

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

Wednesday, December 18, 2013, 3:30 p.m.  
Scott County Administration Building  
600 West Fourth Street  
Davenport, Iowa

MEMBERS PRESENT: Minard – Chair, Austin, Banaszek, Callaway-Thompson, Conrad, Earnhardt, Gluba, Hopkins, Kelly, Lawrence, Liddell, Raes, Schloemer, Sherwin, Sorensen, Sunderbruch, Tank, Terry, Thodos, Volz, Washburn, Wells

MEMBERS ABSENT: Anderson, Burrage, Crouch, Gallagher, Goodwin, Gordon, Heninger, Hillman, O’Boyle, Pauley, Rangel, Stoermer, Tossell

OTHERS PRESENT: Dean Moyer, Mayor, Village of Cordova; John Myers, Councilman, Village of Cordova; Sarah Bohnsack, Bohnsack & Frommelt; Ed Tibbets, Quad City Times

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

Chair Minard called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m. and asked for introductions of those present.

1. Approval of the November 20, 2013 Minutes. Mayor Gluba moved to approve the minutes of November 20, 2013 as presented. Ms. Earnhardt seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
2. Treasurer’s Report. Ms. Kelly presented the Treasurer’s Report for the month ending November 30, 2013, noting an ending total bank and book balance of \$475,314.26. Ms. Kelly moved the report be accepted as written and mailed. Ms. Earnhardt seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Chair Minard then recognized two members of the Commission whose terms had concluded. Ms. Burrage received a certificate for her two years of service, and Ms. Kelly received a certificate for her three years of service.

3. Finance and Personnel Committee.

- a. Bills. Mr. Austin presented the bills totaling \$126,926.95, as listed on the following bills listing and addendum dated December 18, 2013:

Bills List

Hurt, Norton & Associates, November 2013 legislative technical service (cost reimbursed by participating member governments)	7,750.00
Thomas A. Skorepa, P.C., Administrative Hearing Officer services (cost reimbursed by MUNICES)	3,675.00

Addendum

Bancard Center, VISA charge card expenses related to Quad City Riverfront Council meeting (cost reimbursed by participants); 5 licenses for Easy Projects.NET; 2 staff attending the Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting; 2 staff attending the Fundamentals of Project Management seminar; 1 staff attending the Washington DC trip; Managers & Administrators meeting; office supplies	4,244.03
Bohnsack & Frommelt, LLP, final billing for year-end audit for FY2013	4,000.00
Louisa Ewert, Treasurer	5,778.50
01/2014 Rent	\$4,618.38
01/2014 Internet Access	88.00
10/2013 Postage	892.30
11/2013 Cell Phone	179.82*
*(Partial costs reimbursed by HCEDP/Rural Accelerator Grant)	
Mel Foster Co., Inc., annual premium for Business Owner's Package, Auto Policy, Crime Policy, Umbrella Policy, Worker's Comp Policy, Professional Liability Policy and Employment Practices Liability	13,122.13
TH Enterprises, Inc., Regional Council Management System Software Agreement for 2014.	6,480.00
URS Corporation, Household Survey and Model Integration Project	54,877.29
Disbursements of funds for the following Revolving Loan Program Loan: Aceno Granite, LLC	27,000.00

Mr. Austin moved approval of the bills totaling \$126,926.95as presented above.  
 Ms. Kelly seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

- b. Report on Progress on Commission’s FY 2013 Program Budget as of November 30, 2013. Mr. Austin explained the Program Budget Status Report was mailed in members' packets. The Commission is 42% through the fiscal year with 39.6% expended and within budget.
- c. Contracts/Grants for Consideration. Ms. Bulat presented the following contracts for consideration by the Commission.
  - Contract with Strategic Development Group, Inc., not to exceed \$300,000 for consulting services on the QC M3 Innovation Hub Plan for the period January 1, 2014 through September 30, 2014. Mayor Thodos motioned to approve the contract as presented, and Ms. Sherwin seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
  - Contract extension with Davenport Schools for a Hazard Mitigation Plan to increase the amount to \$10,000 and extend the end date to September 30, 2014. Ms. Kelly motioned to approve the contract as presented, and Ms. Earnhardt seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- d. Consideration of a Recommendation to Accept the Financial and Compliance Report for the year ended June 30, 2013. Mr. Austin stated the Finance and Personnel Committee received a detailed audit presentation and are recommending approval of the audit report. He reported that Bohnsack and Frommelt stated that Bi-State complied with all laws,

regulations, contracts, and grants. The Commission once again received the highest audit opinion, an unmodified opinion "Clean Audit" with no findings or questions.

Mr. Austin made a motion to accept the Finance and Compliance Report for the year ended June 30, 2013. Mayor Thodos seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

e. Consideration to Renew the Executive Director's Annual Employment Agreement.

Mr. Austin reported evaluation forms were sent to Commissioners and member government officials, with Ms. Bulat receiving high marks by those who responded. Mr. Austin stated the Finance and Personnel Committee recommended the Executive Director's employment contract be renewed for the year November 1, 2013 – November 1, 2014, with a 1.0% merit increase.

Mr. Austin made a motion to renew the Executive Director's annual employment agreement with a 1.0% merit increase. Mayor Thodos seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

4. Status of Passenger Rail in Iowa. Ms. McCullough introduced Tammy Nicholson, Office of Rail Transportation Director with the Iowa Department of Transportation, who joined the meeting over the phone. Ms. Nicholson provided an update on the cost of implementing passenger rail service from Chicago to Iowa City based on the completion of an analysis by HDR consultants released in early December. She noted that there is a joint effort between Iowa and Illinois to implement rail service between Chicago and Iowa City. Phase I of the effort is 79 mph service with two round trips daily between Chicago and the Quad Cities. Phase II is the extension of that service to Iowa City.

In Phase I, Chicago to Quad Cities has 30% engineering completed and in the process of procuring rolling stock and establishing construction, maintenance, and service agreements between the appropriate responsible parties. Additional efforts to develop stations in Geneseo and Moline are in progress. Illinois DOT is tentatively scheduled to present at the next Commission meeting with a more detailed status on Phase I.

Ms. Nicholson went on to explain that in Phase II, the IADOT has completed the conceptual engineering work, environmental analysis, ridership and revenue forecasts and developed new cost estimates based on this work. The revised cost of the effort is now estimated at \$125 million. In 2010, both DOTs submitted a grant to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and were awarded \$230 million. Of this, \$177 million has been committed to Illinois for Phase I and \$53 million has been committed to Iowa for Phase II. Based on the revised costs for Phase II, it is anticipated that Iowa will need \$72 million in matching funds. This is up substantially from the original \$21 million anticipated. Major changes affecting these increases are:

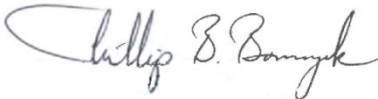
- Increased construction costs due to project delay
- Need for additional infrastructure to accommodate current and future growth on Iowa Interstate Railroad
- Changes in FRA policy requiring the project be constructed for a 20-year life
- Reduced grant award from the original grant to Iowa

Ms. Nicholson did say that on the positive side, it is estimated the net operating subsidy would be lower based on the incremental share of the Quad Cities-Iowa City portion of the route, which is estimated at \$600,000 annually pending negotiations with Illinois. The original estimate was \$3 million annually.

She concluded her presentation by saying that the next steps to move the project forward would be to conduct preliminary engineering and additional environmental work. Without a commitment from the State, the \$53 million in FRA funds is at risk of being withdrawn. Following discussion, Commissioners voted to direct staff to prepare a letter to the Governor and copied to legislators reiterating the Commission's support for passenger rail and encouraging legislative action in the 2014 session to secure the \$53 million in Federal Railroad Administration funding.

5. Questions or Comments by Commissioners. There were no additional questions or comments by Commissioners.
6. Other Business. There was no other business.
7. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Phillip Banaszek  
Secretary