

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

Wednesday, September 23, 2015, 3:30 p.m.  
Scott County Administration Building  
600 West Fourth Street  
Davenport, Iowa

MEMBERS PRESENT: Thodos – Chair, Austin, Callaway-Thompson, Gluba, Gordon, Gradert, Heninger, Holmes, Holst, Howard, Kelly, Liddell, Maranda, O’Boyle, Pauley, Sherwin, Stoermer, Sunderbruch, Tank, Terry, Volz

MEMBERS ABSENT: Anderson, Earnhardt, Gallagher, Hillman, Hopkins, Lawrence, Looney, Meeker, Newton-Butt, Raes, Schloemer, Washburn, Williams

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve Lacina and Taylor (Sims) Abens, U.S. Department of Agriculture; Dawn Neuses, Dispatch-Argus Newspaper

STAFF PRESENT: Bulat, Grabowski, McCullough, Moritz

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

1. Approval of the August 26, 2015 Minutes. Ms. Kelly moved to approve the minutes of August 26, 2015 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 August 31, 2015, noting an ending total bank and book balance of \$743,602.13. Mayor O’Boyle moved the report be accepted as written and mailed. Mr. Gordon seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
3. Finance and Personnel Committee.
  - a. Bills. Mr. Austin presented the bills totaling \$42,396.06, as listed on the following bills listing and addendum dated September 23, 2015:

*Bills List*

Blackhawk Bank & Trust, VISA charge card expenses related to Illinois and Iowa Intergov meetings; Chief Elected and Chief Administrative Officials meeting (cost reimbursed by participants); 1 staff attending the 2015 ICMA 101st Annual Conference; Managers & Administrators Committee meeting (cost reimbursed by participants); 2 staff attending the 2015 Mid America Trails & Greenways conference; 2 staff attending the Project Management workshop; 3 staff attending the Highway Program Funding conference; office supplies	\$ 4,773.45
Caliper Corporation, support for 2 TransCAD Standard licenses renewal	2,400.00
Hurt, Norton & Associates, August 2015 legislative technical service and Professional Media Services (cost reimbursed by participating member governments)	9,750.00
Thomas A. Skorepa, P.C., Administrative Hearing Officer services (cost reimbursed by MUNICES)	4,410.00

Addendum

Center for Community GIS, Web-based Trails Map Development (August 2015)	12,435.00
Iowa Association of Regional Councils (IARC), annual dues	3,000.00
Rock Island County Treasurer	5,627.61
10/2015	
Rent	\$4,618.38
10/2015	
Internet Access	88.00
08/2015	
Postage	670.60
08/2015	
Supplies	131.05
08/2015	
Cell Phone	119.58*

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

Mr. Austin moved approval of the bills totaling \$42,396.06 as presented above. Mr. Volz seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

- b. Report on Progress on Commission's FY 2015-16 Program Budget as of August 31, 2015. Mr. Austin explained the Program Budget Status Report was mailed in members' packets. The Commission is 16.7% through the fiscal year with 14.1% expended and within budget.

- c. Contracts/Grants for Consideration. Ms. Bulat presented the following contracts for consideration.

- Contract with Unity Point Health – Trinity/Quad Cities Health Initiative funded with PICH grant for Year 2 of the Safe Routes to Schools and trails website in the amount of \$109,775 for the period 9/30/15 – 9/29/16.
- Contract with Henry County Economic Development Partnership for payroll processing. The contract is for actual costs and will run from October 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016.
- Apply for and contract with the State of Iowa for an Iowa Clean Air Attainment Program grant with the focus on Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation & Safety Promotion. The grant is for the period 7/1/16 – 6/30/17, in the amount of up to \$100,000 and requires \$20,000 of local match.
- Contract with City of LeClaire to assist in the development of updates to their comprehensive plan, subdivision and zoning ordinances. The contract period is 11/1/15 – 2/28/17, in the amount of \$17,000.

Mr. Stoermer moved approval of the contracts and grants as presented above, and Ms. Sherwin seconded. The motion passed unanimously with Mr. Liddell abstaining from voting on the PICH grant contract.

4. Programs Offered by Rural Development. Mr. Lacina stated that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is committed to the future of rural communities with over 40 loan and grant programs in areas of business, community, housing, and economic development. They partner to guide organizations, businesses, communities, and individuals through the process and requirements for their funding programs.

In Iowa, the USDA invested \$400 million in 2014 and created over 1,000 jobs, providing improvements to critical infrastructure and upgrades to essential community facilities with 60+ communities receiving financial support. This also included providing 2,600 families with home loans.

In Illinois, USDA Rural Development provided rural Illinois with \$520 million in support in 2014. That equates to \$1.4 million per day. This investment includes saving and/or creating 430 jobs; helping 4,150 families purchase or refinance their home; assisting 420 very low income homeowners repair their homes with low interest loans and/or grants; providing 7,015 very low income households with rent support; assisting 200,793 rural residents with community improvements; and helping 48,803 rural families get safe water.

Ms. Abens noted that as a rural revitalization partner, the USDA helped to create a healthy economy through support for healthcare, regionalism, local foods production, tourism, and biofuels. Their business programs are based on job creation and provide guaranteed loans for renewable energy and energy efficiency projects in communities of less than 50,000 population.

The USDA housing programs provide for safe and affordable housing with home mortgages and home repairs; rental assistance for families, elderly, and disabled residents; and farm labor housing for communities with less than 20,000 population.

Mr. Lacina reported that loans, grants, and loan guarantees to improve water and wastewater systems through the USDA are available to public bodies and nonprofit organizations with less than 10,000 population. Community programs through the USDA provide community facilities and services related to utilities, healthcare, emergency services, etc. for jurisdictions of less than 20,000 population. Healthcare projects funded include hospitals, medical clinics, rehabilitation centers, group homes, assisted living facilities, nursing homes, and medical equipment. Public building and emergency services projects include libraries, community centers, fire stations and equipment, emergency services, and childcare centers. These types of project are funded with direct loans or grants. Loans are at a 40-year term at fixed interest with no maximum loan amount. Grants are based on need and median household income, and matching funds are required.

5. *2045 Quad Cities Long Range Transportation Plan Update*. Ms. McCullough gave a status report on the progress of the *2045 Quad Cities Long Range Transportation Plan*. Visioning, public input, and development of plan goals and objectives have been underway for the last 18 months.

Public outreach has included or will include the following:

- Household Travel Survey (Winter 2013-14)
- Web-Based Public Engagement – MindMixer (Spring 2014)
- Public Input Meetings (Spring 2014)
- Public Survey Assessment (Fall 2014)
- Other Stakeholder Outreach
- Policy & Technical Committee Meetings (2012-2015)
  - Land Use Based – Local Govt. TAZ Future Population-Employment Analysis (Winter 2014-15)
  - Mode-Based & Other Safety-Security (Trails Committee, Transit Managers, Air Quality Task Force, Traffic Safety Groups, etc.) (Spring/Summer 2015)
  - Multi-Cultural Diversity Public Outreach (Fall 2015)
  - Resource Agencies (Fall 2015)
  - Presentations to Organizations/Service Clubs/Groups (Spring 2014-Fall 2015)

Other planning efforts have contributed to the plan including Bettendorf and Davenport transit route analyses, development of a web-based interactive trails site, and the Bi-State Region

freight plan. With the completion of a full draft, several public meetings will be scheduled in early 2016 to overview the results of the plan.

Ms. McCullough reported staff is currently working on transportation system indicators, performance measures, and targets. Existing conditions for the various modes, such as roads, transit, and bicycle/pedestrian travel, are being compiled. The travel model to predict future traffic is nearing completion. This will help with analyzing, prioritizing, and programming future roadway projects.

The plan must also look at fiscal constraint. Looking 30 years into the future, our selection of road, transit, and trails projects must anticipate what can reasonably be expected in federal, state, and local funds. The Commission received handouts of three listings of projects. Projects were identified as “Needs Further Study,” “Big Projects,” and all roadway projects identified to date. The illustrative projects are those that require feasibility analysis and are likely projects with higher costs. These will require setting priorities and backing by the Quad Cities’ community to pursue the priorities over the long term. “Big Projects” are defined locally as those over \$10 million dollars. With limited federal funds, it will be important to focus on projects that improve travel efficiency and reliability as well as support the local economy.

Ms. McCullough shared that one of the consensus priorities coming from the September 22 Transportation Policy and Technical Committees’ roundtable discussion was the need for a major investment study of the Mississippi River corridor, similar to 15 years ago when a 3-pronged approach led us to removing tolls from the Centennial Bridge, reconstruction of I-74 Mississippi River Corridor, and conceptual plans for an east Mississippi River bridge. With recommendations from the Freight Study to look at Mississippi River rail crossing improvements, a major investment study would be well timed to evaluate options to further road and rail crossing ability in the metro area.

6. Questions or Comments by Commissioners. There were no questions or comments by Commissioners.
7. Other Business. Ms. Bulat advised that the meeting for October will be held in an alternate location. She noted that the meeting for October 28, 2015 will be held in the Rock Island County Office Building in the third floor board room.

Chair Thodos welcomed Mayor Gluba back to the Commission meetings after an extended medical leave.

8. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kimberly Callaway-Thompson  
Secretary