

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

Wednesday, April 22, 2015, 3:30 p.m.  
Scott County Administration Building  
600 West Fourth Street  
Davenport, Iowa

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Thodos –Chair, Austin, Callaway-Thompson, Earnhardt, Gluba, Gordon, Heninger, Holmes, Holst, Hopkins, Howard, Kelly, Lawrence, Liddell, Maranda, Meeker, Newton-Butt, O’Boyle, Raes, Schloemer, Sherwin, Stoermer, Sunderbruch, Terry, Volz, Washburn

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Anderson, Gallagher, Gradert, Hillman, Pauley, Tank, Tossell, Williams

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Tom Heinold, Deputy Chief, Operations Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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

Chair Thodos called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m.

1. Approval of the March 25, 2015 Minutes. Mayor Gluba moved to approve the minutes of March 25, 2015 as presented. Mr. Maranda seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
2. Treasurer’s Report. Mayor O’Boyle presented the Treasurer’s Report for the month ending March 31, 2015, noting an ending total bank and book balance of \$707,350.76. Mayor O’Boyle moved the report be accepted as written and mailed. Mr. Howard seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
3. Finance and Personnel Committee.
  - a. Bills. Mr. Austin presented the bills totaling \$81,999.70, as listed on the following bills listing and addendum dated April 22, 2015:

Bills List

Thomas A. Skorepa, P.C., Administrative Hearing Officer services (cost reimbursed by MUNICES)	\$ 2,660.00
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Addendum

Blackhawk Bank & Trust, VISA charge card expenses related to Iowa Intergov Meeting (costs reimbursed by participants); Iowa Association of Regional Councils meeting; Managers & Administrators Committee meeting (costs reimbursed by participants); 1 staff Attending the 2015 Iowa Geographic Information Council Biennial Conference; 1 staff attending an Excel Workshop; 3 staff attending the Introduction to Planning & Zoning Workshops; office supplies	4,997.23
City of East Moline, Municipal Code Enforcement System proceeds	4,933.47

Hurt, Norton & Associates, March 2015 legislative technical service and Professional Media Services (cost reimbursed by participating member governments)	9,750.00
City of Moline, Municipal Code Enforcement System proceeds	2,136.60
City of Rock Island, Municipal Code Enforcement System proceeds	51,800.04
Rock Island County Treasurer	5,722.36
05/2015 Rent	\$4,618.38
05/2015 Internet Access	88.00
03/2015 Postage	779.61
03/2015 Supplies	122.64
03/2015 Cell Phone	113.73*

\*(Partial costs reimbursed by HCEDP/Rural Accelerator Grant)

Mr. Austin moved approval of the bills totaling \$81,999.70 as presented above. Mr. Gordon seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

- b. Report on Progress on Commission’s FY 2014-15 Program Budget as of March 31, 2015. Mr. Austin explained the Program Budget Status Report was mailed in members' packets. The Commission is 75% through the fiscal year with 72.7% expended and within budget.
  - c. Contracts/Grants for Consideration. There were no contracts or grants for consideration.
4. Presentation and Consideration of Resolutions Supporting the FY2016 Quad Cities and Region 9 Transportation Work Planning Programs (TPWPs). Ms. McCullough explained that prior to the Bi-State Regional Commission budgeting process, staff annually prepares the Transportation Planning Work Programs (TPWP) for the Quad Cities metropolitan planning area (MPA) and Region 9, serving rural Scott and Muscatine Counties. The work programs reflect staff work tasks/activities for the upcoming fiscal year.

The TPWPs include budgets for transportation planning short and long-range activities and delineate federal, state, and local planning funds. Activities include staffing transportation meetings, technical assistance, such as grant writing and traffic or trail studies/analysis, as well as the development of various modal plans and transportation funding programming. As an example, \$5.1 million dollars was programmed to roadway projects in the Quad Cities and Region 9 during the current fiscal year.

In the Bi-State Region, major transportation efforts furthered by these federal planning dollars include:

- Improve River Crossing Capacity
- Reduce Congestion and Improve Mobility Choices
- Coordinate Modes for Sustainability
- Implement Long-Range Projects and Develop Long-Range Plans
- Coordinate Passenger Transportation Opportunities
- Integrate Safety and Security
- Implement New Planning Regulations (Performance Measures, Transportation Alternatives) and Monitor Transportation Act Reauthorization

Ms. McCullough noted the total planning effort for urban transportation planning amounts to \$830,321 in the urban area and \$61,582 in Region 9. The Region 9 program utilizes \$10,000 in local Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds to support the planning effort.

Mr. Howard moved approval of the resolutions to authorize application of the federal planning grants and execute the respective grant agreements as presented. Mr. Schloemer seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

5. Bi-State Region Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) 2015 Progress Report Final Presentation and Consideration of Resolution. Ms. Bulat presented the final draft of the *Bi-State Region Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) 2015 Progress Report*. She highlighted items from sections of the document, including the progress on goals, data/demographics, analysis on current economic conditions, and a projects list from the Bi-State Region.

She noted that the CEDS progress reports are produced in interim years with a full plan created every five years, as required to receive federal funds. Bi-State Region governments and development organizations self-reported 66 economic development related projects completed between July 1, 2014 and April 2015. Projects in the list included sewer, water, roads, housing, and business expansions that had public assistance of some kind. The estimated jobs created was 469 with 882 retained jobs and a total of \$234 million in investment.

The top three business expansions since July 1, 2014 were Heinz in Muscatine with 130 jobs created; Hill & Valley Inc. in Rock Island with 25 jobs created and 150 retained; and Bridgestone Bandag in Muscatine with 138 jobs retained. The top three losses in the same time period were John Deere in the Quad Cities with 545 jobs lost; Jacobson Warehouse in Rock Island with 137 jobs lost; and Country Stone in Rock Island with 74 jobs lost.

Ms. Kelly motioned to approve a resolution to adopt the 2015 CEDS Progress Report. Mayor Gluba seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. The report will be submitted to the Economic Development Administration.

6. Update from the Corps of Engineers on the Upper Mississippi River Navigation System. Mr. Heinhold spoke on the challenges and opportunities for maintaining and improving the infrastructure on the Mississippi River. On the 1,200 mile Mississippi River navigation system, there are 37 lock sites predominately built between 1930 and 1945. Aging and decaying infrastructure coupled with limited federal appropriations presents a number of challenges in maintaining this vital marine highway system.

The Upper Mississippi River (UMR) carries more than 600 million tons of cargo each year. With the completion of improvements to the Panama Canal in 2016/17, opportunities may be present to increase river navigation and move more products. Barge transportation is the least expensive mode for bulk commodities and the most green transportation option. Mr. Heinhold cited the cost savings for industry as \$23.74 per ton for traffic moving through the UMR.

U.S. Inland Waterway Trust Fund supports a portion of the system. In 2014, the navigation fuel tax was raised from \$0.20 to \$0.29 per gallon. The last increase was in 1984. Mr. Heinhold explained there are three main programs to fund projects – operation and maintenance, major rehabilitation, and future improvements. Only operations and maintenance has been funded but not to its fullest extent.

Mr. Heinhold noted upcoming work on the river navigation system, as well as spoke of the backlog of projects. Work in FFY 2015-16 includes:

- Lock 9 winter 2016 dewatering
- Lock 13 winter 2016 dewatering
- Locks 14-17 bulkhead recesses FY 15-16

- Lock 21 winter 2016 dewatering
- Locks 12, 14, 15 Miter Gates FY 15-16
- Dam 18 Concrete Repairs FY16
- Lock 15 and 21 Guidewall Repairs FY16

The result of delayed maintenance and new project implementation affects system reliability and contributes to congestion within the river navigation system. This will be further strained when improvements to the Panama Canal increase demand to transport agricultural projects from the Midwest to foreign ports. However, the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (June 2014) made provisions to allow public-private partnerships (P3). P3s may encourage more innovative partnerships and solutions to the nation's navigation system. Mr. Heinhold concluded the presentation emphasizing the need for recognizing the value and opportunities of the inland waterway system.

7. Questions or Comments by Commissioners. There were no questions or comments by Commissioners.
8. Other Business. There was no other business.
9. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kimberly Callaway-Thompson  
Secretary