



**MISSISSIPPI RIVER  
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

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*Eugene Savage, Black River Falls, WI  
Chairman*  
*James Scholmeier, Fountain City, WI  
Vice Chairman*  
*Vicki Burke, Onalaska, WI  
Secretary & Treasurer*  
*Greg Flogstad, Onalaska, WI  
Director*

**MINUTES  
MISSISSIPPI RIVER REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (MRRPC)  
BIMONTHLY MEETING  
10:00 a.m., June 9, 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: Keith Foye, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA); Paul Wydeven, Wisconsin Department of Transportation; and Jessy Loughlin, UW-L Intern.

**Minutes of April 14, 2010 Bimonthly Meeting**

Commissioner Ehram made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Murray, to accept the minutes of the April 14, 2010, bimonthly meeting. Approved unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report**

Chairman Savage asked Secretary-Treasurer Burke to present the treasurers reports. Ms. Burke said the April 1, 2010 balance in all MRRPC accounts was \$274,708.60 and the April 30, 2010 ending balance was \$271,533.66. Ms. Burke reported that the beginning balance in May 2010 was \$271,533.66 and the balance in all accounts at month's end was \$265,589.88.

Ms. Burke then presented the financial report for the Business Capital Fund. The balance in this account as of March 31, 2010 was 175,174.02. From April 2010 through May 2010, activity in this account included loan repayments of \$22,675.59, account interest of \$152.97, an insurance premium payment for Directors and Officers insurance of \$1,988.00 and payment of MRRPC 2009 Administrative Fees of \$7,907.00. The ending balance in the Business Capital Fund as of May 31, 2010, was \$188,107.58. Ms. Burke said that as of March 31, 2010, the Business Capital Fund II RLF had a balance of \$57,645.62. She said that from April 2010 through May 2010, interest on this account totaled \$49.94, loan repayments of \$4,874.57 were made, and payment of MRRPC 2009 Administrative Fees of \$676.00, leaving a May 31, 2010, balance of \$61,894.13.

The CMV Growth Development Fund began with a March 9, 2010, balance of \$55,641.23. Ms. Burke said that from the period of March 9, 2010, through May 11, 2010, interest earned on this account totaled \$14.45, loan payments of \$1,155.02 were made, and \$1,325.00 was transferred to CMV Sequester Account leaving a May 11, 2010, balance of \$55,436.70. Ms. Burke said the balance in the CMV-EDA Sequestered Fund as of March 9, 2010, was \$147,137.40. During the period of March 10, 2010, through May 11, 2010, activity in this account consisted of interest earned of \$38.18, a \$1,325 deposit (transfer of funds from CMV RLF Account), and a payment of \$46.73 was sent to the U.S. Treasury leaving a balance of \$148,453.85.

Ms. Burke said the La Crosse County Economic Development Fund began with a March 14, 2010 balance of \$44,752.83. During the period of March 15, 2010 through May 13, 2010, loan repayments of \$2,990.00 were made and interest earned totaled \$15.25. The ending account balance as of May 13, 2010, was \$47,758.09. Chairman Savage asked for a motion of approval on the treasurers reports presented. Commissioner Baecker made a motion to approve the treasurer's reports as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kuhn and approved unanimously.

Bryan Law, MRRPC Economic Development Planner reported that the Business Capital Fund recently approved a \$60,000 loan to a Hardware/Rental Business in Trempealeau County. He said the total project cost was \$696,000, and the project will retain six jobs. Mr. Law said another loan application is currently in process for the Business Capital Fund. He said the Business Capital Fund will be holding their annual meeting in the coming weeks at which time that loan application will be acted on. He explained that the BCF Board is also in the process of reviewing their administrative plan and bylaws, and the proposed changes will be reviewed at the annual meeting. Mr. Law explained that ultimately the U.S. Department of Commerce-Economic Development Administration would have to approve any changes made to the Administrative Plan or Bylaws.

Director Flogstad reported that La Crosse County is serving as a vehicle for a \$4.5 million loan to CenturyLink. The proposed loan put forward by the State is an incentive for CenturyLink to keep their offices in place in Wisconsin. Mr. Flogstad explained the conditions of the loan which included job training and job retention and job creation.

Mr. Flogstad reported that Skipperliner (a yacht and tour ship manufacturer) recently filed Chapter 128 voluntary debt consolidation plan. He explained Skipperliner has a loan from the La Crosse County Economic Development Fund.

#### **Nomination and Election of Officers for 2010-2012**

Chairman Savage asked for the Nominating and Bylaws Committee Report. Mr. Flogstad thanked Commissioner's Carney, Dupre and Ritscher for serving on the Nominating Committee. Commissioner Carney, chairman of the committee reported the Nominating Committee met two weeks ago in Alma. Commissioner Carney reported two recommendations came out of that meeting. The first recommendation was to amend the current MRRPC bylaws as proposed and the other recommendation was to recommend nomination of current slate of officers for reelection. Commissioner Carney thanked the current slate of officers for their service and thanked them for their willingness to continue serving in that capacity. Commissioner Carney then asked if there were any other nominees for Chairman, He asked again if there were any other nominees for Chairman, He asked again if there were any nominees for Chairman. Hearing no other nominations, Commissioner Carney closed nominations and nominated Eugene Savage, the current Chairman for reelection. Commissioner Ehram made the motion to elect Commissioner Savage as Chairman, Commissioner Christenson seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously. The same process was followed for nominations for Vice-Chairman and Secretary-Treasurer. Commissioner Dupre made a motion to elect Commissioner Scholmeier as Vice-Chairman; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Schroeder and approved unanimously. Commissioner Christenson made a motion to elect Commissioner Burke as Secretary-Treasurer; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Johnson and approved unanimously.

#### **Decision on Proposed Changes to MRRPC Bylaws by Nominating and Bylaws Committee**

Commissioner Carney asked Mr. Flogstad to report on the proposed changes to the MRRPC bylaws. Mr. Flogstad explained the proposed changes should be made to more accurately reflect how the MRRPC currently operates or desires to operate. Mr. Flogstad then reviewed the various changes being recommended in the bylaws. Chairman Savage stated that the language in Article V, Section 4 should be clarified stating it takes a 2/3 majority of all Commissioners. The changed wording would read as follows: "Section 4 – Removal. Any of the officers so selected may be removed for cause or may be removed if incapacitated or unable to attend the meetings or attend to the affairs of their office. Removal from office shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all commissioners present voting at a legal meeting, but in no event less than a majority of all commissioners." Commissioner Purdy questioned if the Article VI, Section 3 – Alternates language should be removed. He said this could be a mechanism used if the Governor is slow in making appointments to the Commission board. Director Flogstad explained that even though a Commissioner's term expires they can continue to serve on the Board until the Governor makes a new appointment. Commissioner Carney asked if there were any more questions or comments. Commissioner Johnson commented the MRRPC should review the bylaws on a more frequent basis. Commissioner Carney asked for a motion to approve the proposed changes to bylaws including the proposed change to Article V, Section 4 – Removal suggested by Chairman Savage. Commissioner Ehram made a motion to approve the proposed changes to the bylaws; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Christenson and approved unanimously.

**Status of Commissioner Appointments**

Director Flogstad reported on the Commissioner appointments expiring in July 2010. He explained how the appointment process works and said that any Commissioner interested in serving another term should contact their respective County Board Chairman and/or Governor. He said he has sent a letter to the respective counties and the Governor's office to begin this process.

**Presentation on Wisconsin's Working Land's Initiative Involving Changes to Farmland Preservation Tax Credits, Agricultural Enterprise Areas, Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement Grants, and Roll Out of Program to Counties**

Keith Foye gave a short introduction of his background with the USDA and the history of development of the working lands initiative recently passed as part of the state's 2009-2011 biennial budget process. He said the impetus of this initiative is to provide more tools to keep working lands working, including forests as well as farmland. He said main components of this initiative include: Expand and modernize the state's existing farmland preservation program, establish agricultural enterprise areas (AEAs), and develop a purchase of agricultural conservation easement matching grant program (PACE). Mr. Foye said one of the charges of regional planning commissions is providing planning assistance to counties. Mr. Foye said a center point of the working lands initiative is trying to update the county farmland preservation programs that were in many instances adopted in the early 1980s. He said these plans are the blueprint on how to keep farmland actively being worked. Mr. Foye said that in general, counties have not really updated their farmland preservation plans. He explained that since 1970 the state has had the farmland preservation program and currently there is more interest in trying to update the program and make it more important. He said a major item is the idea of updating farmland preservation zoning. Mr. Foye explained that under the initial program farmland preservation was implemented through individual farmland preservation agreements. Mr. Foye said this was a very scattered approach. Mr. Foye said there is a new concept of setting up Agricultural Enterprise Areas as the way to figure out where to put the State's efforts. Mr. Foye then gave a brief overview of another new tool, PACE, which is the purchase of agricultural conservation easements. He said these PACE type of agreements have been active in eastern states for some time and the idea was that tool should be available in Wisconsin. .

Mr. Foye emphasized one of the keys to the Working Lands Initiative is farmland preservation planning. He said the State law passed maintains all counties need to do a farmland preservation plan. Mr. Foye said seventy of the 72 counties in the state prepared and adopted county farmland preservation plan several years ago. The only two counties without plans are Milwaukee and Menomonie. He said one of the problems with these plans is there was nothing in the law that said they would ever expire but with the new law, the plans will expire. Mr. Foye gave an overview on certification expiration dates of these plans and how the expiration dates were determined. He said the La Crosse County Farmland Preservation plan will expire the end 2011. He said La Crosse County has received a planning grant to update their plan. The remaining expiration dates for the MRRPC region are: Pierce (2012); Monroe, Vernon, Pepin (2013); Trempealeau and Jackson (2014); and Buffalo and Crawford (2015). Mr. Foye said planning grants are available to help counties update their plans. Mr. Foye said the farmland preservation plan is not a great deal different than what the previous plan was but areas must be designated for farmland preservation. A lot of the old plans did a circle around the county and said virtually everything. Mr. Foye said we all know that it's not realistic to have a no growth, no development scenario. Development is going to occur so counties need to figure out which areas should be kept in farmland. He said the planning process will assist in doing that. He said the only plan state statutes recognize is the county plan for the farmland preservation program. He said the idea is that the county establish a rationale for designating those areas, whether it be by soils, productivity, topography, drainage, historic areas that have been in farmland use. The statute also requires a county farmland preservation program include policies, goals, strategies and proposed actions to increase housing density in areas outside of the identified farmland preservation areas. Mr. Foye said development on 5 or 6 acre parcels gobbles up land quickly in rural areas. Mr. Foye added that farmland preservation plans have to be consistent with comprehensive plans. He said the two plans have to mesh together and be consistent.

Mr. Foye said one of the ways the farmland preservation program was implemented was through something called a farmland preservation zoning ordinance more often called an Exclusive Ag Ordinance. He said there are roughly 400 local units of government that have had their ordinances certified and that includes 189 actual ordinances. Some are done under county zoning and some are done under town zoning authority. He reviewed the areas in the MRRPC region that are covered by exclusive ag zoning. He said most of the counties with the exception of La Crosse County are not covered by exclusive ag zoning. Mr. Foye said the new standards will allow some of the value added type activities to occur out there in the farming area if the local government so chooses. He gave some examples of this. He said if someone has a business where they are storing

grain, why shouldn't that be out in an agricultural area. He said these are things that can be constructed through the ordinance process. He said there is some allowance for some non-farm residences in the farmland preservation zoning district by issuing a conditional use to allow this but there are some standards involved. He said the controversial part of this initiative is the rezone conversion fee. Mr. Foye explained that an entity wishing to rezone land out of farmland preservation for another use may only do so with local government approval and by paying a "conversion fee" equal to 3 times the class 1 "use value" of the land. This fee kicked in January 1, 2010. He briefly discussed this conversion fee and gave an estimate of \$810 per acre. He said the fee may discourage the rezoning of five acres to build a house and instead use less acreage. Mr. Foye said the conversion fee goes into a working lands trust fund. That fund could be used in the future for purchase of ag conservation easements, for future planning grants to counties, and for the Department to use for other land use initiatives. Mr. Foye said there are soil and water conservation requirements. Mr. Foye explained the idea is that with keeping land in agricultural use we should make sure we are protecting the soil resources and water quality. Mr. Foye said agricultural performance standards should be met and the counties should monitor this every four years on farms that participate. Mr. Foye said agriculture is a \$59 billion dollar industry annually in the state.

Mr. Foye said one of the new tools is the Agricultural Enterprise Areas (AEAs). He briefly discussed programs used by other states similar to AEAs such as agricultural districts, etc. Mr. Foye explained that AEAs are areas at the local level that are planned for farmland preservation that would be included in these certified farmland preservation plans. He said any new agreements after July 1, 2009 will have to be in these AEAs. He briefly explained that with Wis. Act 374 some of the people in process of applying for agreements under the old law can now still get an agreement under the new law. Outside of those, any new agreement will be to be in an AEA area. Mr. Foye said an AEA is a contiguous land area devoted primarily to agricultural use and locally targeted for agricultural preservation and agricultural development. Mr. Foye said the designation of AEAs is based on review of a petition voluntarily submitted by owners of at least five eligible farms and any affected local government. He explained there is a state approval process that would be used to designate these areas. Mr. Foye said the first round of applications requests was done in late 2009 and the petitions were due the end of February 2010. He said they are just about to put out a new administrative rule designating these AEAs. He said in the first phase the state is authorized to designate 15 AEAs up to 200,000 acres. Mr. Foye said 12 applications were received to designate AEAs.

Mr. Foye said beginning in 2012 up to 1 million acres statewide can be designated. Mr. Foye said the benefits of AEAs are: preservation of areas valuable for current and future agricultural use, promoting development of agricultural businesses, and ensuring eligibility of farm owners for tax credits through farmland preservation agreements. Mr. Foye said the farmland preservation tax credit peaked in the 1980s. He briefly discussed the amount of tax credits then versus the tax credits today which are lower. He reviewed the new per acre tax credits available which are: 1) \$5.00 for farmers with a farmland preservation agreement signed after July 1, 2009 and located in an AEA, 2) \$7.50 for farmers in an area zoned for farmland preservation, and 3) \$10.00 for farmers in an area zoned for farmland preservation and in an AEA, with a farmland preservation agreement signed after July 1, 2009. He said there was a maximum credit under the old formula and there is no maximum credit under the new formula but the state has capped the credits at \$27 million during these tight budget times. He said at one point there were about 4.5 million acres collecting these credits and right now there is 3.4 million. Mr. Foye continued by discussing differences between the old and new agreements. He went through the three different scenarios.

Mr. Foye said the last thing he wanted to discuss was another new tool "Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements (PACE)". He said the PACE program provides state funding for the purchase of agricultural conservation easements. He explained that an agricultural easement prohibits development that would make the land unavailable or unsuitable for agricultural use. He said easements are voluntary and allow a landowner to be compensated for limiting development on his or her farmland. Mr. Foye said it is a deed restriction so you are not able to develop the land other than for an agricultural or accessory use. Mr. Foye said easements are permanent and are carried over to subsequent landowners if the property is sold. Mr. Foye said that with an agricultural conservation easement a landowner will continue to privately own and manage the land; keep farming the land; keep the title to the property; be eligible for farmland preservation tax credits (if standards are met for tax credit eligibility); and control public access. Mr. Foye reviewed what projects are eligible for PACE grants. He said the project must be located within a farmland preservation area; have a qualified conservation plan in effect; at least 50% of land must be in crop, pasture or grassland; and land must generate gross farm revenues of \$6,000 a year. He briefly reviewed what criteria is considered in awarding PACE grants. He said the first round of applications for the PACE program went out in March and were due back in June. Mr. Foye said the state received 36 applications with several coming from La Crosse County. Mr. Foye said his agency would be working on this, and the next stage would be the approval process. Mr. Foye said these grants will be competitive. He said there is \$12 million available for matching grants statewide. Mr. Foye said his department does not directly relate to the

farmer that sells, the grant would be to a local government or a private nonprofit, something like a land trust. Mr. Foye said as he mentioned earlier there is an established working lands initiative trust fund. Some discussion then occurred on other state's handling of purchasing conservation easements. Commissioner Johnson questioned if the State of Pennsylvania had a 50/50 split on their funding? Mr. Foye said usually that's the case but there are many other things in place that affect the purchase of the easements. He said the State of Pennsylvania and Maryland are very dedicated in identifying where development can occur and easements cannot be purchased in those designated areas. Commissioner Johnson said she was trying to get at where the source of funds was coming from for the purchase of easement programs in other states. Mr. Foye said a real good source to find out that information is the American Farmland Trust web site. Some more discussion occurred on when the current farmland preservation plans would expire and when the new plans/certifications would need to be made. Mr. Bonifas said in regards to designated AEAs, why not designate everything an AEA except the incorporated areas. Mr. Foye said some are concerns about the conversion fee. He said land values and location of the property play an important role. Chairman Savage thanked Mr. Foye for his presentation.

#### **Approval of \$20,000 Amendment to EDA Planning Grant for Inventorying and Mapping Value Flows and Nodes of Purchase of Inputs and Outputs for Equipment and Metals and Food Processing Clusters**

Bryan Law presented an amendment to the MRRPC's EDA planning grant. He said the Economic Development Administration has approved an amendment to the MRRPC's EDA grant awarding the MRRPC an additional \$10,000 and the MRRPC would need to provide a match of \$10,000. Mr. Bryan said the scope of work for this project includes mapping and inventorying the inputs and outputs of two industry clusters – the equipment and metal manufacturing and agricultural and food processing clusters. He said these are two very important clusters in the region and this report will help identify savings, joint ventures and new market opportunities within these clusters. He said this project will help explore new opportunities with FRAN (Food Resource and Agribusiness Network) and EMMA (Equipment and Metal Manufacturing Association). Mr. Law asked for a motion to approve a \$10,000 match for the EDA grant amendment totaling \$20,000. Commissioner Ehram made a motion to approve the \$20,000 EDA grant amendment, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Schroeder, and approved unanimously.

#### **Update on Subcontract with West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission to Assist in Implementing the 2007 Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP)**

Dave Bonifas provided an update on the MRRPC's subcontract with the West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission to assist in implementing the 2007 Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP). He explained the State of Wisconsin has a statewide interoperability plan to address the public safety issues when it comes to emergency radio frequencies. He said in any region you want to know who is using what bands as far as radio operations so if there would be a large catastrophe a database would be readily available showing who's using what band frequencies and their radius, what is the capacity, and is there excess capacity etc. He said the State of Wisconsin Emergency Management has divided the State into regions and the interoperability plan the MRRPC is assisting WCWRPC with includes six MRRPC counties and the Ho Chunk Nation. Mr. Bonifas explained that each region will have a council. He said the MRRPC will conduct a community asset survey as part of the project and that data will be entered into a database. He said the database is highly restricted. Mr. Bonifas said the MRRPC staff will also be responsible for holding a couple of workshops in the region. Mr. Bonifas said right now there is a decision to be made on how the each council will be set up. Mr. Bonifas said he will be attending another meeting on this project on June 15<sup>th</sup> in Eau Claire. Commissioner Burke asked if the MRRPC was working with the La Crosse County Emergency Management Director and Mr. Bonifas concurred that was the case.

#### **Approval on Crawford County Land and Water Resources management Plan**

Peter Fletcher reported that the MRRPC is assisting Crawford County update their Land and Water Resource Plan. He passed around a copy of the first draft and explained the plan has to be updated every five years. He said major issues addressed in the plan include erosion, water resources, nutrient management, land use planning, forests and invasive species and waste disposal. He said a key thing is controlling erosion in a highly erodible area. Mr. Fletcher said a public hearing and introductory meeting will be held tomorrow on the first draft and that the plan should be completed in late summer.

#### **Approval of DOT Grant to Fund Plan and Implementation of Daily Commuter Bus Route project to Serve Multi Counties**

Mr. Fletcher said the Wisconsin Department of Transportation funded a grant request for Crawford County and the City of Prairie du Chien to look at the feasibility of a commuter bus on the Highway 35 corridor between Crawford County and La Crosse. He said a kick-off meeting was held three weeks ago. Mr. Fletcher and the committee overseeing the feasibility study has decided that a loop route should be looked at that includes Highway 27 between Prairie du Chien and Viroqua, Highway 14 between Viroqua and La Crosse, and Highway 35 between Prairie du Chien and La Crosse. He said an

application will be made in October if the commuter route is feasible. He said right now the project is in the data gathering stage and the committee will be meeting again in July. Mr. Fletcher reviewed the timetable of the project. He said the study will be done in October and then the committee will look at potential funding for the commuter bus.

### **Status on Safe Route to Schools Grant Applications, Viroqua, Westby, and Spring Valley Potential Applicants**

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 the program is very competitive and that only 20% of applications are funded. Mr. Fletcher reported he is working on two separate Safe Route to School applications for the MRRPC Region. He said he is assisting the Village of Spring Valley in Pierce County with their application. He said they applied last year and scored high but were not funded. He said they are revising their application and reapplying this year. He said the other application he is working on is for the City of Viroqua and Westby, a joint application. He said both applications have to be submitted by July. He said these applications have a tight timetable as the applications are coming out the end of June and they are due July 9<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Fletcher said he has been working to get letters of support for both projects from public and private entities. He explained if the applications are successful, the next step is applying for implementation funding. Paul Wydeven of Wisconsin DOT said the Safe Routes to School TEA Enhancement Program also has moved forward.

### **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 and the FRAN group have been working on a shrink wrap recycling project. He said one business has gathered a full truck load of shrink wrap on its own. He said the project grew out of industries in the cluster working together to share transportation resources. Mr. Law said the group has also cooperated on joint training programs through Western Wisconsin Technical College (WTC). He said Workforce connections received a \$53,000 grant for a training program underway at WTC. Mr. Law referred everyone to printouts showing the web site for FRAN. He said FRAN's web site is not fully complete but it will be a useful tool for members to further pursue joint ventures. He said that FRAN met on June 3<sup>rd</sup> and hosted three speakers that made presentations on food safety, etc. and will be meeting again on August 5<sup>th</sup>.

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

Mr. Law said that MRRPC staff is assisting with the Kickapoo Valley Regional Economic Development Initiative (KVREDI) by preparing visioning and mapping documents. He showed two maps prepared by staff, a Kickapoo Valley Recreational Trail Map, and Kickapoo Valley Recreation and Cultural Resources map. He said the KVREDI committee wants to secure the approval of the concept of a Kickapoo Valley recreational trail. He said it's clearly a long term project. Mr. Law said attributes of the Kickapoo Valley Region include recreation and tourism, agricultural and food processing, and forest and wood products.

Mr. Law said the Village of Gays Mills received a \$4.4 million grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce-Economic Development Administration (EDA) to assist in relocating businesses to a new location out of the floodplain, and the Village of La Farge was recently awarded \$990,000 from EDA to make infrastructure improvements needed to support expansion of Organic Valley Cooperative. He said MRRPC staff assisted with both of those grant applications.

### **Status on Contracts with La Crosse County Towns to Implement Their Comprehensive Plans**

Mr. Fletcher reported that MRRPC staff is working with two La Crosse Towns (Barre and Medary) to implement their comprehensive plans and developing subdivision ordinances etc. He said an invoice has been submitted to the State for funding. Mr. Fletcher said he met with the Town of Barre last night to begin the process.

### **Status of Comprehensive Plans: Towns of Byron and Prairie du Chien and Village of Gays Mills**

Mr. Fletcher said that the Town of Byron Plan is done. He said the Town of Byron did a lot of the work and the MRRPC worked with them to tie everything together. He reviewed some of the key issues identified in the plan. Mr. Fletcher said the Town of Prairie du Chien Plan is also complete and was adopted by the Town Board in May. Mr. Fletcher said he is also working with Gays Mills on their comprehensive plan. Staff has been meeting with their planning committee on a weekly basis. Mr. Fletcher said that the challenge with preparing a plan for the Village of Gays Mills is that you are continually dealing with moving parts. He said the 1st draft of the plan is almost complete and a public meeting will be held in July.

**Status of MRRPC application to the State of Wisconsin for a Regional Planning Grant**

Mr. Flogstad reported that there were 15 applications for comprehensive planning funds. He said the MRRPC has not heard any news about the \$175,000 Regional Planning Grant the MRRPC applied for. Mr. Bonifas reported that Pepin County also applied for comprehensive planning funds and they have not heard anything either.

**Report on County Comprehensive Planning in Crawford, Jackson, Monroe, and Vernon Counties and Status of Pepin County**

Mr. Bonifas reported that Monroe County is moving along with their comprehensive plan. He said the county has held 3 open houses and a public hearing is scheduled for June 2, 2010. He said a draft of their plan should be on their web site next week. Mr. Bonifas gave an update of the Jackson County Plan. He explained that plans are done for all municipalities participating in the plan. He said these plans will all be brought together into the county plan. Mr. Bonifas said October 21<sup>st</sup> has been set as a tentative date for a public hearing on that county plan. Mr. Bonifas reported that Vernon County tabled their comprehensive plan at the last county board meeting and are forming a new subcommittee.

Mr. Fletcher provided an update on Wisconsin Act 372. He said Wisconsin ACT 372 made modifications to the comprehensive planning law. He said a major change is the deadline for completion of comprehensive plans is extended from 01/01/2010 to 01/01/2012. He said local units of government can get an extension to 2012 by approving a resolution saying they will have a complete, adopted plan by 2012. There was some discussion on the changes and concerns alleviated by the Act.

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

Dave Bonifas said the final draft of the Pierce County Outdoor Recreation Plan is complete. He said that the Villages of Elmwood, Ellsworth and Maiden Rock have adopted their plans. He said the plan should be completed in the next couple of months. Mr. Bonifas said staff is also in process of updating outdoor recreation plans for Crawford and Monroe Counties.

Mr. Bonifas reported he met with Pierce County and went through the revised Pierce County Recycling Ordinance line by line. He said the County will be taking the ordinance to Corporate Counsel, then to Committee and then to the County Board for approval.

**Status of Crawford, Pepin, Trempealeau, and Vernon Counties' Multi Hazard Mitigation Plan Updates**

Mr. Bonifas said that he has been working with Crawford, Trempealeau, and Vernon Counties on updating their existing hazard mitigation plans. Mr. Bonifas said the Vernon and Crawford County are done and are being reviewed by Wisconsin Emergency Management. He said that work on the Trempealeau County update continues. Mr. Bonifas said Pepin County Hazard Mitigation Plan is in the beginning stages and that staff is currently collecting background data for the plan.

**Old Business and New Business**

No old business was reported. Mr. Flogstad said all Commissioners should have received a copy of the MRRPC's annual report. He said the annual report along with 2011 county contribution requests will be mailed to the counties this week.

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

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the June 9, 2010, bimonthly meeting minutes approved on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of August 2010.

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Vicki Burke, Secretary-Treasurer