

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

Wednesday, June 23, 2010, 3:30 p.m.
Scott County Administration Building
Sixth Floor Conference Room
600 West Fourth Street
Davenport, Iowa

MEMBERS PRESENT: Freemire – Chair, Austin, Dean, Eccher, Fox, Gallin, Gluba, Goodwin, Heninger, Lawrence, Malvik, McDaniel, Meeker, Minard, O’Boyle, O’Brien, Ripperger, Schoultz, Sunderbruch, Tank, Welvaert, Volz

MEMBERS ABSENT: Becker, Bohnsack, Brown, Gordon, Henry, Hillman, Pauley, Rangel, Rockwell, Sherwin, Stoermer, Thodos, Tossell, Washburn

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, Hunt, Miller, Moritz

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

1. Approval of the May 26, 2010 Minutes. Ms. Dean moved approval of the minutes of May 26, 2010 as presented. Mr. Schoultz seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.
2. Treasurer’s Report. Ms. Gallin presented the Treasurer’s Report for the month ending May 31, 2010, noting an ending total bank and book balance of \$719,347.25. Ms. Gallin moved the report be accepted as written and mailed. Mr. Austin seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.
3. Finance and Personnel Committee.
 - a. Bills. Mr. Malvik presented the bills totaling \$47,267.58, as listed on the following bills listing and addendum dated June 23, 2010:

Bills List

Hurt, Norton & Associates, May legislative technical services (reimbursed by participating local governments) \$ 7,750.00

Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs, registration for 2 staff to attend the Midwest Community Development Institute training program	585.00
Moline Dispatch, promotional ads regarding events, emission reduction and alternative transportation	2,290.00
Quad-City Times, public hearing, promotional ads regarding events, emission reduction and alternative transportation	4,937.11
Thomas A. Skorepa, P.C., Administrative Hearing Officer services (cost reimbursed by MUNICES)	3,185.00

Addendum

Bancard Center, VISA charge card expenses related to Quad City Riverfront Council meeting (cost reimbursed by participants); Managers and Administrators Advisory Committee meeting (cost reimbursed by participants); webhosting; Iowa Association of Regional Councils meeting; Chief Elected & Administrative Officials meeting (cost reimbursed by participants); Iowa Department of Transportation Committee meeting; office supplies	3,493.59
Robert Bickle, CORA reimbursement	580.00
Louise A. Kerr, Treasurer	6,679.68
7/10 Rent \$4,618.38	
7/10 Internet Access 88.00	
5/10 Postage 1,231.74	
5/10 Printing 547.28	
5/10 Supplies 142.53	
5/10 Cell Phone 51.75	
McClure Engineering Associates, Inc., East West Corridor Study	1,057.50
McGladrey & Pullen, LLP, progress billing for the June 30, 2010 audit	6,700.00
City of West Liberty, Nutritional and Physical Activity grant	10,000.00
Corrections –	
Quad-City Times (previously listed as \$4,937.11), additional invoice for ad regarding Q.C. Transportation Improvement Program (\$9.70)	4,946.81

Mr. Malvik moved approval of the bills totaling \$47,267.58 as presented above.
 Mr. Sunderbruch seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Malvik explained the Program Budget Status Report was mailed in the agenda packet. The Commission is 91.7% through the fiscal year with 86.9% expended and within budget.

c. Consideration of recommended FY 2011 Commission Planning Budget. Mr. Malvik moved the Bi-State Regional Commission approve the FY 2011 Commission Planning Budget, which had been laying on the table since the May meeting. Mr. Austin seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

4. Consideration of following contracts and grants. Ms. Bulat reviewed the following items that require Commission approval:
- Contract with Citizens to Preserve Black Hawk Park Foundation for financial management support. The contract is for actual costs incurred for the period 7/1/10 - 6/30/11.
 - Contract with Emergency Telephone System Board of Rock Island County for staff support. The contract is for actual costs incurred for the period 7/1/10 - 6/30/11.
 - Contract with Rock Island County Waste Management Agency for staff support. The contract is for actual costs incurred for the period 7/1/10 - 6/30/11.
 - Contract with Scott County KIDS Program for financial management services. The contract is for actual costs incurred for the period 7/1/10 - 6/30/11.
 - Contract with Scott County Housing Council for financial management services. The contract is for actual costs incurred for the period 7/1/10 - 6/30/11.
 - Contract with Iowa Association of Regional Councils for Iowa Department of Economic Development funds for planning and technical assistance to local governments. The grant is in an amount up to \$10,300 for the period 7/1/10 - 06/30/11.
 - Contract with Rock Island Arsenal Development Group for actual costs to provide payroll and fringe benefit services for the period 7/1/10 - 06/30/11.
 - Contract with Rock Island County for actual costs to provide Workforce Development Board support for the period 7/1/10 - 06/30/11.

Mr. Minard moved approval of the contracts and grants as presented above. Mayor Welvaert seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

5. Report on Tourism Activity. Representatives from convention and visitors bureaus in the Bi-State Region presented information on their programs and events. Mr. Joe Taylor, Quad Cities Convention and Visitors Bureau (QCCVB), reported that within the 5 county Bi-State Regional Commission area, total visitor expenditures were \$784,000, with 8,610 people employed for \$145 million. Tax revenues were \$39,940,000 for the states and \$13 million locally from hotel/motel and other sources. The QCCVB 20th anniversary is July 1st. Fourteen communities along the Great River Road, in both Iowa and Illinois, are collaborating to develop a website (travelmississippiriver.org) focused on leisure travel in the bi-state region.

Ms. Catherine Foes, Henry County Tourism Bureau, spoke on a number of their efforts. She reported travel is up 14% with receipts up 12%. The bureau is working with Friends of Hennepin to celebrate the Hennepin Canal Renaissance. The Hennepin Canal parkway is part of the American Discovery Trail and Grand Illinois Trail. The parkway offers bicycling, hiking, fishing, and snowmobiling. She presented information on events in Bishop Hill and The Antique Tractor Show.

Ms. Heather Shoppa, Muscatine County Convention and Visitors Bureau, reported Muscatine has been effected by the downturn of the economy and is seeing fewer tour groups. They

will have a booth at the Iowa State Fair to engage tour groups. They also have been awarded \$10,000 from the City of Muscatine to help in their efforts. Muscatine continues to highlight its button manufacturing heritage and its rich river history. The enhanced aquatic center and sports tourism with the soccer and baseball complexes and rugby were noted as very beneficial to the community.

6. Questions or Comments by Commissioners. There were no other questions or comments.
7. Other Business. Ms. Bulat updated the Commission on the status of the I-74 Bridge Corridor Project. She explained since 2001, over \$85 million dollars have been provided thus far for environmental work, preliminary design, final design, right-of-way acquisition and reconstruction of interchanges in the I-74 Corridor. This demonstrates the long term bipartisan legislative support for the project.

She stated on Tuesday, June 8th the Iowa DOT adopted the 2011-2015 State Transportation Improvement Program. Over \$31 million dollars was programmed in right-of-way acquisition and interchange improvements as part of the I-74 corridor project. Further, nearly \$40 million dollars is contracted for the final design of the project with Alfred Benesch Consultants. The \$85 million dollars legislatively directed to I-74 have been or are being spent on the project, and work is continuing toward the need to fund the remaining project elements. The Record of Decision for the project was received in April 2009, and the final design is under way with a project completion in the third quarter of 2012.

She noted replacement of the I-74 Bridge is critical to the Quad Cities region and has been the top priority transportation project in the metropolitan area for over 10 years. The entire I-74 Corridor project is estimated to create/retain 12,120 jobs over a seven year period. She stated not only is the Bridge vital to the continued economic well-being and commerce of the Quad Cities area, but Interstate 74 serves a major corridor of national significance providing an alternate crossing for Interstate 80, one of the nations' greatest east-west commercial corridors. Once reconstructed, the I-74 Bridge will be the most reliable Mississippi River Crossing in the Iowa/Illinois bi-state area. The I-74 Bridge Corridor has regional significance, providing access to regional hospital systems, commercial centers, and cultural facilities. In addition, the Bridge serves as an important link to the Rock Island Arsenal, one of the nation's only armories.

She explained the current bridge structure is functionally obsolete and never met interstate standards. The I-74 Bridge is significantly over capacity and carries nearly 70,000 vehicles per day. In fact, the I-74 Bridge has no shoulders, and the Draft Environmental Impact Statement identified the corridor as having three times the number of crashes as comparable interstate corridors. The reconstructed I-74 Bridge corridor will have full shoulders allowing for emergency vehicle access that currently does not exist in the event of an incident. Further, the reconstructed I-74 Bridge will have increased protection for seismic occurrences and barge collisions

Ms. Bulat reported the reconstructed I-74 Bridge will improve the quality of life in the entire Quad City Area with its multi-modal aspects. The Bridge will include a multi-purpose trail for bicyclists and pedestrians to allow for cross river travel in the eastern portion of the Quad

Cities where access does not currently exist. The widened structure will provide for improved travel reliability, even during traffic incidents, for transit bus trips across the Mississippi River, the Quad City International Airport, and the Moline Centre Station passenger rail stop.

She noted elected officials continue to work with the Iowa and Illinois Departments of Transportation to move the project forward as expediently as possible to position the project for significant additional funding from both State and Federal sources for construction. Total costs for replacement of the I-74 Bridge (from bluff to bluff) are \$850 million. Potential future funding sources include appropriations, the New Transportation Act and the TIGER II grant application that will be submitted by the Iowa DOT.

8. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Pauley
Secretary