

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

Wednesday, January 22, 2014, 3:30 p.m.  
Scott County Administration Building  
600 West Fourth Street  
Davenport, Iowa

MEMBERS PRESENT: Minard – Chair, Austin, Banaszek, Callaway-Thompson, Conrad, Earnhardt, Furlong, Gordon, Heninger, Hopkins, Howard, Lawrence, Liddell, O’Boyle, Raes, Rangel, Schloemer, Sherwin, Stoermer, Sunderbruch, Thodos, Volz, Wells

MEMBERS ABSENT: Anderson, Crouch, Gallagher, Gluba, Goodwin, Hillman, Pauley, Tank, Tossell, Washburn

OTHERS PRESENT: Joe Shacter and Scott Speegle, Illinois Department of Transportation; Bill Takakoshi, Hurt, Norton & Associates; Dawn Neuses, Moline Dispatch/Rock Island Argus; Jaawan Arrington, WQAD-TV

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

Chair Minard called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m. Chair Minard welcomed new Commissioners Bob Howard and Tom Furlong representing Muscatine County.

1. Approval of the December 18, 2013 Minutes. Mayor Thodos moved to approve the minutes of December 18, 2013 as presented. Mr. Banaszek seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
2. Treasurer’s Report. Mr. Austin presented the Treasurer’s Report for the month ending December 31, 2013, noting an ending total bank and book balance of \$425,258.53. Mr. Austin moved the report be accepted as written and mailed. Mr. Furlong seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
3. Finance and Personnel Committee.
  - a. Bills. Mr. Austin presented the bills totaling \$62,596.79, as listed on the following bills listing and addendum dated January 22, 2014:

Bills List

Hurt, Norton & Associates, December 2013 legislative technical service (cost reimbursed by participating member governments)	\$ 7,750.00
Infogroup, web-based access to business database annual license	2,100.00
Thomas A. Skorepa, P.C., Administrative Hearing Officer services (cost reimbursed by MUNICES)	3,010.00

Addendum

Bancard Center, VISA charge card expenses related to 2 staff attending the Iowa Bicycle Summit; Inspiron 15R and Inspiron 15 Notebook (Staff Computer Purchase Program); Chief Administrators & Chief Elected Officials mtg (cost reimbursed by participants); 2014 Membership Dues for Institute of Transportation Engineers; phone bill; 2 staff attending the Fundamentals of Project Management; office supplies	5,497.55
Louisa Ewert, Treasurer	5,472.31
02/2014                      Rent              \$4,618.38	
02/2014              Internet Access              88.00	
12/2013                      Postage              520.31	
12/2013                      Supplies              65.80	
12/2013                      Cell Phone              179.82*	
*(Partial costs reimbursed by HCEDP/Rural Accelerator Grant)	
MindMixer, 3-month service agreement for the Long Range Plan and Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (reimbursed by EDA & DOT grants)	4,050.00
Strategic Development Group, Inc., Innovation Hub Research (reimbursed by EDA grant)	31,550.00
URS Corporation, Household Survey and Model Integration Project (reimbursed by Air Quality grants)	3,166.93

Mr. Austin moved approval of the bills totaling \$62,596.79 as presented above. Mayor Thodos seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

- b. Report on Progress on Commission’s FY 2013 Program Budget as of December 31, 2013. Mr. Austin explained the Program Budget Status Report was mailed in members' packets. The Commission is 50% through the fiscal year with 47.0% expended and within budget.
  - c. Contracts/Grants for Consideration. There were no contracts for Commission approval.
4. Executive Committee.
- a. Election of Officers. Chair Minard reported the Executive Committee, serving as the Nominating Committee, met January 22, 2013 to recommend a slate of officers for consideration to the full Commission. The following slate of officers for 2014-2015 was presented to the Commission for approval:
    - Chair – Larry Minard, Chair, Scott County Board of Supervisors
    - Vice Chair – John Thodos, Mayor, City of East Moline
    - Secretary – Phillip Banaszek, Chair, Rock Island County Board
    - Treasurer – Marty O'Boyle, Mayor, City of Eldridge
- Chair Minard called for nominations from the floor, and none were received. Mr. Austin motioned to approve the slate of officers, and Mayor Thodos seconded. The motion passed unanimously by the Commission.
5. Status of Passenger Rail in Illinois. Mr. Shacter, Director of Public and Intermodal Transportation at the Illinois Department of Transportation, gave a status report on implementing passenger rail service from Chicago to Quad Cities. He provided an update based on the status of engineering

to date. Phase I of the effort is 79 mph service with two round trips daily (four trains per day) between Chicago and the Quad Cities. Intermediate stops are planned for La Grange, Naperville, Plano, Mendota, Princeton and Geneseo. Phase II is the extension of that service to Iowa City, which will depend on how the State of Iowa proceeds.

Mr. Shacter reiterated that Phase I - Chicago to Quad Cities has 30% engineering completed and procurement of rolling stock is underway as well as establishing construction, maintenance and service agreements between the appropriate responsible parties. Key project partners include the Federal Railroad Administration, Amtrak, Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) and Illinois Commerce Commission, among some of the stakeholders. The DOT is working with the ICC on rail signals and gates at crossing. Analysis also includes structure and rail diagnostics for determine existing conditions. Additional efforts to develop stations in Geneseo and Moline are in progress.

In 2010, both DOTs submitted a grant to the Federal Railroad Administration 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, it is anticipated that Illinois will need \$78 million to match the project, up from \$45 million. A layover facility will need to be included in the Illinois project since there has been no decision to move forward by Iowa. Between Rock Island and Silvis, a second mainline is being added as well as other sidings, signaling and positive train control.

Mr. Shacter indicated that the project completion goal is late 2015. The ILDOT will have a more definitive timeline within a few months.

6. Rock Island Arsenal Legislative Update. Mr. Takakoshi presented information on legislative efforts and issues related to the Rock Island Arsenal. Hurt, Norton and Associates, Inc. has been working for the Quad Cities Area on Arsenal issues since 1998 and has assisted with many legislative issues amounting to over \$100 million in accomplishments.

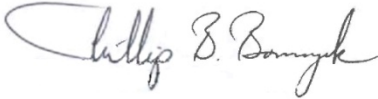
Mr. Takakoshi recommended thanking the legislators that serve the Bi-State Region and their staff for the items that support the Arsenal in the FY 2014 Omnibus appropriations bill and the FY 2014 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). The knowledge of funding levels over 2014 (\$520 billion) and 2015 (\$521 billion) allows the Department of Defense to plan as opposed to dealing with continuing resolutions. In addition, \$150 million was provided for Industrial Mobilization Capacity for arsenals in the United States. However, a 20% cut to all Army headquarters was announced months ago. It is not known what will make up the 20% cut, but likely all segments of the Army will be touched, and these cuts will impact employment on the island.

Mr. Takakoshi the importance of Senator Durbin's position as Chairman of the Senate Defense Subcommittee. This position has been key historically in the Pentagon, and the senator's knowledge of the Arsenal will be helpful. He noted Congressman Loeb sack is on the House Armed Services Committee. Representative Frelinghuysen of New Jersey was recently appointed Chairman of the House Defense Subcommittee. Representative Frelinghuysen represents Picatinny, New Jersey and has been a champion of the Picatinny Arsenal. This change makes Senator Durbin's position even more important to balance Department of Defense decisions.

The Arsenal Support Program Initiative (ASPI) promotes the commercial use of underutilized capacity at arsenal facilities by partnering with private sector partners. The program is sunsetting so companion language is needed to maintain the existing partnerships leasing space on the Arsenal. He also noted the Rock Island Arsenal Joint Manufacturing & Technology Center is important to protecting the Island from Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) because the factory would be difficult to move to another location. However, he does not believe a BRAC will occur until 2017 following the 2016 presidential election.

7. Questions or Comments by Commissioners. There were no additional questions or comments by Commissioners.
8. Other Business. Chair Minard recognized three members of the Commission whose terms had concluded. Ms. Rangel received a certificate for her 34 years of service, Mr. Jeff Sorensen received a certificate for his two years of service, and Mr. Scott Terry received a certificate for his one year of service.
9. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Phillip Banaszek  
Secretary