

12/2021	Managed Print Services	236.12	
11/2021	Postage	279.90	
11/2021	Supplies	68.00	
11/2021	Cell Phone	25.94	
Servpro, November 2021 positive COVID cleaning			2,687.81

Mayor O’Boyle moved approval of the bills totaling \$27,596.02 as presented above. Mr. Beck seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

- b. Report on Progress on Commission’s FY 2020-21 Program Budget as of November 30, 2021. Mayor O’Boyle explained the Program Budget Status Report was distributed at the meeting. The Commission is 41.7% through the fiscal year with 38.17% expended and within budget.
- c. Contracts/Grants for Consideration. Ms. Bulat presented the following contract addendum for consideration.

— Contract with Drug and Alcohol Testing Consortium to extend the existing contract with TSS for one additional year through December 31, 2022.

Mayor O’Boyle moved approval of the contract extension as presented above. Mayor Dawson seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

4. Overview of Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and Status of the Corn Belt Ports, including Mississippi River Ports of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois. Ms. McCullough shared an overview of transportation and non-transportation elements. U.S. DOT (Federal Highway Administration \$351 billion and Federal Transit Administration \$91 billion) will be working on rule-making for two new formula programs and 11 new competitive grant programs. The act did not address Highway Trust Fund solvency and utilized a \$118 billion transfer from the general fund. New programs focus on additional infrastructure funds, mobility, safe and healthy streets, and complete streets with active transportation in mind. A new rural surface transportation competitive grant at \$2 billion is for areas outside an urbanized area.

Public Law 117-58, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), also known as the Bi-Partisan Infrastructure Bill (BIL), was signed into law on November 15, 2021. The \$1.2 trillion package contained \$550 billion in new spending. Major components included the reauthorization of the transportation act at \$280 billion, energy/environment/climate at \$192 billion and broadband at \$65 billion.

Non-transportation elements of IIJA included funding for safe drinking water, FEMA’s BRIC (Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities), pre-disaster mitigation low interest loans, weatherization assistance, 6 broadband grant programs, and funding for the inland waterway system to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. As more information comes out through the rule-making and granting processes, Bi-State staff will share the information with its members.

Dr. Singh gave an update to the Corn Belt Ports. She has been working closely with Colonel Bob Sinkler (Ret.) on the upper Mississippi River and Illinois River port statistical areas as a corporate citizen project. Both do consulting for Riverside Global for integrated water solutions and environmental services. Ms. Singh noted a misperception that there are no inland ports, and the data consolidated for the Corn Belt port statistical areas will document

the significant volume of commodities moving on these inland waterways through a linear collection of ports and terminals. The effort also coincides with gaining recognition on the importance of maintaining these inland waterway systems as an important economic driver of our national economy.

In the 2020 listing of leading US ports by the US Army Corps of Engineers USACOE, the Mid-America Port, IA/IL/MO ranked 41st with 15 million (M) tons. Illinois Waterway Ports, IL ranked 42nd with 14.9 M tons, and the Mississippi River Ports of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois ranked 56th with 8.4 tons. She notes the power in numbers with 12 regional planning agencies, 11 city and county ports and 40 riverfront communities now having an opportunity to provide a voice for inland waterway freight movement.

Goals set for the Corn Belt Ports include gaining stature in the national ranking, continued media and government relations, strengthening linkage to the Louisiana ports, securing funding for staffing of the effort, forming a waterborne commerce association, and seeking funding opportunities. For the Mississippi River Ports of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois, Ms. Singh suggested seeking greater recognition and ranking, identifying capital needs, leveraging local and state resources, and looking at a more formal structure to solidify efforts and increase recognition of the port statistical area (PSA).

She concluded with a slide of FY2021 construction ready projects, including a mooring cell at Lock 14. Additionally, there are opportunities through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The USACOE is to receive \$17 billion (B) for investigations, construction, operations and maintenance, among other programs. With this funding and the timing of the PSAs formation, there are opportunities to make inland waterway improvement to leverage greater freight movement on the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers to benefit the tri-state region.

5. Questions or Comments by Commissioners. Mayor Holmes asked if a time has been set for old I-74 Bridge demolition. Ms. Bulat replied that a letting was expected in the spring.
Mayor O’Boyle introduced interim Eldridge City Administrator Tony Rupe.
6. Other Business/Adjournment. Ms. Bulat offered snacks from the I-74 Bridge opening reception. She acknowledged all those who were able to attend, and she recognized Jerry Lack and Jason Gordon, staff to Congressman Lane Evans and Congressman Jim Nussle respectively, for their previous assistance to Bi-State Staff in preparing funding requests for the I-74 Bridge Corridor Project. Vice-Chair Breeden noted the I-74 Bridge opening was a wonderful event.
7. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Diana Broderson
Secretary