

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

Wednesday, April 25, 2012, 3:30 p.m.
Scott County Administration Building
600 West Fourth Street
Davenport, Iowa

MEMBERS PRESENT: Minard – Vice Chair, Anderson, Bohnsack, Earnhardt, Gallagher, Gluba, Heiland, Heninger, Holmes, O’Boyle, Rockwell, Schloemer, Sherwin, Sunderbruch, Tank, Wells

MEMBERS ABSENT: Austin, Burrage, Fox, Goodwin, Gordon, Hopkins, Kelly, Lawrence, Liddell, Pauley, Rangel, Sorensen, Stoermer, Thodos, Tossell, Volz, Washburn, Welvaert

STAFF PRESENT: Bulat, Grabowski, Hunt, Melton

Vice-Chair Minard called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m.

1. Approval of the March 28, 2012 Minutes. Mayor Gluba moved to approve the minutes of March 28, 2012 as presented. Ms. Sherwin seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
2. Treasurer’s Report. Mr. Bohnsack presented the Treasurer’s Report for the month ending March 31, 2012, noting an ending total bank and book balance of \$612,593.79. Mr. Bohnsack moved the report be accepted as written and mailed. Mr. Rockwell seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
3. Finance and Personnel Committee.
 - a. Bills. Mr. Bohnsack presented the bills totaling \$22,437.41, as listed on the following bills listing and addendum dated April 25, 2012:

Bills List

Hurt, Norton & Associates, March 2012 legislative technical services (cost reimbursed by participating local governments)	\$ 7,750.00
Rock Island Police Department, MUNICES CORA reimbursement for Kyle Picha (Case #11-12519/11CR0775)	580.00

Addendum

Bancard Center, VISA charge card expenses related to Illinois Intergov meeting; Iowa DOT Commission meeting; RICWMA meeting supplies; 1 staff attending the Paratransit Eligibility Training; 1 staff attending the Moving Iowa Forward conference; 1 staff attending the Region 2 Transit Advisory Committee Spring conference; 1 staff attending the Community Development Block Grant Recipient workshop	3,604.52
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Louisa Ewert, Treasurer			6,512.95
05/2012	Rent	\$4,618.38	
05/2012	Internet Access	88.00	
03/12	Postage	1,376.07	
03-04/2012	Printing	370.53	
04/2012	Cell Phone	59.97	
GeoStats, updates and technical support for TravTime software			500.00
Thomas A. Skorepa, P.C., Administrative Hearing Officer services (cost reimbursed by MUNICES)			2,835.00
West Liberty Community School District, reimbursement regarding the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) grant			654.94

Mr. Bohnsack moved approval of the bills totaling \$22,437.41 as presented above.
Mr. Rockwell seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

- b. Report on Progress on Commission’s FY 2012 Program Budget as of March 31, 2012. Ms. Bulat explained the Program Budget Status Report was mailed in the agenda packet. The Commission is 75.0% through the fiscal year with 65.0% expended and within budget.
- c. Contracts/Grants for Consideration. Ms. Bulat presented the following contracts for the Commission to approve:
 - Contract with EDA and USDA for Rural Jobs & Innovation Challenge Grant up to \$500,000 (Match \$250,000) from EDA, up to \$215,000 (Match \$107,500) from USDA with matches to be paid by Henry County partners for the period 8/1/12-1/31/16.

Mayor Gluba made a motion to approve the contract, and Ms. Sherwin seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Presentation and Consideration of Resolutions supporting FY 2013 Urbanized Area and Region 9 Transportation Planning Work Programs, Authorizing Applications for Funding and Acceptance of Grants. Ms. Bulat presented information on Bi-State transportation planning efforts. Annually the Transportation Planning Work Program (TPWP) documents for the Quad Cities urban area and Region 9, serving rural Scott County and Muscatine County, are drafted to reflect staff activities for the coming fiscal year. The FY2013 TPWPs aid cooperative, continuing and comprehensive (3 “C”s) transportation planning. In the urban area, transportation planning has been in place since the mid-1960’s and in Region 9, since the mid-1990’s. The TPWPs include budgets for transportation planning short and long range activities and delineate federal, state and local funds. Activities include staffing transportation meetings, technical assistance such as grant writing and traffic studies/analysis, as well as the development of various modal plans and transportation funding programming.

In the Bi-State region, major transportation issues include:

- River Crossing and Transportation Capacity Improvements
- Air Quality Improvements and Congestion Management
- Long Range Planning & Implementation

- Passenger Transportation Coordination
- Integration of Safety and Security
- Planning for Changes in Transportation Planning with a future Reauthorization Act

With federal transportation appropriations, the total planning effort for urban transportation planning amounts to \$746,568 in the urban area and \$53,688 in Region 9. The urban program includes authorization to utilize remaining FY11 and FY12 Illinois State Comprehensive Regional Planning Funds for matching funds and the remainder for technical assistance and matching for a household travel survey grant. The Region 9 program utilizes \$5,000 in Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds to support transportation planning and technical assistance. Mayor Gluba made a motion to approve the resolutions to authorize applications of the federal planning grants and execute the respective grant contracts. Mr. Bohnsack seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Melton gave a presentation on air quality efforts in the region. The Bi-State Regional Commission has established itself as a region that cares about air quality. In continuance of this sentiment, Bi-State pursued a grant through the Alcoa Foundation to fund further air quality improvement activities. The application was accepted and Bi-State was awarded \$70,000 in late 2011 to implement the Clean Air Counts program.

The Clean Air Counts Program promotes voluntary emission reduction on an individual basis using the Make an Impact website. Make an Impact was developed by Alcoa and the Pew Research Center and was originally only made available to Alcoa employees. Now, through the Clean Air Counts program, everyone in the region is able to access the site (Alcoa.com/MakeAnImpact) and log in to the calculator tool by selecting the Bi-State Clean Air Partnership as a non-profit partner.

Mr. Melton has been facilitating the media outreach efforts for the program. He presented to the commission a 4-page news tab insert, one of two 30-second television advertisements, and the first of four radio advertisements. Web advertising is also included in the program's work plan.

Gena McCullough, Planning Director, and Mr. Melton recently staffed a booth at the Earth Week Fair (April 20th and 21st) sponsored by the Clean Air Counts program. The fair was attended by over 2,400 students on Friday alone. Both Bi-State staff members educated attendees the importance of clean air to public health.

5. Update on Economic Development Activities. Mr. Hunt provided a brief update on the status of the 2012 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Progress Report and other economic development related projects. He noted that the Commission would be receiving the CEDS project list and draft CEDS at the May meeting, and the final document would be brought for their approval in June.

Bi-State staff are currently working on the Rural Jobs and Innovation Challenge grant through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Economic Development Administration (EDA). The joint USDA/EDA program provides planning and technical assistance to qualified rural areas. Bi-State will act as the grant applicant and recipient on behalf of Henry County, rural Rock Island County, and Mercer County. It was noted that the CEDS planning process,

along with qualifying distress criteria, are required for the region to receive grants from the EDA.

Mr. Hunt closed by providing information of recent EDA projects that have been funded in the region in the past five years. The list of funded projects follows:

- Rock Island Ridgewood Sustainable Business Park (2011) \$1.5 mil. Federal
- Davenport Rail Port at Eastern Iowa Industrial Center (2010) \$5.1 mil. Federal
- Mercer/Muscatine RLF (2010) \$750K Federal
- East Moline Economic Development Plan (2009) \$50k Federal
- Moline RiverTech (2007) \$1 mil. Federal

Commissioners requested a status report on the EDA projects with the next economic development presentation.

6. Questions or Comments by Commissioners. Mr. Rockwell inquired about the status of the transportation bill and funding for the I-74 bridge. Ms. Bulat mentioned that while there are no earmarks expected in the next bill, the Senate bill included, there is a federal discretionary program for which the I-74 project could compete. Ms. Bulat went on to say that the State of Iowa had included funding for the project in 2016, but the State of Illinois had yet to approve funds for project construction.
7. Other Business. There was no other business
8. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:15 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