



MISSISSIPPI RIVER REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

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Director

MINUTES

MISSISSIPPI RIVER REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (MRRPC) BIMONTHLY MEETING

**10:00 a.m., October 13, 2010
River Jacks, 1835 Rose Street, La Crosse, WI 54603**

Call to Order

Chairman Savage called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and asked for the roll call. Greg Flogstad, Director of the MRRPC took roll and said a quorum was present. The attendance roster is attached.

Guests in attendance: Paul Wydeven, Wisconsin Department of Transportation-SW Region; Jeff Abboud, Wisconsin Department of Transportation-NW Region; Brett Mittelstaedt, MRRPC-UWL Intern; Andrew Dane, SEH

Minutes of August 11, 2010 Bimonthly Meeting

Commissioner Ehram made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ross, to accept the minutes of the August 11, 2010, bimonthly meeting. Approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Chairman Savage asked Secretary-Treasurer Burke to present the treasurers reports. Ms. Burke said the August 1, 2010 balance in all MRRPC accounts was \$240,893.56 and the August 31, 2010 ending balance was \$222,713.47. Ms. Burke reported that the beginning balance in September 2010 was \$222,713.47 and the balance in all accounts at month's end was \$226,698.59.

Ms. Burke then presented the financial report for the Business Capital Fund. The balance in this account as of July 31, 2010 was 205,135.65. From August 2010 through September 2010, activity in this account included loan repayments of \$20,744.63 and account interest of \$179.53 leaving an ending balance in the Business Capital Fund as of September 30, 2010, of \$226,059.81. Ms. Burke said that as of July 31, 2010, the Business Capital Fund II RLF had a balance of \$55,230.23. She said that from August 2010 through September 2010, interest on this account totaled \$48.26 and loan repayments of \$5,580.54 were made leaving a September 30, 2010 balance of \$60,859.03.

The CMV Growth Development Fund began with a July 13, 2010, balance of \$56,505.20. Ms. Burke said that from the period of July 14, 2010, through September 14, 2010, interest earned on this account totaled \$14.43, loan payments of \$1,205.02 were made, and \$1,534.37 was transferred to the CMV Sequester Bank Account leaving a September 14, 2010, balance of \$56,190.28. Ms. Burke said the balance in the CMV-EDA Sequestered Fund as of July 14, 2010, was \$148,492.28. During the period of July 14, 2010 through September 14, 2010, activity in this account consisted of \$38.80 interest earned, a transfer of \$1,534.37 from CMV Growth Development Fund RLF Account, and a payment of \$47.13 in interest to the U.S. Treasury leaving a balance of \$150,018.32.

A Nine County Economic Development District Providing Assistance to Local Governments

- *Land Use Planning* ▪ *Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances* ▪ *Transportation Planning* ▪ *Economic Development Planning*
- *GIS Mapping* ▪ *Recreation Planning* ▪ *Revolving Loan Fund Administration* ▪ *Grant Writing* ▪ *Socioeconomic Data Dissemination*
- *Assist Local Interests in Responding to State and Federal Programs* ▪ *Advisory Service on Local Planning Issues*
- *Coordinating Agency for Programs and Activities* ▪ *Public Advocacy on Issues Affecting Our Region*

Ms. Burke said the La Crosse County Economic Development Fund began with a July 13, 2010 balance of \$50,054.28. During the period of July 14, 2010 through September 13, 2010, loan repayments of \$2,000.00 were made and interest earned totaled \$25.89. The ending account balance as of September 13, 2010, was \$52,080.17. Chairman Savage asked for a motion of approval on the treasurers reports presented. Commissioner Scholmeier made a motion to approve the treasurer's reports as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Nickelatti, and approved unanimously.

Bryan Law, MRRPC Economic Development Planner said no additional loans have been made since the last bimonthly meeting. He provided background on an overdue loan and the actions being taken to collect the loan. Mr. Law reported he has been visiting banks in the region to promote the CMV Revolving Loan Fund. He said the response from the banks was positive.

Mr. Flogstad reported that no additional loans have been made from the La Crosse County Economic Development Fund. He said the La Crosse Economic Development Fund Board recently approved a process that will document quarterly the number of jobs created/retained from businesses that have received La Crosse County Economic Development Fund loan funds.

Status of Commissioner Appointments

Director Flogstad provided an update on the status of Commissioner appointments. Mr. Flogstad said he has made several contacts with the appointments director requesting action on the open commissioner appointments. Mr. Flogstad said another letter was sent on October 11, 2010 requesting that six commissioner appointments be made. He reported the pending appointments are: 3 joint County Board and Governor appointments in Buffalo, Trempealeau and Vernon counties and 3 and direct Governor appointments in Pepin, Pierce and Trempealeau counties.

Presentation on Chippewa County Government's Energy Saving Case Study and Sustainability Planning

Mr. Flogstad introduced Andrew Dane. Mr. Dane outlined his background and said he was going to talk about community sustainability planning and how energy planning fits within that. Mr. Dane asked how many people would agree with the statement that we should run government more like a business. Mr. Dane briefly discussed a sustainability supplier assessment survey from a large retail outlet. He displayed a quote from a CEO of a major corporation which read as follows "A corporate focus on reducing green house gases as quickly as possible is a good business strategy. It will save money for our customers- and save money for business." He reviewed some of the questions on the survey and explained there has been a CEO mind shift on sustainability issues. Mr. Dane discussed another study where over 700 CEO's were asked the question "Do you agree or strongly agree that sustainability issues should be fully embedded in the company's strategies and operations?", and over 90% agreed. Mr. Dane said he wanted to contrast this as far as what we are doing at the local level. Mr. Dane said he questioned whether 90% of our local boards are looking at sustainability or discussing this at the board level. Mr. Dane said even through this recession and tougher economic conditions, corporate America is still seeing sustainability as a vital issue to their operations.

Mr. Dane showed some survey statistics from the International City/County Management Association (ICMA). He said 2,176 local governments responded to the survey that showed 63% of respondents had conducted energy audits, 53% had installed energy management systems, 50% had increased their purchase of fuel efficiency vehicles, and 56% had upgraded to more energy efficient lighting systems. Mr. Dane asked "What local leaders should be doing to address sustainability issues?"

Mr. Dane reported on a 5 stage journey to sustainability for businesses developed by Bob Willard. Mr. Dane said he liked the metaphor of sustainability being described as a journey. Mr. Dane said we can apply this five stage journey to communities. The five stages are Stage 1, Pre-compliance; Stage 2, Compliance; Stage 3, Beyond Compliance; Stage 4, Integrated Strategy; and Stage 5, Passion and Purpose. Mr. Dane said Stage 2, Compliance, is where a community or business may be complying with regulations because they have too. An example would be that a community prepared a comprehensive plan because of the requirement but the plan is just sitting on a shelf collecting dust. Mr. Dane then discussed Stage 3, Beyond Compliance. How do we actually do more than we have to do and become more eco-efficient or efficient? How do we incorporate sustainability in everything we do? Mr. Dane said Organic Valley is a good example of a business that incorporates sustainability in their operations. Mr. Dane said he spent some time thinking about different ways communities can work towards sustainability. Integrated approaches and some of the tools we can use to get there are comprehensive planning and integrating sustainability into those plans. He said the City of Eau Claire's Comprehensive plan was redone to address sustainability issues. He said some communities prepare integrated sustainability stand alone plans. He mentioned the 25x25 energy action plan as another good tool and another emerging tool is climate adaptation plans. Mr. Dane said most of us will agree that the climate is changing and we are having more frequent weather events where there are higher precipitation amounts causing flash flooding etc. All these climate changes represent big challenges and barriers in terms of community infrastructure planning. Mr. Dane asked

"How do we revisit our community infrastructure, our specifications for wastewater for roads, for buildings, for emergency management?"

Mr. Dane continued by discussing some single issue approaches. He said communities are looking at smart streets and designing streets in a way that are not just for automobiles but for pedestrians, bikes, and disabled. Housing is another single issue approach and he mentioned traditional neighborhood design using better design standards. Other single issue approaches include Transit Oriented Design (TOD), Green architecture (LEED), energy and materials efficiency, and economic development (eco-industrial parks).

Mr. Dane said he wanted to drill down and look specifically at energy conservation planning. He said we have been lazy the way we use energy. He said we have so much potential energy within our own communities and it's not energy we can suck from the ground but energy we can save just by addressing the demand side of it. He explained that when we do that we are using less fossil fuel, creating less pollution, and reducing our energy costs. Mr. Dane said for every dollar a community saves on energy costs that dollar can be invested in making community services better and in things that actually matter to people. Mr. Dane said he thought we could also create business opportunities for the private sector. Mr. Dane said if you look at energy planning there are two basic approaches, 1) a community based approach, and 2) more of an operational approach. Are you thinking about energy planning in a way that's going to engage other stakeholders beyond just your own internal staff, are you looking to reach out to other partners in the community (hospitals, businesses, Focus on Energy, other people in the community etc.), or are you looking strictly at developing a plan or policy that will address just your operations? Mr. Dane said he wanted to discuss briefly a community based approach. Mr. Dane described a project in Barron County where a school district put in a wood boiler system and over the last 20 years the school district has created a district wide heating system where they connected an adjacent elementary school, a clinic, an assisted living facility, and a community center to capture heat off that one system. He said this is a fascinating case study for anyone looking at district wide solutions.

Other examples of community based approaches include things like local governments sponsoring public outreach events on energy conservation etc. He gave an example of a county that provided recommissioning training across the entire county. Other community based approaches he cited included creating solar access ordinances, developing LEED requirements, developing eco-industrial parks, regional transportation authority's etc. Mr. Dane asked for examples of community based approaches in the MRRPC Region. Commissioner Johnson said La Crosse County has a partnership with Gundersen Lutheran where the County plans to pipe methane gas from its landfill to the Onalaska Clinic to produce electricity. Commissioner Schlesselman asked Mr. Dane to explain congestion pricing. Mr. Dane said congestion pricing is a method used by larger urban areas to alleviate problems with congestion by charging a fee for driving into high congested areas. He said he wasn't aware of examples like this in Wisconsin. Mr. Dane asked for more examples of community based approaches. Commissioner Christenson said in the 1970's he was Director of Facilities Management at UW-Eau Claire. He explained that through some technical work and fine tuning on the boiler system the excess energy from that system was utilized by other facilities. He said the UW-System made an agreement with the hospital and technical school allowing them to tap into UW's system. Commissioner Christenson explained this agreement spread out the costs of operating the boiler system and as far as he knew that system was still in place. Mr. Flogstad said that downtown St. Paul, Minnesota also has a district heating system.

Mr. Dane said he wanted to discuss the operational approach for energy planning. He outlined some key considerations for getting started: 1) Identifying the purpose of the planning effort; 2) Sharing the mission with other key stakeholders; 3) Identifying champions in the planning process; 4) Developing a plan to approach and recruit your team; 5) Developing a detailed and flexible planning process; 6) Developing an outline for an energy plan; 7) Choosing a completion date; and 8) Get to work. Mr. Dane discussed each consideration and provided background on a project he was involved with in Chippewa County. He said it's very important in the planning process to make a commitment from the very top to the process. The process has to be made a priority and it means investing time and money in the project. He said you need to assess performance, set goals, and do a thorough energy audit. Mr. Dane explained energy consumption is first and foremost because that's a variable you can control. You can't control the cost of energy. Mr. Dane said they made a comparison of different fuel types and 2/3 of the energy in Chippewa County went for transportation and 1/3 was for facility operation. Mr. Dane displayed some pie charts showing energy consumption in the County. He said energy consumption was also looked at by meter and by department. Mr. Dane said where they could they looked at 3 years of energy consumption to smooth out some of the variables, and they also looked at vehicle miles by department. Mr. Dane said it was critical to look at energy use overall and not just facility use. Commissioner Leys commented that County Highway Department miles weren't shown on the graph.

Mr. Dane continued by outlining the process used in Chippewa County. He said that as part of the project a baseline was done on recent achievements including items such as energy saving light bulbs, door controls, purchasing fuel efficient vehicles etc. Mr. Dane said Chippewa County decided to do a "Stand Alone" audit and hire an engineering firm at a cost of about \$30,000. He explained the information from the audit was combined with baseline information to set specific goals to reduce energy consumption by 10% in 2010 and 10% in 2011. He said they also created an action plan to create an energy management system and a formal process for revisiting energy every year as part of the budget process. He explained by building off the goals, some very specific objectives were defined. He said the County drafted an ordinance to define the roles and responsibilities related to the program and job descriptions were changed accordingly. He added there was also a section of roles and responsibilities for plan implementation that was broken down by County Board, County Administrator, Department heads, etc. These roles and responsibilities included adopting an energy conservation plan, setting energy conservation goals, and adopting a budget to finance energy improvements, etc. Mr. Dane explained that as part of the energy planning process they went ahead and put together a budget that included items such as upgrading fleet management software, upgrading hybrid vehicles, creating some additional staff support, implementing defined energy conservation projects, performing renewable energy assessments etc. In conclusion Mr. Dane said you should think of energy planning as a journey starting with facility energy planning and then pursuing community based strategies. Mr. Dane said a resource to help municipalities with energy planning is the "Municipal Energy Planning Guidebook put together by himself and other UW-Extension team members. He said there is also a toolkit available at capacitycenter.org that can walk communities through the planning process. He asked if anyone had any comments or questions. Commissioner Johnson asked about the district heating project and tax implications. Mr. Dane said he wasn't sure how all that worked out. Commissioner Savage thanked Mr. Dane for his presentation.

Approval of MRRPC Regional Comprehensive Plan 2013-2033 Document Design

Mr. Flogstad presented the document design for the MRRPC's regional comprehensive plan. He said everyone should have received a copy in the mail. He reviewed the design draft and asked for comments and questions. Mr. Flogstad explained the plan is advisory. He said the planning process includes adoption of public procedures to foster public participation and that once a regional plan is adopted it can be amended at any time, subject to proper notice and public hearing as specified in Wis. Statutes 66.1001. He said the plan should be viewed as a regional guide plan and not a regional design plan. The plan should help pull the region together and encourage collaboration, cost sharing, and resource pooling. He said the final regional plan document should be a compelling read that stimulates support and action. He reviewed the 9 elements of the plan. Commissioner Johnson stated that Mr. Flogstad went to great measure to emphasize the plan will be a guide plan instead of a design plan. Mr. Flogstad said the plan is a regional guide plan and stressed that locals make all decisions regarding growth. Ms. Johnson also asked about requirements for changing the plan itself and asked if they were the same as at the local level. Mr. Flogstad said the requirements were the same. Mr. Flogstad said the last time a regional plan was done was in the 1960's. Commissioner Schlesselman asked if there were room for additions to this document design. Mr. Schlesselman said he wanted to suggest some possible upgrades to the document design document. He referenced Chapter 5 (a) Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resource Inventory, Item 1 – Productive Agricultural Areas and Forests. He said he would like to add soil loss monitoring and forest management practices. He stated that near Items 4 and 5 he would also like to add the Lower Chippewa River. There was some discussion on whether or not in general terms these items were addressed in the outline. Mr. Schlesselman said he felt it was very important to monitor soil loss. He said in Buffalo County the main industry is Agriculture and if the top soil isn't preserved the County won't have that industry. Mr. Flogstad said that slopes will be mapped and recommendations will be made on development. Mr. Fletcher said a good resource for this information is County Land and Water Conservation Plans. Mr. Schlesselman moved to make the additions he outlined to the document design. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion to make the proposed amendments to the document design. Commissioner Burke made a motion to adopt the amended design document; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Schlesselman, and approved unanimously.

Approval of MRRPC Regional Comprehensive Plan Public Participation Procedures

Mr. Flogstad presented the public participation plan. He said the participation program is designed to be inclusive and encourage people to participate in the planning process, and added that opportunities are open to everyone to participate. He said the MRRPC will host at least eight outreach meetings during the planning process and during these meetings research on past and existing development trends will be reported on. Mr. Flogstad outlined the process that will be followed when conducting outreach meetings and described where the meetings would be held. He said that during some of the MRRPC meetings the MRRPC will provide opportunity for public comments on the Regional Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Flogstad said the Comprehensive Planning Law requires at least one formal public hearing with a Class 2 public notice. He said the public hearing will be held during one of the MRRPC's meetings. Mr. Flogstad said the MRRPC has 42 months to complete the plan. Commissioner Christenson made a motion to approve the public participation plan; the motion was seconded by Commissioner

Murray and approved unanimously. Commissioner Christenson commented that the regional plan may be a little late as most county plans are done. There was some discussion on where other RPC's were in completing their regional plans. Mr. Flogstad concluded by briefly reviewing plans that the MRRPC Regional Plan could be modeled after.

Discussion on Regional Comprehensive Plan Survey

Mr. Flogstad said a regional survey will also be done as part of the planning process. Mr. Flogstad said he contacted UW-River Falls for input on the survey process. Mr. Flogstad said that at the December 2010 or February 2011 meeting the Commission will need to approve a survey instrument and how it will be disseminated. Commissioner Christenson said the survey should not be extremely long. Commissioner Johnson said that people on the front line in the counties should be made aware of this planning process before the survey is mailed. She added this is a great opportunity to promote the MRRPC.

Status of Contract with Crawford County for Update to its Shoreland-Floodplain Zoning Ordinance

Dave Bonifas said the MRRPC is in the process of updating Crawford County's Shoreland-Floodplain Ordinance. He said September was the start of the grant. He said this project will involve revising the current ordinance. He explained the DNR has made some model ordinances available so staff will be looking at those models. Mr. Bonifas said he would be meeting with the Crawford County Zoning Administrator next week. He explained the State of Wisconsin is requiring updates to the Shoreland-Floodplain zoning ordinances so Counties should keep this on their radar. He said the revisions are required because of some changes to NR115 rules. Mr. Bonifas said that Crawford County was able to secure a \$5,000 grant to assist with this project.

Status of Contract with Village of Cashton to Prepare Environmental Assessment for Expansion of Their Community Hall

Peter Fletcher gave an overview on a project in Cashton involving the expansion of the Cashton Community Hall. Mr. Fletcher said the Village of Cashton is receiving some funding from the Wisconsin Department of Commerce (DOC) for this project. He said before the Wisconsin DOC will release the funds an environmental review has to be completed. He explained staff contracted with the Village to assist them with this environmental review. He said the final documents for the review were mailed yesterday and hopefully by the October 21st the Village will have a groundbreaking for this project.

Status of Contract with Wisconsin Department of Commerce to Assist in Preparing a Statewide Post Disaster Economic Resiliency Model

Bryan Law said the Statewide Post Disaster Economic Resiliency Model is currently focused on taking the flood reports done by RPC's after the 2008 flood and compiling the information into a presentation that will be made at a League of Municipalities workshop. He explained that from the collection of experiences of the 2008 flood, the Department of Commerce, MRRPC and other RPC's will prepare a model on how communities can put better preventative measures in place before a disaster actually happens. He said if measures are in place a community should be able to bounce back faster after a disaster. He said the project is about tying together local, state, federal, non-profit and private sector efforts into a cohesive strategy.

Status on subcontract with West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission to assist in implementing the 2007 Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP)

Mr. Bonifas said MRRPC staff is working on the SCIP that is looking at how emergency management organizations talk to each other. He outlined all the data and information that has to be gathered as part of the planning process. He said that all radios have to be listed for every responding agency as well as all the channels etc. on a county-wide basis. He explained the database is in California and it's nationwide so it's a rather large database. Mr. Bonifas said he has been doing some training on how to enter data and it gets very technical. He briefly described some of the problems that could occur if information is not consistent. He explained the end result of gathering all this data is to do a Technical Interoperability Communication (TIC) Plan. Mr. Bonifas explained that every county has to do a TIC plan. He said right now a survey is being developed to gather all of the information needed. He explained there are a lot of players. Mr. Bonifas briefly discussed some of the communications problems in western Wisconsin. Mr. Bonifas said the TIC plans were due at the end of the year but because of changing federal regulations the plans won't be done. He said to complicate things even more all communication should be using narrowband by 2011. Mr. Bonifas reported the State has put together a PowerPoint presentation on narrow banding and its requirements if anyone was interested. Commissioner Murray said Pepin County is already working on narrow banding. Commissioner Johnson asked if County Emergency Management Departments knew about the PowerPoint presentation.

Status on Feasibility Study for a Daily Commuter Bus to Serve Crawford, Vernon and La Crosse Counties

Mr. Fletcher said the Crawford County Transportation Coordinating Committee adopted the feasibility study for a daily commuter bus to serve Crawford, Vernon and La Crosse Counties. He said the study was done in cooperation with the City of Prairie du Chien. He explained meetings regarding the study were completed last week and the Committee decided to move ahead with three possible routes. He said DOT would fund up to 80% and a local match of 20% would be needed that could be funded partially by fares. Mr. Fletcher said everyone should have a handout showing the three routes: The 1st route would originate in Genoa in the a.m. and then travel to La Crosse (6 locations) and circle around to Coon Valley-Westby-Viroqua 4 times a day; the second route would originate in Viroqua going the opposite direction first to La Crosse and then through Stoddard-Genoa-Viroqua 4 times a day; the third route focuses in Crawford County and southern Vernon County. He said the third route based on the study would originate in Mt. Sterling, travel to Viroqua, head down STH 27 to Prairie du Chien and then to Viroqua, 4 times a day. Mr. Fletcher said another route looked at was STH 35 from Prairie du Chien to Genoa that would be able to connect in to other routes. Mr. Fletcher said at this time that route doesn't show enough worker commuter traffic but the route shows some medical transportation needs so we are looking at running that route a couple days a week. Mr. Fletcher said the cost associated with the commuter bus is \$362,000 a year. Mr. Fletcher said the service could potentially be up and going as early as next May. Mr. Fletcher said the key thing is getting the local match and he would be assisting in soliciting counties and local municipalities, potential benefactors, businesses, and medical centers to secure the match. He explained that hundreds of thousands of dollars are spent by municipalities to provide medical transportation and these routes could alleviate some of those costs. He said the project has strong support from the Department of Transportation.

Report on Safe Route to Schools Grant Awards in the Region

Mr. Fletcher said the Safe Routes to School Program encourages children ages K-9 to walk and bike to school by creating safer walking and biking routes thereby promoting healthier lifestyles in children at an early age. Mr. Fletcher said staff prepared two separate Safe Route to School grant applications both of which were funded. One application was for Spring Valley in Pierce County and the other application was a joint application for the cities of Viroqua and Westby, and private and public schools in those communities. He said both were planning grants with no local match required. Mr. Fletcher said both Safe Route Plans will be done by the end of 2011.

Report on Food Resource and Agribusiness Network Industry Cluster Initiative

Bryan Law gave a report on the Food Resource and Agribusiness Network (FRAN) Industry Cluster Initiative. He said the Fran group met on October 7th. He said the group's discussion focused on Vernon County's Economic Development Associations new business incubator. He said FRAN is also starting to reinvestigate cooperative trucking. Companies reported excess trucking capacity and empty backhauls. If cooperative truck routes could be identified food processing companies could reduce their energy costs.

Kickapoo Valley Regional Economic Development Initiative – KVREDI and Long-Term Flood Recovery Projects in Gays Mills and La Farge

Mr. Law said the MRRPC staff is assisting with the Kickapoo Valley Regional Economic Development Initiative (KVREDI). He said KVREDI is continuing to work on the concept of a recreational trail between Wilton and Wauzeka. He explained a public information meeting was held on September 2nd in Gays Mills on the proposed trail. He said the group will continue to gage support for the trail. Mr. Law said the KVREDI group as a whole has focused on several different economic sectors and recently applied to the USDA for a Rural Business Opportunity Grant to study the feasibility of a cluster centered on forest products. He reported the grant application was not successful but scored highly.

Mr. Law said the flood recovery coordinator in Gays Mills announced that new housing units are fully leased. Mr. Law reported that the Organic Valley expansion in La Farge is moving forward with a groundbreaking scheduled for next month.

Status of Gays Mills Comprehensive Plan

Mr. Fletcher said the Village of Gays Mills Comprehensive Plan is on schedule. He said a public hearing is scheduled for November and the next step is for the plan to go before the planning committee. The final step is Village Board adoption.

Report on County Comprehensive Planning in Jackson, Monroe, and Vernon Counties and the Grant Award to Pepin County to prepare a Comprehensive Plan

Mr. Bonifas said a public hearing will be held on the Jackson County's Comprehensive Plan next Thursday and that plan should go to the County Board for adoption in December. Mr. Bonifas said Monroe County approved their comprehensive plan at their

last county board meeting. He reported that Vernon County is still meeting on their plan with no timeline set. Mr. Bonifas reported that Pepin County received a planning grant and they are currently working on their public participation plan.

Report on Department of Defense – Fort McCoy Joint Land Use Study Program

Mr. Law reported a meeting will be held on the Joint Land Use Study Monday of next week. He said a representative from the Office of Economic Adjustment will be at that meeting to answer questions and to give a presentation on what goes in to a joint land use study. Mr. Law said this project is a cooperative and consensus building effort between the military operation and the surrounding civilian property to alleviate any possible conflicts in the future.

Status of Pierce, Monroe, and Crawford Counties' Recreation Plans and Pierce County Recycling Ordinance

Mr. Bonifas said the Pierce County Outdoor Recreation plan is done. He said staff is working on recreation plans for Monroe and Crawford County. Mr. Bonifas said that UW-L Intern, Brett Mittelstaedt prepared several maps for the Crawford County Recreation Plan. Mr. Bonifas reviewed the outdoor recreation planning process. He explained if a project is listed in an approved outdoor recreation plan there is a potential for funding of the project from the Department of Natural Resources. Mr. Bonifas said staff is also updating Pepin County's outdoor recreation plan. He said there is no cost to the counties to update the plans.

Status of Crawford, Pepin, Trempealeau, and Vernon Counties' Multi Hazard Mitigation Plans

Mr. Bonifas said staff is in the process of updating existing multi hazard mitigation plans for Trempealeau, Vernon and Crawford counties. He provided a status report on the progress of those updates. Mr. Bonifas said staff is preparing the Pepin County Hazard Mitigation Plan. That plan is in the beginning stages.

Old Business and New Business

No old business was reported. Commissioner Ross said the Great River Road has received a lot of attention from the Wisconsin Department of Tourism. He said his business was listed by the Department of Tourism as one of 12 reasons to visit the Great River Road. He said a website touting tourism in Pierce County is TravelPierceCounty.com. Mr. Ross said he and his wife were fortunate to be interviewed by a free lance reporter from New York. He said recognition like this is very important for tourism in our region.

Mr. Flogstad said Directors of Wisconsin RPC's have been asked to assist with the LinkWISCONSIN project. LinkWISCONSIN is working with the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin on a broadband project. He explained RPC Director's have been asked to recruit volunteers to assist with this project. Mr. Flogstad said you do not have to have great knowledge on broadband to serve. No other new business was brought up.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by and approved unanimously.

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the October 13, 2010, bimonthly meeting minutes approved on the 8th day of December 2010.

Vicki Burke, Secretary-Treasurer