

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

Wednesday, March 28, 2012, 3:30 p.m.
Scott County Administration Building
600 West Fourth Street
Davenport, Iowa

MEMBERS PRESENT: McDaniel – Chair, Austin, Fox, Gallagher, Goodwin, Gordon, Heninger, Hopkins, Kelly, Lawrence, Liddell, Minard, O’Boyle, Pauley, Rockwell, Schloemer, Sorensen, Sunderbruch, Volz, Wells

MEMBERS ABSENT: Anderson, Bohnsack, Burrage, Earnhardt, Gluba, Rangel, Sherwin, Stoermer, Tank, Thodos, Tossell, Washburn, Welvaert

OTHERS PRESENT: Laura Liegois, Muscatine Recycling Center and Transfer Station; Kathy Morris, Waste Commission of Scott County

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

Chair McDaniel called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m.

1. Approval of the February 22, 2012 Minutes. Ms. Kelly moved to approve the minutes of February 22, 2012 as presented. Mr. Volz seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
2. Treasurer’s Report. Ms. Kelly presented the Treasurer’s Report for the month ending February 29, 2012, noting an ending total bank and book balance of \$699,479.34. Ms. Kelly moved the report be accepted as written and mailed. Mr. Minard seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
3. Finance and Personnel Committee.
 - a. Bills. Mr. Austin presented the bills totaling \$70,533.53, as listed on the following bills listing and addendum dated March 28, 2012:

Bills List

CDW Government, Adobe Acrobat 10 upgrade & Creative Suite 5.5 Design	\$ 2,985.12
Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. (esri), ArcView upgrades, maintenance and technical support	1,600.00
Henry County, Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant (EECBG)	10,252.50
Hurt, Norton & Associates, February 2012 legislative technical services (cost reimbursed by participating local governments)	7,750.00
Independent Stationers, office supplies	681.66*

Addendum

AHI (Antebellum Hospitality, Inc.), 1 staff attending the Community Transportation Association 2012 Expo	850.00
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- City of Colona contract for Utilities, GIS & Mapping in the amount of \$8,810.00 for the period 4/1/12 – 4/30/13.
- Davenport Community School District Hazard Mitigation Plan in the amount of \$7,500 for the period 4/1/12 – 3/31/13.
- WHBF contract for television advertisement under ALCOA grant in the amount of \$15,000.
- City of Silvis contract for Utilities, GIS & Mapping in the amount of \$6,443.00 for the period 2/1/12 – 1/31/13.

Mr. Austin made a motion to approve the contracts and amendments, and Ms. Kelly seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Regional Solid Waste Management Status Report. Ms. Liegois stated that the Muscatine County Landfill spend the last year getting the first lift of waste placed over the drainage layer of the two landfill cells constructed in 2009. However, waste removal rates increased to cover the new construction, and tonnage dropped to 29,000 from the 45,000 tons/year that had been received. Projected tonnage for 2012 is 35,000. The landfill continues to use alternative sources for saving dirt and airspace.

Muscatine has partnered with City Carton for drop-off recycling at the Transfer Station, and the City of Muscatine began a curbside recycling pickup agreement with Allied Waste in 2011. The drop-off recycling location gathers about 30 tons per month, and the curbside program recycles 1,160 tons. They also have partnerships with Bi-State Waste Coalition and Waste Commission of Scott County for electronic and household hazardous waste recycling.

Muscatine Recycling Center has also implemented several public outreach programs such as a community block party, community days, and an Earth Day celebration. When the curbside recycling program was implemented, the Recycling Center visited the schools in Muscatine, reaching 3,000 students. In January and February, they held a Recycle the Dress program where 80 girls received dresses for the prom. Muscatine Recycling Center also educates the public through e-newsletters, e-news updates, and public access programming.

Ms. Berkley presented updates for Mercer, Henry, and Rock Island Counties. In Mercer County, 5 communities with curbside recycling programs that accept glass collected 385.5 tons of materials, and 5 communities with drop-off recycling (no glass) collected 151 tons of material. Seven drop-off sites collected 9,960 pounds of unwanted paint and 45,195 pounds of electronics. Five drop-off sites collected 38,680 pounds of white goods and scrap metal. Mercer County also has an unwanted medication collection program at the Mercer County Health Department. They had an initiative to help fund the Mercer County recycling center where people could trade their worn 20 dollar bills for new five dollar bills.

For Henry County, the Atkinson landfill is up and running. Volume is increasing and operations have become more established. An electronic collection event was held June 11, 2011 and collected 38,831 pounds of electronics.

Rock Island County Waste Management Agency (RICWMA) reported that approximately 100 tons of tires were collected in Scott County and curbside; 1,639 appliances were collected curbside; 1,472 Rock Island County residents utilized Scott County's household hazardous materials facilities; and 1,343 tons of materials were collected from 5 drop-off facilities. Illinois EPA Recycling Report for 2011 indicates that Rock Island County has a recycling rate of 30.5%.

Beginning January 1, 2012, a total of 17 electronics types have been banned from Illinois landfills. Manufacturers carry the financial onus of recycling electronics, and no Illinois resident should pay to recycle electronics materials. Rock Island residents recycled 207,412 pounds of electronics in the last year. RICWMA held an electronics collection event on October 15, 2011 that saw 700 cars come to the event in four hours, collecting 101,031 pounds of electronics. Another collection event is scheduled for May 12, 2012.

Ms. Morris reported that the Waste Commission of Scott County continue to strive to make the biggest possible impact on the environment in several key areas: water quality, yard waste, environmental education, recycling, and household hazardous materials.

The Waste Commission participated in 5 water quality events including the Davenport High School Challenge, Enviro Kids and Watershed Festival, and Operation Medicine Cabinet. They had kids place "No Dumping" signs on storm drains, and also participated in Xstream Cleanup on August 13, 2011.

In the yard waste category, the Waste Commission held two invasive species pulls, one being a garlic mustard pull and the other the Xstream Cleanup. There were 214 volunteers who removed 4,450 pounds of invasive brush, honeysuckle, tree or heaven, and locust trees.

For the environmental education aspect, each 2nd grade teacher in the Davenport School System (65 teachers) received a binder with lesson plans on recycling, reuse, waste reduction, and littering. Each school received a resource tote that included a digital camera, videos, books, litter tongs, youth gloves, and mesh bags for cleanups. Some teachers said that they would do the program all year and would like to see composting added.

The Waste Commission sent a letter to businesses containing information on data security along with a coupon for complimentary recycling of e-waste up to 200 pounds. The program saw a 360% increase in traffic from businesses in the 6 months following the letter.

Other recycling initiatives include the shingle recycling program, which is increasing and expanding into Illinois. The recycled shingles are used for asphalt. Household hazardous materials recycling increased 80% or 422 appointments more than in 2010. In 2011, 42% of customers made appointments online compared to a baseline of 13%. Online appointments increased by 29%. An Ag Week event was held June 20-24, 2011, and 246 farmers participated. Materials were accepted free of charge and amounted to 18,451 pounds of Household Hazardous Materials, 7,480 pounds of e-waste, 93 appliances, and 60 tons of tires.

5. Status of the Illinois Energy Efficiency Block Grant Program and Floodplain Management. Ms. McCullough reported that a unique arrangement through an agreement between the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) concluded with \$428,259 in energy efficiency and conservation grant funds supporting project in the Illinois Bi-State Region. DCEO, in partnership with the Illinois Association of

Regional Councils, is wrapping up a statewide program where local regional planning agencies and their government partnered to prioritize and award projects locally, amounting to \$13 million dollars statewide. Bi-State Regional Commission received \$38,969 to administer the program.

Twelve local governments were awarded projects in the first four months of the program. Within one year, 11 local governments received all or partial reimbursement toward their energy efficiency projects. One project was an Energy Efficiency Conservation Strategy for an analysis at Hope Creek Care Center in Rock Island County to examine ways to reduce energy consumption. Other projects included 4 lighting replacements, 7 heating and air conditioning system replacements, 4 window/door replacements, and two insulation installations. The municipal utility in Geneseo replaced street lights with LED lights to improve energy efficiency. A minimum 25% match was required, and over \$140,000 locally was used to leverage the federal American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) funds. The largest award of \$111,065 went to the Village of Hampton for window replacements at Hampton School. The smallest award of \$4,390 went to Rock Island County for lighting and insulation upgrades at United Township High School. Through this effort, the cumulative totals of all projects resulted in 3,287 project hours, 12,866 estimated million Btu saved, and 831 estimated metric tons of CO₂ reduced. These totals certainly add up to national efforts to improve energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. DCEO and ILARC will be working to total regional figures statewide to report back to DOE.

In the Iowa Bi-State Region, similar funds were administered by the Iowa Office of Energy Independence through a competitive statewide program amounting to \$4 million in ARRA energy efficiency program. In both states, entitlement communities/counties received direct allocations of these funds.

Ms. Berkley stated that FEMA, in cooperation with both Illinois and Iowa, has undertaken initiatives to ensure the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) that delineate the floodplain and floodway throughout the states are as accurate as possible. Over the past several years, both Illinois and Iowa have taken the information from the original hydrology studies throughout the States and digitized the elevations into new FIRMs. All five counties in the Bi-State Region have adopted these new Digital FIRMs.

While undergoing the Digital FIRM process, the Illinois State Water Survey (ISWS) became aware of the discrepancies from county to county on how the floodplains were mapped. ISWS applied for FEMA funding to undergo a full hydrology study and remapping process of the Rock River. In December 2011, hydrology study results and a draft floodplain map were presented and made public at a meeting in Rock Island County. The draft flood map drastically increased the floodway, severely affecting the ability to develop land along the Rock River. Thousands of acres, including an industrial park in East Moline, parts of Henry County, and land along the Rock Island County/Whiteside County boarder are affected. Bi-State, in partnership with affected communities along the Rock River, created a joint letter stating the region's concerns with inaccuracies in mapping, mapping policies in place, and the entire mapping process. Because the draft map was made public, the economic development of any area that may be re-designated as floodway has already suffered as prospective businesses are not interested in land that may become undevelopable. A delegation of mayors, technical staff, Bi-State staff, economic development staff, and chamber staff met with ISWS, FEMA Region

V, Office of Water Resources, and Illinois legislatures to discuss the floodplain mapping concerns for the region. As a result, the draft map has been rescinded, and ISWS has agreed to work closer with technical staff before releasing any additional draft floodplain maps.

The larger challenge that will need to be faced is the policies in place to identify floodway versus floodplain. These policies are based on outdated technologies and take a very conservative and protective approach at a time when accuracy could not be achieved. Without the state updating the policies to allow for greater accuracy in delineating the floodway, much of the current floodplain along the Rock River will be re-designated as floodway. Bi-State will continue to be involved in the re-mapping process in Illinois and work with the state, technical staff from member governments, and Illinois legislatures. Bi-State strives to find the balance between protecting people and property from the hazards of flooding with the need for economic development to support the region.

The Iowa DNR is undergoing a similar remapping process throughout the state on a watershed-by-watershed basis. The hydrology studies are also being updated, starting in the northwest corner of the state. The floodplain mapping for Muscatine and Scott Counties is expected to take place in 2013 or 2014. Iowa has chosen not to map the floodways in their mapping process. Only the floodplain will be shown. Bi-State will continue to monitor the mapping of the floodplain in Iowa to ensure that our member governments are up to date on this process.

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

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Thodos', is written over a light gray rectangular background.

John Thodos
Secretary