

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

Wednesday, March 26, 2014, 3:30 p.m.  
Scott County Administration Building  
600 West Fourth Street  
Davenport, Iowa

MEMBERS PRESENT: Thodos – Vice-Chair, Austin, Callaway-Thompson, Conrad, Earnhardt, Furlong, Gluba, Goodwin, Gordon, Hillman, Howard, Lawrence, Meeker, Newton-Butt, O’Boyle, Pauley, Schloemer, Sunderbruch, Tank, Volz, Washburn, Wells

MEMBERS ABSENT: Anderson, Banaszek, Crouch, Gallagher, Heninger, Hopkins, Liddell, Minard, Raes, Sherwin, Stoermer, Tossell

OTHERS PRESENT: Dawn Neuses, Moline Dispatch/Rock Island Argus; Ed Tibbets, Quad City Times; Jenna Morton, WQAD

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

Vice-Chair Thodos called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m.

1. Approval of the February 26, 2014 Minutes. Mr. Austin moved to approve the minutes of February 26, 2014 as presented. Mayor Gluba seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
2. Treasurer’s Report. Mayor O’Boyle presented the Treasurer’s Report for the month ending February 28, 2014, noting an ending total bank and book balance of \$667,904.64. Mayor O’Boyle moved the report be accepted as written and mailed. Ms. Earnhardt seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
3. Finance and Personnel Committee.
  - a. Bills. Mr. Austin presented the bills totaling \$132,500.18, as listed on the following bills listing and addendum dated March 26, 2014:

*Bills List*

Hurt, Norton & Associates, February 2014 legislative technical service (cost reimbursed by participating member governments)	\$ 7,750.00
City of Rock Island, Municipal Code Enforcement System proceeds	36,572.09
Thomas A. Skorepa, P.C., Administrative Hearing Officer services (cost reimbursed by MUNICES)	3,325.00

Addendum

Bancard Center, VISA charge card expenses related to 2 staff attending the Illinois Bike Summit; Chief Elected and Chief Administrative Officials meeting (cost reimbursed by participants); Iowa and Illinois Intergov meetings; company car maintenance; 1 staff attending the Iowa Public Transit Association & DC Legislative meeting; web hosting; office supplies	2,519.18
Louisa Ewert, Treasurer	5,867.90
04/2014                      Rent	\$4,618.38
04/2014              Internet Access	88.00
02/2014                      Postage	491.87
09/2013-02/2014      Printer Paper	296.21
02/2014                      Supplies	193.35*
02/2014                      Cell Phone	180.09*
*(Partial costs reimbursed by HCEDP/Rural Accelerator Grant)	
Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce, Denise Bulat DC trip;	2,100.00
Quad Cities Legislative Days in Des Moines attended by Mark Hunt	
Strategic Development Group, Inc., Innovation Hub Research	49,602.03
(reimbursed by EDA grant)	
URS Corporation, Household Survey and Model Integration Project	24,763.98
(reimbursed by Air Quality grants)	

Mr. Austin moved approval of the bills totaling \$132,500.18 as presented above.

Mr. Wells seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

b. Report on Progress on Commission’s FY 2013-14 Program Budget as of February 28, 2014.

Mr. Austin explained the Program Budget Status Report was mailed in members' packets. The Commission is 67% through the fiscal year with 63.0% expended and within budget.

c. Contracts/Grants for Consideration. There were no contracts for Commission approval.

4. Key Project Updates: I-74 Bridge Corridor, Ozone Standard Reconsideration, and Regional Freight Plan. Ms. Bulat updated the Commission on the schedule for the I-74 Mississippi River Corridor project.

*Current Schedule:*

- Final Design Complete: 2014
- Iowa Right of Way (ROW) and Demolition Complete: 2014
- Bettendorf/Moline Central Business District Project Construction: 2015/16
- Illinois ROW and Demolition: 2010-2016
- Final Construction: 2018-2021\*

\*(Central Bridge Section from bluff to bluff to begin no later than calendar year 2017.)

*Economic Effects:*

- \$88+ million federal funding received
- Potential for discretionary federal funds
- Create/retain up to 1,137 construction jobs/643 induced jobs (may change with accelerated construction)
- A total of 9 construction contracts are anticipated plus specialty contracts

*Accelerated Construction/Innovative Delivery/Value Engineering:*

- Maintains costs and reduces traffic disruption
- Construction period reduced from 8 to 4 years or less
- Reconstructed I-74 Bridge will have increased protection for seismic occurrences and barge collisions
- I-74 Bridge replacement is being engineered to last 75 to 100 years

*Freight Effects:*

- Provides redundancy for I-80/280 Mississippi River Crossing
- Most reliable Mississippi River Crossing in the Iowa/Illinois, once complete
- Full shoulders help improve travel reliability during traffic incidents
- Part of the National Highway System and National Freight Network

*Multi-Modal Aspects:*

- Includes multi-purpose trail for bicyclists and pedestrians
- Provides direct access to the Quad Cities International Airport and Passenger Rail Station

Ms. Bulat then reported the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is undertaking a reconsideration of the 2008 National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for ozone in the range of 0.070 to 0.060 parts per million (ppm). EPA's proposed range would result in a large portion of the United States being classified as nonattainment. Lowering the 0.075 ppm standard to the lower end of the proposed range of 0.060 ppm would result in almost tripling the number of counties being designated in non-attainment in the U.S. The National Association of Counties (NACO) has determined that 96% and 76% of current monitors would fail at the 0.060 and 0.070 ppm standards, respectively (compared to 48% at the 0.075 ppm standard). All monitored areas in Iowa and Illinois would be classified as non-attainment if the 0.060 ppm standard were adopted. All but six of the 51 monitors in Iowa and Illinois would be in non-attainment at a standard of 0.065 ppm.

Ms. Bulat noted few of the total U.S. counties are monitored. Locations without monitors such as smaller urban and rural areas, would continue to be able to attract businesses and industries following the change in the standard. The existence of monitors themselves creates a system of advantaged and disadvantaged communities, counties, and states.

Biogenic sources of ozone and its precursors should be examined because plants give off volatile organic compounds (VOCs), which is a precursor to ozone. Agricultural fields in very rural areas are reading in non-attainment. With the Midwest as one of the world's greatest sources of food crop production, the very nature of this agricultural role may be contributing to the region's higher background ozone levels.

Ms. Bulat reported that air emission reductions have been occurring in the U.S. Significant progress has been made in reducing ozone levels and improving air quality in general. Between 1980 and 2012, total emissions in tons of the six principal air pollutants dropped by over 65% and measured ambient concentrations of ozone dropped 25% since 1980 (see <http://www.epa.gov/airtrends/aqtrends.html>). In addition, Tier 3 vehicle emission and fuel standards will take effect in 2017 and will achieve significant reductions in air emissions through cleaner fuels and vehicles. These federal level programs have a greater potential to improve air quality in the nation.

Ms. Bulat concluded by saying that Bi-State Region local governments have demonstrated their commitment to clean air and the protection of health. The Bi-State Region will continue to educate the public and encourage voluntary measures of local governments, businesses, and individuals to improve air quality, similar to efforts that have been established over the past 10 years for ozone through the Bi-State Air Quality Task Force. Activities have included: “Aware of Air” brochure development and dissemination, alternative fuels workshop, teacher training workshop, travel demand management information, newspaper advertisements, the development of a voluntary ozone flex plan, CNG buses and biodiesel buses, trip chaining television advertisements, public and private employer outreach projects and meetings, QC Transit web portal development, transit marketing and ambassador program and fair, a “Make Indoor Air Quality Visible” campaign, and the Alcoa “Make an Impact” campaign. An area-wide pledge program to commit to projects and activities that improve air quality was launched in 2010.

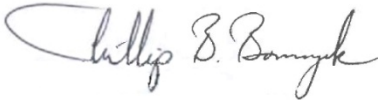
5. Kick-off of CEDS Progress Report 2014. Mr. Hunt, Economic Development/Public Safety Manager at Bi-State Regional Commission, provided a brief update on the status of the 2014 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Progress Report. Mr. Hunt began by noting that over the past seven years, EDA funding had accounted for \$8.7 million in federal investment across the Bi-State Region and \$17 million when local match is included. He noted that the CEDS process was a key component in making the region eligible for EDA funds. The CEDS is updated annually and fully redeveloped every five years. The strategy must be completed for the region to receive federal funds from the Economic Development Administration (EDA). The EDA has partnered in funding several projects over the past years as shown below.

- Bi-State Regional Commission/QC Chamber Innovation Hub Plan, \$162k Federal
- Henry-Rural Rock Island-Mercer County Economic Development Consortium (2012), \$195k Federal
- 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

The CEDS also serves as a unifying economic development strategy that broadly incorporates goals and projects from across the region. Annual updates track the progress of these goals and projects. Bi-State staff will bring a final draft of the 2014 CEDS Progress Report to the Commission in May for approval. New for this year's CEDS will be a ramped up public input process, including public meetings and a web-based social media software called MindMixer. MindMixer will allow citizens to discuss regional economic development topics at their convenience via computer, smart phone or tablet. If MindMixer is successful, Bi-State staff may utilize it more fully in the 2016 CEDS update.

6. Questions or Comments by Commissioners. There were no additional questions or comments by Commissioners.
7. Other Business. There was no other business.
8. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Phillip B. Banaszek".

Phillip Banaszek  
Secretary