

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

Wednesday, March 23, 2016, 3:30 p.m.
Scott County Administrative Center
600 West Fourth Street
Davenport, IA

MEMBERS PRESENT: Thodos – Chair, Callaway-Thompson, Earnhardt, Heninger, Hillman, Holst, Klipsch, Lawrence, Maranda, Moore, O’Boyle, Palmgren, Raes, Schloemer, Sherwin, Stoermer, Sunderbruch, Tank, Terry

MEMBERS ABSENT: Anderson, Austin, Broderon, Conrad, Gallagher, Gordon, Gradert, Howard, Liddell, Looney, Newton-Butt, Pauley, Sorensen, Washburn

OTHERS PRESENT: Andrew Barnes, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

STAFF PRESENT: Bulat, Grabowski, McCullough, Moritz

Chair Thodos called the meeting to order at 3:42 p.m. and opened with introductions of those present.

1. Approval of the February 24, 2016 Minutes. Ms. Sherwin moved to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2016 meeting as presented. Ms. Sherwin seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
2. Treasurer’s Report. Mayor Klipsch presented the Treasurer’s Report for the month ending February 29, 2016, noting an ending total bank and book balance of \$707,531.02. Mayor Klipsch 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. Ms. Hillman presented the bills totaling \$24,815.43, as listed on the following bills listing:

Bills List

Ted J. Hamer, Administrator Hearing Officer, January services (cost reimbursed by MUNICES)	\$ 2,730.00
HNTB Corporation, Modeling Development services January 23, 2016 thru February 19, 2016	3,285.66
Hurt, Norton & Associates, February 2016 legislative technical service and Professional Media Services (cost reimbursed by participating member governments)	9,750.00
Thomas A. Skorepa, P.C., Administrator Hearing Officer, February services (cost reimbursed by MUNICES)	3,325.00

Addendum

Rock Island County Treasurer			5,724.77
04/2016	Rent	\$4,618.38	
04/2016	Internet Access	88.00	
02/2016	Postage	752.24	
02/2016	Supplies	146.33	
02/2016	Cell Phone	119.82*	

*(Partial costs reimbursed by HCEDP)

Ms. Hillman moved approval of the bills totaling \$24,815.43 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 February 29, 2016. Ms. Hillman explained the Program Budget Status Report was mailed in members' packets. The Commission is 67% through the fiscal year with 62.8% expended and within budget.
- c. Contracts/Grants for Consideration. Ms. Bulat presented the following contracts or grants for consideration.
 - SCRA grant for a consultant study for local government IT needs and opportunities for joint purchasing in Scott County. The grant is up to \$30,000, and the period of the grant is April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017.

Mr. Stoermer moved approval of the grant amendment as presented above. Ms. Callaway-Thompson seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

- 4. Bi-State Region Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) 2016 Draft Presentation. Ms. Bulat presented the final draft sections of the Bi-State Region Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) 2016. The sections presented included the executive summary, analysis of regional economy, strategic direction and performance measures, and projects lists from the Bi-State Region.

Ms. Bulat explained Bi-State Region governments and development organizations self-reported economic development related projects. Projects in the list include downtown improvements, sewer, water, roads, housing, and business expansions. Business expansions and losses are listed with estimated jobs created, retained, or lost.

A full plan of the CEDS is created every five years, and the draft of the 2016 document is available for review until the April meeting when Commissioners will be asked to adopt the plan. The full draft will be available for public review on the Bi-State website at www.bistateonline.org. Commissioners, along with economic development staff and professionals, were encouraged to review the information and provide feedback by April 25.

- 5. Consideration of Adoption of 2045 Quad Cities Long Range Transportation Plan. Ms. McCullough presented the 2045 Quad Cities Long Range Transportation Plan for adoption by Commissioners. She noted that five informational public meetings held drew 37 attendees and 232 website views. Public comments focused on transit improvements, pavement maintenance and completion of projects—such as the Mississippi River Trail— passenger rail service between Chicago and Quad Cities, and reconstruction of the I-74 Mississippi River Corridor.

Two items were recommended to be added to the final document. The Federal Transit Administration suggested adding an action item under the objective “Increase Accessibility and

Mobility Options” to study the feasibility of bus rapid transit, express bus, and park-n-ride enhancements. The other was to add a segment in the unconstrained “Projects Requiring Additional Study” along 205th Street between Bettendorf and LeClaire in Scott County in order to create an improved corridor between the two communities. This would allow for this concept to be investigated further in the future.

The plan process reflected changes in the transportation system over the last five years and envisioned future roads, rail connections, river navigation improvements, bikeways, sidewalks, and public transit. The travel needs in the metro area, traffic safety and congestion were evaluated. Quad Citians want mobility options, access, and connectivity. Between maintenance and expansion projects, over \$8.9 billion is estimated to be spent on the Quad Cities transportation system for the next 30 years. Eighteen miles of new roads and nearly 100 miles of reconstructed roads are anticipated by 2045.

In addition to roads, 280 miles of new bikeways are envisioned, including the completion of the Mississippi River Trail, a new crossing at I-74 with the reconstruction project, River to River Trail in Moline, and completion of the American Discovery Trail. Eleven transit priority corridors have been identified to increase density and potential ridership of the three fixed-route transit systems. By 2045, 333 buses are anticipated to be replaced and new routes implemented. Today, 30% of streets classified as collector or greater have sidewalks on one or both sides. The area will be working to close gaps and address “Complete Streets” corridors. All of these facilities will enhance Quad Cities’ transportation alternatives, so residents can have greater mobility options in the future.

Mayor Klipsch motioned to adopt the *2045 Long Range Transportation Plan*, and Ms. Sherwin seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Upper Mississippi River Navigation System. Mr. Barnes 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 in the 1930s. The American Society of Civil Engineers recently rated the dam and inland waterway with a D and D-, respectively.

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. Barnes cited the cost savings for industry as \$23.74 per ton for traffic moving through the UMR, with annual cost savings near \$1 billion.

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, which improved funding for operations and maintenance. There are three main programs to fund projects – operation and maintenance, major rehabilitation, and future improvements. Only operations and maintenance has been funded.

Upcoming work on the river navigation system locally in 2016 includes:

- Locks 13 and 21 dewatering
- Locks 14-17 bulkhead recesses

- Marseilles Dam repairs
- Dresden Dam gate replacement
- Locks 13 and 16 miter gates replacement
- Lock 15 guidewall repairs

The result of delayed maintenance and new project implementation affects system reliability and contributes to congestion within the river navigation system. The Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program (NESP) has never received construction funds and would be considered new project implementation.

7. Questions or Comments by Commissioners. There were no questions or comments by Commissioners.
8. Other Business. Chair Thodos informed Commissioners that the Mississippi River Cities & Towns Initiative annual meeting will be held in the Quad Cities in 2018. He also mentioned that there will be a public hearing about the potential closing of the Kewanee juvenile detention facility.
9. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kimberly Callaway-Thompson
Secretary