

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

Wednesday, December 16, 2015, 3:30 p.m.
Rock Island County Office Building
Third Floor Council Chambers
1504 Third Avenue
Rock Island, IL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Thodos – Chair, Austin, Callaway-Thompson, Conrad, Gordon, Gradert, Heninger, Hillman, Holst, Howard, Kelly, Lawrence, Liddell, Maranda, Meeker, Newton-Butt, O’Boyle, Raes, Schloemer, Sherwin, Sunderbruch, Tank, Terry, Washburn

MEMBERS ABSENT: Anderson, Earnhardt, Gallagher, Gluba, Holmes, Hopkins, Looney, Pauley, Stoermer, Volz

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve Grimes, City of Bettendorf Parks and Recreation Director; Mia Frommelt, Bohnsack & Frommelt

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

Chair Thodos called the meeting to order at 3:34 p.m. He recognized outgoing Commissioners Gluba, Hopkins, Meeker, and Volz, thanking them for their service and presenting them with certificates of appreciation.

1. Approval of the November 18, 2015 Minutes. Ms. Kelly moved to approve the minutes of November 18, 2015 as presented. Mr. Schloemer seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
2. Treasurer’s Report. Mayor O’Boyle presented the Treasurer’s Report for the month ending November 30, 2015, noting an ending total bank and book balance of \$552,242.00. Mayor O’Boyle moved the report be accepted as written and mailed. Mr. Sunderbruch seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
3. Finance and Personnel Committee.
 - a. Bills. Mr. Austin presented the bills totaling \$90,398.55, as listed on the following bills listing and addendum dated December 16, 2015:

Bills List

Hurt, Norton & Associates, November 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)	3,360.00

Addendum

Cambridge Systematics, Inc., Bi-State Regional Commission Freight Commodity Efficiency Study/Plan, July 1 – October 31, 2015	35,794.70
HNTB Corporation, Modeling Development services October 24 through November 20, 2015	13,332.25
Iowa State University, Extension and Outreach, contract for Community Outreach for Long Range Plan	2,500.00
Mel Foster Co., Inc., annual premium for Business Owner’s package, Auto Policy, Crime Policy, Umbrella Policy, Professional Liability Policy & Employment Practices Liability, and Worker’s Comp Policy	13,226.97
Rock Island County Treasurer	6,034.63
01/2016 Rent \$4,618.38	
01/2016 Internet Access 88.00	
11/2015 Postage 899.84	
11/2015 Supplies 308.81	
11/2015 Cell Phone 119.60*	
*(Partial costs reimbursed by HCEDP/Rural Accelerator Grant)	
TH Enterprises, Inc., Annual RCMS Software Agreement for the period January 1 – December 31, 2016	6,400.00

Mr. Austin moved approval of the bills totaling \$90,398.55 as presented above. Ms. Sherwin seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

b. Report on Progress on Commission’s FY 2015-16 Program Budget as of November 30, 2015. Mr. Austin explained the Program Budget Status Report was mailed in members' packets. The Commission is 42% through the fiscal year with 38.7% expended and within budget.

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

- Contract with Center for Community GIS for Phase 2 trail website improvements not to exceed \$14,000 for the period of December 16, 2015 to September 29, 2016.

Ms. Kelly moved approval of the contract as presented above, and Mr. Maranda seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

d. Consideration of Recommendation to Accept the Financial and Compliance Report for the year ended June 30, 2015. Mr. Austin stated the Finance and Personnel Committee received a detailed audit presentation and are recommending approval of the audit report. He reported that Bohnsack and Frommelt stated that Bi-State complied with all laws, regulations, contracts, and grants. The Commission once again received the highest audit opinion, an unmodified opinion "Clean Audit" with no findings or questioned costs.

Mr. Austin made a motion to accept the Finance and Compliance Report for the year ended June 30, 2015. Mr. Maranda seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

e. Consideration to Renew the Executive Director's Annual Employment Agreement. Mr. Austin reported evaluation forms were sent to Commissioners and member government officials, with Ms. Bulat receiving high marks by those who responded. Mr. Austin stated the Finance and Personnel Committee recommended the Executive Director’s employment contract be renewed for the year November 1, 2015 – November 1, 2016, with a 1.0% merit increase, along with any budgeted wage adjustment received by all staff across the board.

Mr. Austin made a motion to renew the Executive Director's annual employment agreement with a 1.0% merit increase in addition to any budgeted wage adjustment received by all staff across the board. Mr. Maranda seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

4. Bi-State Region Trails Update. Ms. Miller reported that Bi-State staff has teamed up with Quad City Health Initiative (QCHI) and other local partners to create a new interactive trails map and website for the Quad Cities Area. Funding for the project is from the Partnerships to Improve Community Health grant through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). It's one of four local efforts focused on improving access to healthy foods and physical activity opportunities. Bi-State staff have been primarily involved in the creation of Safe Routes to School plans, as well as development of the new trails website, QCTrails.org, which is scheduled to go live in late January 2016.

Ms. Miller explained the website's primary goal is to provide a resource showing the 54 trails identified in the Quad Cities Area to-date, in one convenient website. It will also show landmarks, points of interest, infrastructure, and other valuable resources such as parking, water, restrooms, information kiosks, parks, etc. QCTrails.org is also intended to engage users and provide opportunities and incentives for active living by using the marvelous trail resources in the area. QCTrails.org users can create a login area to log their trails, keep track of their progress and accomplishments, and earn online badges when they've completed certain trail activities. In addition, users can share their accomplishments via social media such as Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, and many more.

A final goal of the entire project is to reach the community through QCHI's Be Healthy QC marketing campaign, including billboards, social media, digital ads, and give-aways such as posters, magnets, water bottles, etc.

Mr. Schmid reported that communities in the Bi-State region are making strides to improve conditions for bicyclists and pedestrians. Iowa Trees Forever is working with local leaders in Muscatine to draft the Running Rivers Trail Vision for the city with proposed enhancements that may be included in the Riverfront Master Plan Update. The city will be extending the Mississippi River Trail (MRT) to the Louisa County line to the south as early as next year, and will be including signage for the MRT and American Discovery Trail (ADT). Bi-State staff is coordinating efforts with colleagues between the Quad Cities and Cedar Falls/Waterloo to connect gaps in the route of the ADT, which is a national trail running from Delaware to California that crosses the Mississippi River at Davenport. The City of Geneseo, also, is interested in connecting the city to the Hennepin Canal State Trail. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources maintains the Hennepin Canal Trail and is planning on investing over \$1 million in maintenance projects along the trail in coming years.

In the urbanized Quad Cities, the Iowa MRT is being extended at both ends. The City of Buffalo will begin construction in 2016 to extend the national trail from the Davenport border to County Road Y-40, nearly to the Muscatine County line. The trail's eastern terminus was extended in 2015 in Riverdale from Bellingham Street to Fenno Road along U.S. 67. Bettendorf plans to extend the trail from there to its eastern city limit, where cyclists may use paved shoulders to ride to LeClaire. Princeton has also begun to pull funds together to construct a trail through town to connect to the Princeton Wildlife Management Area. Davenport added to its inventory of bicycle lanes in the city, notably on Jersey Ridge Road, and next year will see further Complete Street additions. Eldridge is one step closer to realizing a long-sought-after goal of building a trail south of town to connect to Davenport and Bettendorf trail systems. The city is in discussions with the Canadian Pacific Railway to acquire about one mile of right-of-way along tracks running south adjacent to First Street. Moline has also begun development on its River-to-River Corridor, roughly from SouthPark Mall to downtown and the new I-

74 Bridge trail crossing. The development of this corridor is a long-term effort that requires coordination with the Illinois DOT along numerous sections.

Mr. Schmid concluded by noting Bi-State staff drafted two long range transportation plans (LRTP) in 2015, one for the urban area (MPA) and one for Iowa Region 9, comprised of rural Scott County and all of Muscatine County. The LRTPs identified approximately 300 miles of various bicycle improvements in the urban Quad Cities, and 43-184 miles of proposed trails in Region 9. Input for these plans was received from the public, the Bi-State Regional Trail Committee, and the Transportation Technical Committee. To aid in the planning efforts, Bi-State staff runs a trail counter program to collect data on trail use in the Bi-State region. Counters have been loaned out to six cities in the region, with some locations having over 400 days' worth of data. Most locations count an average of about 100 to 300 users daily throughout the year.

Mr. Grimes announced that Bettendorf City Council was presented with a Bronze Level Award as a Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists in November. The award recognizes communities that welcome cyclists by providing safe accommodations for cycling and encouragement for people to cycle for transportation as well as recreation. Bettendorf became the sixth community in Iowa to be awarded Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC) status. The BFC program is centered on the "Five E's": engineering, education, enforcement, evaluation, and encouragement. Communities must show their commitment to these five areas of importance for the bicycling public in order to be considered a Bicycle Friendly Community. The City of Bettendorf had applied previously in spring 2014 and received an honorable mention, which highlighted the city's strengths and weaknesses as a cycling community. That designation was upgraded due to the enhancements to cycling in Bettendorf since then. Formed as a result of the initial BFC application, the Bettendorf Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BBPAC) was created to further the goals of being a BFC and to highlight areas of improvement that are important to the cycling and pedestrian community. Also as a result of the initial BFC application, the city hired the Quad Cities' first city-staffed Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator.

5. Consideration of Letter of Support for Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative. Ms. Bulat presented a letter of support for the Mississippi River Cities and Towns and Initiative annual meeting to be held in the Quad Cities in 2018.

Mr. Schloemer moved approval of letter of support as presented above, and Ms. Callaway-Thompson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kimberly Callaway-Thompson
Secretary