

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

Wednesday, February 22, 2012, 3:30 p.m.
Scott County Administration Building
600 West Fourth Street
Davenport, Iowa

MEMBERS PRESENT: McDaniel – Vice Chair, Austin, Bohnsack, Gallagher, Gluba, Heninger, Hopkins, Kelly, Lawrence, Liddell, Minard, O’Boyle, Rockwell, Schloemer, Sherwin, Sorensen, Stoermer, Sunderbruch, Thodos, Volz, Washburn, Wells

MEMBERS ABSENT: Anderson, Burrage, Earnhardt, Goodwin, Gordon, Pauley, Rangel, Tank, Tossell, Welvaert, Williams

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

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

1. Ratify actions taken at January 25, 2012 meeting. Due to a lack of quorum at the January 25, 2012 meeting, Vice Chair McDaniel asked for a motion to ratify the actions taken at the previous meeting. Mayor Thodos motioned to ratify previous actions. Mr. Bohnsack seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
2. Approval of the January 25, 2012 Minutes. Ms. Kelly moved to approve the minutes of January 25, 2012 as presented. Mr. Wells seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
3. Treasurer’s Report. Ms. Kelly presented the Treasurer’s Report for the month ending January 31, 2012, noting an ending total bank and book balance of \$757,369.17. Ms. Kelly moved the report be accepted as written and mailed. Mr. Wells seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
4. Finance and Personnel Committee.
 - a. Bills. Mr. Austin presented the bills totaling \$919,923.15, as listed on the following bills listing and addendum dated February 22, 2012:

Bills List

City of East Moline, Municipal Code Enforcement System proceeds	\$12,483.91
Hurt, Norton & Associates, January 2012 legislative technical services (cost reimbursed by participating local governments)	7,750.00
Illinois Association of Regional Councils, Human Services Transportation Plan (HSTP) Administrative Assistance	1,662.50
Isle of Capri Casino, Bi-State’s 45th Anniversary Banquet	635.25
City of Moline, Municipal Code Enforcement System proceeds	5,788.40
QC Earth Week Coalition, sponsorship fee for Earth Week Fair	2,000.00

RK Dixon, maintenance service on network and monthly copier charges	508.67
City of Rock Island, Municipal Code Enforcement System proceeds	59,345.10*
Thomas A. Skorepa, P.C., Administrative Hearing Officer services (cost reimbursed by MUNICES)	3,360.00

Addendum

Bancard Center, VISA charge card expenses related to Managers & Administrators luncheon meeting (cost reimbursed by participants); Chief Elected & Administrative Officials luncheon meeting (cost reimbursed by participants); 1 staff attending the Connected Nation training; Quad City Riverfront Council meeting; 1 staff attending the Iowa Bicycle Summit; 1 staff attending the Paratransit Management & Operations training; 1 staff attending an Iowa Association of Regional Councils meeting; 1 staff attending an Iowa Rail Advisory Group meeting; 1 staff attending the State Advisory Board & Job Access & Reverse Commute training; 1 staff attending the DC Trip; office supplies	1,876.38
Village of Carbon Cliff, Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant (EECBG)	25,003.93
Dell marketing L.P., 1 work station	1,725.01
Louisa Ewert, Treasurer	5,408.10
03/2012 Rent	\$4,618.38
03/2012 Internet Access	88.00
01/2012 Printing	641.72
02/2012 Cell Phone	60.00
Tallgrass Business Resources, office supplies	622.07
West Liberty Community School District, reimbursement regarding the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) grant	3,698.41

*Corrections –

City of Rock Island (previously listed as \$59,345.10), additional invoice for fuel charges (\$55.42)	59,400.52
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Disbursements of funds for the following Revolving Loan Program Loans:

Heather Allen Enterprises, Inc.	43,000.00
Alcoa, Inc.	395,000.00
Bent River Brewery, LLC	100,000.00
LED America, Inc.	250,000.00

Mr. Austin moved approval of the bills totaling \$919,923.15 as presented above.
 Ms. Sherwin seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

- b. Report on Progress on Commission’s FY 2012 Program Budget as of January 31, 2012. Mr. Austin explained the Program Budget Status Report was mailed in the agenda packet. The Commission is 58.3% through the fiscal year with 51.0% expended and within budget.

5. Commission Committee Assignments for 2012-2013. Vice Chair McDaniel presented the listing of the 2012-2013 committees distributed in the agenda packet. Mr. Stoermer moved to approve the Commission committee assignments as presented. Mr. Minard seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
6. Update of Key Region-Wide Projects/Issues. Transportation Updates. Ms. Bulat presented an update on several transportation issues including the Transportation Act, Interstate 74 Bridge Corridor project, Iowa DOT passenger rail planning effort and trail equipment. The U.S. House and Senate have drafted transportation bills that differ in funding and terms with the House proposing a \$260 billion five-year act and the Senate proposing a \$109 billion two-year act. The House version would guarantee each state a 94% return on the federal gas taxes collected, while the Senate version would guarantee 95% return. Both bills reduce funding allocated to non-highway programs, eliminate earmarks, and consolidate transportation programs. However, there are significant differences between the bills, and most transportation experts estimate there will be no bill adopted prior to the presidential election.

In spite of the transportation act stalemate, the Interstate 74 project continues to move forward. The final design will be complete by early 2013, and the DOTs have approved the plans for over 90% of the work on approaches and 60% of the work on the arch. The 53rd St. Interchange project, which is the northern terminus of the corridor, began in 2011 and will be completed this year. Iowa DOT is working toward the purchase of all ROW Acquisition by 2015 and has already begun acquisition and demolition. They have also programmed significant funding for construction in 2016 and have pledged additional dollars for 2017.

In other transportation related news, Bi-State has purchased trail counters and will be making them available for use by members. Finally, Iowa DOT is preparing updated planning documents for passenger rail service between Chicago and Omaha. Alternative analysis requirements state they must review routing even though the Quad Cities route has already been shown to be the most effective and least costly in the Midwest Rail Initiative. Regional leaders are encouraged to reiterate support for the Quad Cities route. Mayor Gluba made a motion to send a Bi-State letter of support for the Quad Cities route. Mayor Thodos seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Economic Development Updates. Mr. Hunt provided a brief update on major economic development issues related to the Rock Island Arsenal. He noted that protecting the Rock Island Arsenal from future base closure and maintaining the Corps of Engineers budget for lock maintenance and operations were top priorities for the Region during the recent Quad Cities First visit to Washington, DC. Mr. Hunt represented Bi-State Regional Commission on the trip and assisted in sharing information from a regional perspective on the importance of the Arsenal overall and the corps.

The recently passed National Defense Authorization Act enhanced the Rock Island Arsenal's ability to participate in public-private partnerships at the Arsenal's manufacturing facility. Previously there had been a limit on the number of partnerships the Arsenal could have with the private sector. The new act allows unlimited partnerships. These partnerships will help the Arsenal to maintain employment and workload during times of reduced military operations, while maintaining a skilled workforce that can react immediately to national defense needs.

Bi-State Regional Commission has been working to support the Arsenal by participating in the Rock Island Arsenal Alliance. The alliance is a group of regional stakeholders that have come together to work cooperatively to enhance the Arsenal's effectiveness as a military asset to the nation and an economic asset to the region. The alliance is working collaboratively to protect the Arsenal from future rounds of military base closures. Base closures are identified by a federally authorized commission known as BRAC — *Base Closure and Realignment Commission*. The 2005 BRAC recommendation resulted in a net loss of 1,100 jobs at the Arsenal. Bi-State has published a request for proposals to procure a consulting firm to perform an analysis of the Arsenal relative to BRAC and make recommendations to strengthen the Arsenal's ability to avoid losses and perhaps even expand under the next BRAC. The next BRAC could occur as soon as 2015, but a formal date has not been set.

This summer, budget reduction talks in Congress targeted the Corps of Engineers and threatened the Bi-State Region with reduced staffing and operating hours at Mississippi River locks and dams. Bi-State continued to track the issue and learned that the FY 2012 budget for the corps, which was approved in the fall on 2011, did not cut the staffing level or lock operations in the Bi-State Region. The President's proposed 2013 budget cuts the corps slightly overall, yet actually increases funding to the Rock Island District, which includes the Bi-State Region. Bi-State Regional Commission and others continue to support implementation of the corps' Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program for the Upper Mississippi River. If implemented, the program would make much needed infrastructure improvements to the river in the Bi-State Region. Implementation of the program was not included in the FY 2012 budget and is not in the President's FY 2013 budget.

Air Quality Update. Ms. McCullough presented a status report on air quality levels and public education efforts in the Bi-State Region. The current ozone standard is 75 parts per billion. Consideration of lowering the standard between 60-70 ppb was delayed until 2013 with the cyclical standards' review. The Quad Cities Area's highest three-year average of primary standard is 63 ppb (2008-2010), and there are no other ozone monitors outside the metro area within the Bi-State Region. The current fine particulates standard is 35 micrograms per cubic meter (ug/m^3). The Quad Cities Area highest three-year average of the 24-hour standard is 32 ug/m^3 . It is 37 ug/m^3 in Muscatine. The Iowa DNR is working with local industry in Muscatine to reduce emissions.

Ms. McCullough also shared that there are 9 local government members in the Bi-State Clean Air Partnership to date. She encouraged voluntary participation by every local government in our Bi-State Region. Increasing the membership in the Partnership is one of the strategies outline in a five-year strategic plan to reduce outdoor air emissions. The plan also recommended programs for eco-driving, alternative transportation, green fleets and equipment, energy conservation, and tapping programs, such as the USEPA's Smartway program for freight emission reductions.

7. Questions or Comments by Commissioners. Ms. Bulat presented the following grant amendments for the Commission to approve:

– Contract Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant Amendments for:

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|---------------------------|-------------|
| • Village of Carbon Cliff | \$25,003.93 |
| • Henry County | 10,252.50 |
| • Rock Island County | 55,676.36 |

Mr. Austin made a motion to approve the grant amendments, and Mr. Stoermer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Other Business. There was no other business

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

Respectfully submitted,



Dennis Pauley
Secretary