

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

Wednesday, February 26, 2020, 3:30 p.m.  
Scott County Administrative Center  
Sixth Floor Conference Room  
600 West Fourth Street  
Davenport, IA

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Maranda – Chair, Acri, Beck, Broderson, Brunk, Carroll-Duda, Dawson, Deppe, Dunn, Freeman, Gallagher, Gradert, Heninger, Jones, Kinzer, Kiser, Knobbe, Lack, Lawrence, Matson, Mendenhall, Parker, Peacock, Saucedo, Schloemer, Sorensen, Tank, Thoms, Waldron

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** G. Moore, R. Moore, Newton-Butt, O’Boyle, Sherwin, Stoermer

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Jessica Brooks, NOAA-National Weather Service

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

Chair Maranda called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. and began with introductions.

1. Approval of the January 22, 2020 Minutes. Mr. Beck moved to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2020 meeting as presented. Ms. Mendenhall seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
2. Treasurer’s Report. Mayor Carroll-Duda presented the Treasurer’s Report for the month ending January 31, 2020, noting an ending total bank and book balance of \$758,537.36. Mayor Carroll-Duda moved the report be accepted as written and mailed. Mayor Acri seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
3. Finance and Personnel Committee.
  - a. Bills. Mr. Waldron presented the bills totaling \$65,886.61, as listed on the following bills listing:

*Bills List*

The Roosevelt Group LLC, January 2020 Legislative Technical Services                      \$20,000.00  
(cost reimbursed by participating member governments)

*Addendum*

Blackhawk Bank & Trust, VISA charge card expenses related to Chief Elected and 3,462.30  
Chief Administrative Officials meeting (cost reimbursed by participants); 1 staff  
attending the TransCAD Travel Demand Modeling training; Illinois  
Intergovernmental meeting; 1 staff attending the Iowa Bicycle Summit;  
Riverfront Council meeting (cost reimbursed by participants); 2 staff attending  
the Environmental Systems Research Institute (esri) Midwest User Conference;  
office supplies  
HDR Engineering, Inc. Mississippi River Rail Crossing Study for the period                      17,500.00  
December 29, 2019 to February 1, 2020 (cost funded by SPR grant)

Platinum Information Services, Inc., new server and equipment including installation and January and February support services			18,908.00
Rock Island County Treasurer			6,016.31
03/2020	Rent	4,689.58	
03/2020	Internet Access	88.00	
02/2020	Managed Print Services	326.96	
01/2020	Postage	624.32	
01/2020	Printing	22.50	
01/2020	Supplies	212.29	
01/2020	Cell Phone	52.66	

Mr. Waldron moved approval of the bills totaling \$65,886.61 as presented above. Ms. Mendenhall seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

- b. Report on Progress on Commission’s FY 2019-20 Program Budget as of December 31, 2019. Mayor O’Boyle explained the Program Budget Status Report was mailed in members’ packets. The Commission is 50.0% through the fiscal year with 44.8% expended and within budget.
- c. Contracts/Grants for Consideration. Ms. Bulat presented the following grant for consideration.
  - Grant from Illinois Department of Transportation for a shared interactive freight map for the Mississippi River Ports of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois (MRPEIWI). The grant is for \$48,000 with \$12,000 match from participating regional planning organizations in the MRPEIWI for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

Mr. Waldron moved approval of grant application. Mr. Deppe seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

- 4. Commission Committee Assignments for 2020-2021. Chair Maranda presented the list of the 2020-2021 officers and committees sent in their packets. Mayor Gallagher motioned to approve the Commission officers and committee assignments as presented. Mayor Dawson seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
- 5. Brief Overview of CEDS Progress Report 2020. Ms. Bulat informed the Commission that the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2020 Progress Report (CEDS PR) is currently under development, and she provided a draft of the demographics section of the document, which breaks down regional demographics on people, place, and the economy. Ms. Bulat also handed out a listing of completed, underway, and planned economic development-related projects in the Bi-State Region. She urged Commissioners to read through those lists and encourage their community employees to provide information on known projects they want included in the plan.

A copy of the Analysis of Regional Economy section was provided at the meeting. This section includes strengths, opportunities, challenges, and threats (SWOT) to the Bi-State Region’s economy as identified by members of the CEDS committee. Commissioners were encouraged to provide input regarding the SWOT as well as to the general analysis section. In the demographic section staff was asked to add the Iowa and Illinois Gross State Products in addition to the Gross Domestic Product and the Gross Regional Product.

6. Spring Flooding Outlook. Ms. Brooks presented on the spring flood outlook. Spring rains and the rate of snowmelt will influence the severity of flooding, she explained, which are difficult to forecast months in advance with high degrees of certainty. However, four other factors that can be measured at present suggest long-duration flooding is possible on the Mississippi this spring.

These factors include the total rainfall amounts from the previous autumn. Fall 2019 was unusually wet, with 175% of normal accumulated precipitation recorded in the Quad Cities region and between 200% to 300% recorded in areas along the river to the north. This has resulted in extremely wet soils (above the 80<sup>th</sup> percentile for soil moisture), which is a primary contributor to above normal flood risk. Also contributing is the depth of frozen ground, which has locked in the soil moisture. Until the soils dry out, the flood risk will remain high.

Ms. Brooks noted that a warmer winter has resulted in a somewhat shallower depth of frozen ground than normal, and above normal streamflows have persisted since last fall. The snowpack has had a higher water content than normal, but the free flowing streams have helped keep runoff from the melting snow moving downstream. Free flowing streams also mean there is little danger from ice jams on waterways like the Rock River.

Taken together, current conditions indicate a high likelihood of moderate to major flooding along the Mississippi River this spring. The rate of snowmelt and spring rains will be the key determinates in the severity of the flooding. Temperatures that toggle from high to low and heavy rains could yield quick runoff and rapidly rising waters, while a more gradual warming and a drier spring could help limit the flood severity.

7. Updates. Ms. Bulat provided updates on the Census 2020. She reported that Chair Maranda signed a contract for Census billboards for approximately \$20,000 that were funded by the Regional Development Authority and approved by Iowa Quad Cities representatives working on Census efforts. She noted a smaller number of billboards will also be placed in the Illinois Quad Cities that will be funded by the participating communities and the Day Foundation, and Bi-State would also be holding that contract. Bi-State procurement policies allow the Commission to hold a contract on behalf of members and allow others to select vendors when no federal or state dollars or Bi-State funding are being utilized.

Ms. Bulat also reported that the MRPEIWI request was sent. The grant request was approved by at the January, 22 2020 meeting.

8. Questions or Comments by Commissioners. There were no further questions or comments by Commissioners.
9. Other Business. There was no further business.
10. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeff Sorensen  
Secretary