

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

Wednesday, February 25, 2015, 3:30 p.m.  
Scott County Administration Building  
600 West Fourth Street  
Davenport, Iowa

MEMBERS PRESENT: Thodos – Chair, Austin, Callaway-Thompson, Earnhardt, Goodwin, Gradert, Kelly, Lawrence, Liddell, Maranda, O’Boyle, Pauley, Raes, Schloemer, Sherwin, Sunderbruch, Tank, Terry, Volz, Washburn

MEMBERS ABSENT: Anderson, Gallagher, Gluba, Gordon, Heninger, Hillman, Holmes, Holst, Hopkins, Howard, Meeker, Newton-Butt, Stoermer, Tossell, Williams

OTHERS PRESENT: Amber Wood, Executive Director, American Red Cross

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

Chair Thodos called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

1. Approval of the January 28, 2015 Minutes. Mr. Austin moved to approve the minutes of January 28, 2015 as presented. Mayor Pauley seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
2. Treasurer’s Report. Mayor O’Boyle presented the Treasurer’s Report for the month ending January 31, 2015, noting an ending total bank and book balance of \$523,512.13. 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 \$448,485.60, as listed on the following bills listing and addendum dated February 25, 2015:

*Bills List*

Blackhawk Bank & Trust, VISA charge card expenses related to Washington, DC Trip (costs will be credited due to trip cancellation); Intergov meetings; Illinois Department of Transportation meeting; Chief Elected Officials & Chief Administrative Officials meeting (cost reimbursed by participants); 3 staff attending the Iowa Bike Summit; 1 staff attending the Washington, DC legislative meeting; 1 staff attending the Adobe Photoshop training; company vehicle repairs; office supplies	\$ 6,905.35
Hurt, Norton & Associates, January 2015 legislative technical service (cost reimbursed by participating member governments)	7,750.00

Addendum

Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. (esri), ArcGIS software and maintenance service				5,164.05
Rock Island County Treasurer				5,666.20
03/2015	Rent	\$4,618.38		
03/2015	Internet Access	88.00		
01/2015	Postage	779.61		
01/2015	Cell Phone	180.21*		
*(Partial costs reimbursed by HCEDP/Rural Accelerator Grant)				
Disbursement of funds for the following Bi-State Revolving Loan Fund Loan:				
Batten Preservation				45,000.00
Disbursement of funds for the following Mercer-Muscatine Revolving Loan Fund Loan contingent upon Loan Fund board approval:				
Shirt Tales, Inc.				20,000.00
The Stanley Hotel & Convention Center				358,000.00

Mr. Austin asked for an overview of the RLF disbursement of funds, which Ms. Bulat provided. Mr. Austin moved approval of the bills totaling \$448,485.60 as presented above. Mayor Pauley seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

- b. Contracts/Grants for Consideration. Ms. Bulat presented the following amendment to an existing contracts for consideration.

- Amend contract with Hurt, Norton & Associates, Inc. to add promotion of the Rock Island Arsenal (to be paid by local government participants). The contract is in the amount not to exceed \$25,000 and the period of the contract is December 1, 2014 to November 30, 2015.

Mr. Austin moved approval of the contract amendment as presented above. Ms. Earnhardt seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

4. Red Cross Update: Building Strategic Community Partnerships for Resilient Communities. Ms. Wood informed Commissioners that the American Red Cross has reorganized, and our region is now part of the Central and Southern Illinois Region., which has 6 offices spanning 79 counties in Illinois, Iowa, and Missouri and serves over 3 million people. Ms. Wood now heads the Quad Cities and West Central Illinois section of this region.

The Red Cross is beginning a new Strategic Community Relationships Campaign with the following objectives:

1. Ensure effective collaboration and efficient delivery of Red Cross emergency services in the Central and Southern Illinois Region during times of disaster by cultivating and nurturing relationships and mutual expectations with the key leaders in all 79 counties
2. Develop Long Term Recovery Plans in our region that nurture sustainability, service, and growth for the communities

Ms. Wood explained that the approach for the campaign will involve meeting with sheriff's departments, county and local elected officials, and public health organizations to conduct surveys and determine the existing disaster services in the Central and Southern Illinois Region. The "Tool Kit," which includes the survey, was created following the Washington, Illinois tornados based on information that would have been helpful to have collected prior to the

tornados. The information collected will help all organizations that aid in response and recovery understand each other's roles. The information collected would also be shared with key leader in every county such as schools, banks, and churches, and a master file would be created.

Ms. Wood will meet first with counties in the Bi-State Region and will begin with sharing the intent of the process with local government managers and administrators. The intent of Red Cross is to influence long term recovery using the Strategic Community Relationship Campaign. She emphasized that the core strength of Red Cross is to provide, through caring volunteers, an immediate first response after a disaster for people to receive free of charge, including food, shelter, clothing, assistance in refilling life-sustaining medication, and counseling services.

5. Update on Bi-State Region Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2015 Progress Report. Ms. Berkley provided an update on the *2015 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Progress Report*. The Gross Regional Product was up to \$19.4 million in 2013, which is the most recent data available. Retail sales have been flat when adjusted for inflation. Unemployment is down, but the workforce is also shrinking. According to modeling software EMSI, overall jobs are projected to grow 1%, with Management of Companies and Enterprises, Finance and Insurance, and Health Care and Social Assistance being the sectors with the largest growth.

Ms. Berkley gave a brief outline of the Opportunities and Threats section which discusses the following themes: Arsenal, Infrastructure, Fiscal Matters, Housing, Education and Workforce Training, Environment, Cultural, and Planning and Programs. Some major topics to watch are the potential for another Base and Realignment Commission (BRAC) that could impact the Arsenal; the I-74 bridge project; passenger rail; Mississippi River marine highway designation; funding for highway projects at the state and federal level; a decrease in net farm income leveling to more tempered averages; two Enterprise Zone applications submitted in Illinois, minimum wage increase discussion in both states; federal and state budgets; the National Geographic Mississippi River geotourism project; and Ozone standard changes.

Ms. Berkley stated that additional topics are discussed in the report in more detail. She also mentioned that not every community has turned in their economic development projects to include in the report. Bi-State staff will provide a draft of the 2015 CEDS Progress Report to the Commission in March for review and a final draft in April for approval.

6. Questions or Comments by Commissioners. There were no questions or comments by Commissioners.
7. Other Business. There was no other business
8. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kimberly Callaway-Thompson  
Secretary