus on these topics.

Ms. Miller stated that **Regional Statistics** is where the website visitor will find a wealth of data about the five-county region. A **Quick Report** allows the user to see the more commonly requested data for the selected location, which may include any municipality or county within the region, the

metropolitan statistical area (MSA), the five-county GreaterQCRegion, the states of Illinois or Iowa, or the United States. The ***Custom Reports*** area allows users to choose from a wide variety of data sets, time periods, data fields, and locations. All data reports can be exported as Excel or PDF files.

Ms. Miller reported that initial funding for the project included \$15,000 in planning funds from the Economic Development Administration (EDA) Chicago Region, which were used to acquire a consultant for technical assistance. Plans are underway for Phase Two of the data portal projects. With an just over \$10,000 in additional EDA planning funds, the website will be enhanced with more data sets, charts and graphs, and improved mapping capabilities.

7. Other Business.

a. Consideration of the following Contract Amendment. Ms. Bulat requested approval of the following contract amendment over \$7,500 that requires Commission approval:

- Community Action of Eastern Iowa Weatherization Grant Admin amending the contract to the amount of \$36,002.31.

Mayor Thodos moved the Bi-State Regional Commission approve the contract as described above. Mayor O’Brien seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

b. Questions and Comments by Commissioners.

- i. Ms. Bulat addressed questions regarding a second round of stimulus.
- ii. Mr. Volz asked for an update on I-74 funding.

8. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Minard  
Secretary