

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

Wednesday, November 20, 2019, 3:30 p.m.  
Scott County Administrative Center  
Sixth Floor Conference Room  
600 West Fourth Street  
Davenport, IA

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Maranda – Chair, Beck, Broderson, Brunk, Carroll-Duda, Dawson, Deppe, Freeman, Heninger, Jones, Klipsch, Lawrence, Mather, Mendenhall, G. Moore, O’Boyle, Parker, Schloemer, Stoermer, Tank, Tompkins, Waldron

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Acri, Condon, Gallagher, Gradert, Kinzer, Kiser, Knobbe, Lack, R. Moore, Newton-Butt, Sherwin, Sorensen, Thoms

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Daniel Payette, Executive Director, Blackhawk Hills Regional Council; Herb Kuryliw, Director of Sales and Business Development, iFiber; John Petrakis, President, Stratus Networks

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

Chair Maranda called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

1. Approval of the October 23, 2019 Minutes. Mayor Klipsch moved to approve the minutes of the October 23, 2019 meeting as presented. Mr. Deppe seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
2. Treasurer’s Report. Mayor Carroll-Duda presented the Treasurer’s Report for the month ending October 31, 2019, noting an ending total bank and book balance of \$839,465.65. Mayor Carroll-Duda moved the report be accepted as written and mailed. Mr. Tank seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
3. Finance and Personnel Committee.
  - a. Bills. Mayor O’Boyle presented the bills totaling \$65,111.72, as listed on the following bills listing:

*Bills List*

Bohnsack & Frommelt LLP, progress billing for year-end audit and single audit June 30, 2019	\$ 7,000.00
Gewalt Hamilton Associates, Inc. (GHA), September 2019 professional expenses related to the Illinois 92 Corridor Study (cost funded by SPR grant and local government participants)	14,727.68
Thomas A. Skorepa, P.C., Administrator Hearing Officer October 2019 services (cost reimbursed by participating member governments)	2,450.00
The Roosevelt Group LLC, October 2019 Legislative Technical Services (cost reimbursed by participating member governments)	20,000.00

Addendum

Blackhawk Bank & Trust, VISA charge card expenses related to 4 staff attending the Illinois Department of Transportation Fall Planning Conference; 1 staff attending the 2019 Iowa American Planning Association conference; 2 staff attending the 2019 Illinois Geographic Information System Association conference; Iowa Intergovernmental meeting (cost reimbursed by participants); Managers and Administrators Committee meeting (cost reimbursed by participants); Chief Elected and Chief Administrative Officials meeting (cost reimbursed by participants); 1 staff attending the National Association of Councils of Governments (NADO) annual training conference; 1 staff attending the Chicago Region 2020 Census Partnership Briefing; office supplies	3,983.76
GMS, October 2019 financial software annual license maintenance, service and support	4,297.50
HDR Engineering, Inc., Mississippi River Rail Crossing Study for the period September 1, 2019 to October 26, 2019	6,750.00
Rock Island County Treasurer	5,902.78
12/2019 Rent	4,689.58
12/2019 Internet Access	88.00
11/2019 Managed Print Services	323.72
10/2019 Postage	621.92
10/2019 Supplies	126.72
10/2019 Cell Phone	52.84

Mayor O’Boyle moved approval of the bills totaling \$65,111.72 as presented above. Mr. Stoermer seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

- b. Report on Progress on Commission’s FY 2019-20 Program Budget as of October 31, 2019. Mayor O’Boyle explained the Program Budget Status Report was distributed today. The Commission is 33.0% through the fiscal year with 31.3% expended and within budget.
  - c. Contracts/Grants for Consideration. There were no contracts or grants for consideration.
4. Introduction to iFiber, Northwest Illinois' Not-for-Profit Fiber Optic Network. Mr. Kuryliw and Mr. Payette presented on the potential for Bi-State Regional Commission to partner with Blackhawk Hills and North Central Illinois Council of Governments in an Economic Development Agency (EDA) application to extend fiber optics into to the their respective region. They noted that iFiber would write the application and provide the required match.

Mr. Kuryliw explained that iFiber is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization created during the Stimulus grant programs in partnership with local governments and other founding partners such as Northern Illinois University. It is now self-supporting and owns and operates a 900-mile, gigabit fiber optic network, which serves public sector anchor institutions such as counties, healthcare facilities, libraries, municipalities, public safety departments, and K-12 schools with access to broadband services. Mr. Kuryliw said iFiber is a wholesale company that partners with local Internet and content providers to serve the private sector. It does not provide direct services but allows public and private sector access to needed resources for themselves and their customers. This reduces costs for local and regional Internet Service Providers (ISPs) helping local and regional ISPs maintain a foothold and develop within Northwest Illinois. This introduces new competition wherever the iFiber wholesale network is located, giving public and private sector consumers more choices.

While the grant application has no deadline and would be made available through EDA's disaster funding, they would propose to make application as early as late December. The BSRC would be asked formally to approve being one of the three applicants at a future meeting potentially in December.

5. Other Business. Ms. Bulat reported that Rachel Bruce from Bi-State had attended Census training in Chicago and is scheduled to attend another training session soon. She noted that some communities have been sharing best practices for complete counts to their residents via community calendars and such. Ms. Bulat also reported that work Mississippi River Ports of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois continues, and support resolutions have come in or are expected. She has gotten questions from some of the counties to the south of the port area that she is addressing.
6. Questions or Comments by Commissioners. Mr. Maranda noted to Commissioners that Ms. Bulat's annual employee review had gone out to Commissioners, and he urged them to get their input to Ms. Bulat completed and in the mail soon. Mayor Klipsch noted that the City of Davenport is working on keeping the River Bandits in the Quad Cities after the announcement of potential disbanding of minor league baseball teams in this area.
7. Other Business. There was no other business.
8. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeff Sorensen  
Secretary