

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

Wednesday, May 23, 2012, 3:30 p.m.  
Scott County Administration Building  
600 West Fourth Street  
Davenport, Iowa

MEMBERS PRESENT: McDaniel – Chair, Earnhardt, Fox, Gluba, Goodwin, Gordon, Hopkins, Kelly, Lawrence, Liddell, Minard, O’Boyle, Rockwell, Schloemer, Sorensen, Sunderbruch, Tank, Thodos, Volz

MEMBERS ABSENT: Anderson, Austin, Bohnsack, Burrage, Gallagher, Heninger, Pauley, Rangel, Sherwin, Stoermer, Tossell, Washburn, Wells, Welvaert

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

Chair McDaniel called the meeting to order at 3:34 p.m.

1. Ratify actions taken at the April 25, 2012 meeting. Due to a lack of quorum at the April 25, 2012 meeting, Chair McDaniel asked for a motion to ratify the actions taken at the previous meeting. Mayor Thodos motioned to ratify previous actions. Ms. Kelly seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
2. Approval of the April 25, 2012 Minutes. Mayor O’Boyle moved to approve the minutes of April 25, 2012 as presented. Mayor Gluba seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
3. Treasurer’s Report. Ms. Kelly presented the Treasurer’s Report for the month ending April 30, 2012, noting an ending total bank and book balance of \$648,558.48. Ms. Kelly moved the report be accepted as written and mailed. Ms. Earnhardt seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
4. Finance and Personnel Committee.
  - a. Bills. Ms. Bulat presented the bills totaling \$151,725.48, as listed on the following bills listing and addendum dated May 23, 2012:

*Bills List*

CBS4 – Coronet Communications Co. (WHBF), ads to promote air quality (cost reimbursed by ALCOA grant)	\$ 1,350.00
Clear Channel Broadcasting, Inc., ads to promote air quality (cost reimbursed by ALCOA grant)	2,190.00
Cumulus Quad Cities, ads to promote air quality (cost reimbursed by ALCOA Grant)	1,200.00
City of East Moline, Municipal Code Enforcement System proceeds	10,395.74
Economic Modeling Specialists, Inc. (EMSI), subscription renewal for Economic Impact, Economic Forecaster, and County-level Data	6,995.00

Village of Milan, Municipal Code Enforcement System proceeds	872.99
City of Moline, Municipal Code Enforcement System proceeds	4,749.86
Moline Dispatch, ads to promote air quality (cost reimbursed by ALCOA grant)	2,287.60
Olderog Tire Service, Inc., maintenance on company cars	841.58
Quad-City Times, ads to promote air quality (cost reimbursed by ALCOA grant)	4,287.03
City of Rock Island, Municipal Code Enforcement System proceeds	89,040.99
Thomas A. Skorepa, P.C., Administrative Hearing Officer services (cost reimbursed by MUNICES)	2,275.00

Addendum

Bancard Center, VISA charge card expenses related to one staff attending IRA Awards meeting; two staff attending CDBG training in Des Moines; CEO/CAO Meeting (costs reimbursed by participants); one staff attending the “Comprehensive ADA Paratransit” meeting in Hartford, CT; one staff attending “Moving Iowa Forward” meeting in Des Moines.	1,802.73
Louisa Ewert, Treasurer	5,712.28
06/2012                    Rent            \$4,618.38	
06/2012            Internet Access            88.00	
04/12                    Postage            785.42	
04 & 05/2012            Printing            220.48	
Hewlett Packard, server and software costs	8,747.70
Hurt, Norton & Associates, April 2012 legislative technical service (cost reimbursed by participating member governments)	7,750.00
Institute of Public Affairs, CDBG training costs	603.48
RK Dixon, printing and professional fees	623.50

Ms. Kelly moved approval of the bills totaling \$151,725.48 as presented above.  
 Mr. Gordon seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

- b. Report on Progress on Commission’s FY 2012 Program Budget as of April 30, 2012. Ms. Bulat explained the Program Budget Status Report was mailed in the agenda packet. The Commission is 83.3% through the fiscal year with 71.8% expended and within budget.
- c. Contracts/Grants for Consideration. Ms. Bulat presented the following contract for the Commission to approve:
  - Contract with Illinois Department of Transportation for an Illinois Counties Evacuation Plan not to exceed \$50,000 for the period May 2012 through May 2014.

Mayor Thodos made a motion to approve the contract, and Mr. Minard seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- 5. Report on Tourism Activities. Mr. Taylor from Quad City Convention and Visitor's Bureau (QCCVB) gave Commissioners an overview of the past year's tourism activities in the Quad Cities. The QCCVB is governed by a board of directors with members representing each city from both Iowa and Illinois. The bureau is funded by 25% of hotel taxes from each municipality as well as state grants from Iowa and Illinois and memberships from local businesses. Hospitality is the third

largest industry in the Quad Cities, with incoming tourists having spent \$670 million dollars in goods and services in 2011. There are over 6,100 employees in hospitality, earning \$132 million dollars in wages last year. Also in 2011, tourists generated \$11 million in direct tax revenue.

From January to March 2012, hotel occupancy increased by 11% from last year. Mr. Taylor said that he believes the higher percentage is due to declining gas prices and "close-to-home affordability."

Summer 2012 brings visitors to attractions such as continuing trail development and the opening of the Bettendorf extension in May and the Credit Island bridge, the Heartland Jam Country Music Festival in July, and the Amateur Softball Association National Championship in August. Two big events for out-of-towners coming in the fall are the East West Riverfest arts festival in September and the Midwest Travel Writers Association even for travel journalists in October.

Other QCCVB statistics for 2012 so far include:

- Meetings and Conventions – 4,479 room nights generated, \$4,111,296 economic impact
- Group Tours – 5,459 room nights generated, \$1,360,912 economic impact
- Agriculture – 1,805 room nights generated, \$450,016 economic impact
- Sports – 20,112 room nights generated, \$15,927,468 economic impact

Mr. Taylor also told Commissioners about QCCVB's new website launching in summer 2012 with improved navigation, larger pictures, and better messaging.

Ms. Foes reported that Henry County Tourism Bureau (HCTB) is growing, with hotel tax up 10%. The Bishop Hill Visitor's Center building is being restored, and the Bishop Hill Heritage Association's Museum/Office received a "Save America's Treasure" grant to repair the steeple building. They also received an ITEP grant for the restoration of Bishop Hill's sidewalks.

A feasibility study is underway for the Renaissance Hennepin Canal to restore the locks to working order. The 100 miles of recreational trails are a big draw for HCTB, QCCVB, and Black Hawk Waterways CVB. Ms. Foes also said agritourism is growing with farmers markets open for the summer.

Some upcoming activities in Henry County include Andover Days, featuring a Velie car, the Walldogs in Kewanee, and a Harley Davidson rally schedule for July 10-14, 2013. Also, a new welcome center is planned to open in the newly renovated Amtrak station in Kewanee.

Ms. Shoppa from the Muscatine Convention and Visitor's Bureau (MCVB) reported Muscatine County ranked 18th in the State of Iowa for positive tourism effects in a local economy. She said the tourism industry is important because it imports money into an area that might have been spent elsewhere. Travel expenditures in Muscatine County topped \$66 million and generated \$770,000 in local tax receipts. Tourism in Muscatine County generates \$10.5 million in payroll and employs 670 people. The tourism industry generates millions in property taxes, supporting government operations and school districts.

Muscatine will have several tourist events in 2012 and 2013 including the Girl's State Soccer Tournament, F&L Promotions "Tractor Fest," Pilot Club Midwestern District Conference, Midwest Tool Collectors Association Women's Auxiliary, City of Hope Bass Tournament, and the Women's State Bowling Tournament.

6. Comprehensive Economic Development Progress Report (CEDS PR) Update. Mr. Hunt provided the commissioners with a review of the draft Bi-State Region Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Progress Report for 2012. Mr. Hunt began by explaining the CEDS process was required for the region to receive federal funding from the Economic Development Administration (EDA). He then continued by reviewing the main segments of the draft document, which consist of an analysis section, demographics section and a progress report. It was noted that the CEDS progress report now includes many more maps and photographs, as a way to improve the documents readability.

In covering the economic analysis, Mr. Hunt stated key economic indicators appear to show the region is in a gradual recovery. For the past fiscal year, the region's total labor force has declined, yet enrollment at community colleges is up, and unemployment is down. Total retail sales have increased and so has Gross Regional Product (GRP), which is the total value of all goods and services produced in the Metropolitan Statistical Area. Other economic and demographic data showed the region to have a growing, but aging population. New housing starts appear to be increasing for the first time in several years.

Mr. Hunt noted that the progress section provides examples of how the region worked toward its goals set in the full 2011 CEDS. Important accomplishments included the grand opening of Western Illinois University's new Quad Cities campus in Moline, IL and the expansion of Tennant Truck Lines in Colona, IL. Important projects underway include Kone Center in Moline and the Rail Transload Facility in Davenport, IA. Mr. Hunt noted that many other projects were listed in the tables provided at the end of the report.

Mr. Hunt closed by reviewing the region's recent EDA applications and funded projects including:

#### Recent Applications

- I-80 Gateway, Bettendorf – 8/11
- Bi-State Region Multimodal Study, BSRC – 8/11
- Triumph Foods Site, East Moline – 12/11
- Henry-Rural Rock Island-Mercer County Economic Development Consortium, BSRC – 5/12

#### Recently Funded EDA Projects

- Rock Island Ridgewood Sustainable Business Park (2011) \$1.5 million (Federal)
- Davenport Rail Port at Eastern Iowa Industrial Center (2010) \$5.1 million (Federal)
- Mercer/Muscatine RLF (2010) \$750,000 (Federal)
- East Moline Economic Development Plan (2009) \$50,000 (Federal)
- Moline RiverTech (2007) \$1 million (Federal)

7. Questions or Comments by Commissioners. Chair McDaniel invited Commissioners to Colona for their 42nd Annual Memorial Day Parade and festival.
8. Other Business. Ms. Bulat stated there will be a draft budget for adoption at the June meeting. Due to some changes required by the Economic Development Administration, the budget process has taken longer than in previous years. She also said that there will be no dues increase in the next fiscal year. Mr. Tank inquired about the progress of the I-74 bridge. Ms. Bulat said the Iowa DOT Director and Illinois DOT Secretary were meeting later in the week to discuss construction funding for the center section of the bridge. It is possible that a two-year transportation bill may be adopted before the next election.
9. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:25 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