



**MISSISSIPPI RIVER
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**
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*Vicki Burke, Onalaska
Secretary & Treasurer*
*Greg Flogstad, Onalaska
Director*

MINUTES

**MISSISSIPPI RIVER REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (MRRPC)
BIMONTHLY MEETING
10:00 a.m., August 14, 2013
Seasons by the Lake, 910 2nd Avenue North, Onalaska, Wisconsin**

Call to Order

Chairman Savage called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and asked for the roll call. Greg Flogstad, Director took the roll and stated a quorum was present. Mr. Flogstad introduced new Commissioners Daniel Barr from Buffalo County and James Neubauer from Vernon County. Guests: John Medinger representing U.S. Senator, Tammy Baldwin. The attendance roster is attached.

Minutes of June 12, 2013 Bimonthly Meeting

Chairman Savage asked for a motion to approve the June 12, 2013 bimonthly minutes. Commissioner Ehram made a motion and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Schroeder to accept the minutes of the June 12, 2013, bimonthly meeting. The motion was carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Vicki Burke, MRRPC Secretary/Treasurer presented the treasurers reports. Ms. Burke said the May 31, 2013 balance in all MRRPC accounts was \$290,843.21 and the June 30, 2013 ending balance was \$265,367.92. Ms. Burke reported that the beginning balance in June 30, 2013 was \$265,367.92 and the balance in all accounts as of July 31, 2013 was \$266,449.79.

Ms. Burke presented the financial report for the Business Capital Fund I indicating a May 31, 2013 balance of \$215,261.92. From June 2013 through July 2013 activity in this account included loan repayments of \$14,266.70 and account interest of \$74.24 leaving a July 31, 2013 ending balance of \$229,602.86. Ms. Burke reported a balance of \$231,786.76 in the BCF Sequester Account as of July 31, 2013.

Ms. Burke said that as of May 31, 2013, the Business Capital Fund II RLF had a balance of \$60,725.69. Activity in this account for June 1, 2013 through July 31, 2013 included interest of \$24.94 and loan repayments of \$30,652.07 leaving a July 31, 2013 balance of \$91,402.70. A balance of \$119,355.08 was reported for the BCF 2 Sequester Account as of July 31, 2013.

The CMV Growth Development Fund began with a May 8, 2013 balance of \$35,598.79. Ms. Burke said from the period of May 9, 2013 through July 10, 2013 activity in this account included \$7.95 in interest and loan payments of \$959.33 leaving a July 10, 2013 balance of \$36,577.07. Ms. Burke said the balance in the CMV-EDA Sequester Fund as of May 8, 2013 was \$164,046.57. During the period of May 9, 2013 through July 10, 2013 activity in this account consisted of interest earned of \$36.18 and a \$51.99 interest payment to the U.S. Department of Commerce-Economic Development Administration leaving a July 10, 2013 balance of \$164,030.76.

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 (LCEDF) began with a May 13, 2013 balance of \$46,772.45. From May 14, 2013 through July 14, 2013 account activity included \$1,850 in loan payments and \$12.20 in account interest leaving a July 14, 2013 account balance of \$48,634.65. The LCEDF Sequester Account began with a May 31, 2013 balance of \$63,647.94. From June 1, 2013 through July 31, 2013 activity in this account included account interest of \$21.33, and a deposit of \$710 leaving a balance of \$64,379.27.

Chairman Savage asked for a motion of approval on the treasurers reports presented. Commissioner Purdy made a motion to approve the treasurer's reports as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Murray and approved unanimously.

Mr. Law reported there weren't any additional loans made from the Business Capital Fund or the CMV Growth Development Fund since the last bimonthly meeting. Mr. Law said the Regional Revolving Loan fund effort is moving forward and several counties and communities have already agreed to join. Mr. Law asked if anyone had any questions.

Presentation on Small Business Regulatory Review Board's Mission to Review Existing and Proposed Rules and Solicit Suggestions for Regulatory Reform

Director Flogstad introduced Joe Knilians and Nancy Mistele from the Department of Administration Office of Business Development. Both Mr. Knilians and Nancy Mistele provided information on their professional backgrounds. Mr. Knilians said the Office of Business Development was created in 2011. He said initially it was created because the Small Business Regulatory Review Board was housed in the Department of Commerce and when Commerce was split the Office of Business Development was created in the Department of Administration. Mr. Knilians said the Office is an advocate for business. Ms. Mistele said that she and Mr. Knilians wear the business owners' hat and one of the things they are about is getting input on regulatory reform. Ms. Mistele explained her and Mr. Knilians are traveling around the state to get input from business and people on the streets.

Ms. Mistele said one of the things the Office of Business Development does in addition to talking to business about helping with regulatory reform, is a lot of triage on day-to-day issues that are problematic for businesses. She said if you have a concern, call their office. Mr. Knilians said they have reached out to the state agencies and tried to meet with all the agency heads to let them know they are here to work with them to find solutions for businesses in the State, and if not a solution, at least an answer why something is getting held up so you have certainty of how to move forward.

Ms. Mistele said they also work with the Small Business Regulatory Review Board. She said when the agency was first founded it mostly consisted of agency heads and a few small business owners. She commented that Governor Walker changed the makeup of the board and it now consists of all small business owners across the state and in addition there is a Senator and a Representative that work with that board; both of them are involved and engaged on a regular basis in pro-business activities through the Legislature. She said the Office of Business Development is the Board's 24/7 eyes and ears. We are out advertising to people that the Board exists and letting them know that if you bring reform ideas this Board will consider any suggestion that you have. Ms. Mistele said the Small Business Regulatory Review form can be completed and submitted to the Small Business Regulatory Review Board, Attn: Office of Business Development, P.O. Box 7864, Madison, WI 53707-7864. We need to hear from you, whatever business or industry you're in and what rule or regulation is getting in your way, and we also want to hear your solution. Mr. Knilians said I don't think we can stress that enough; no Bureaucrat or Legislator in Madison can come up with the solutions for the regulations that are hampering your business; only you as a business owner can do that. He asked, What rule or regulation is negatively impacting your business?; How does this rule/regulation affect your business?; and How would you change this rule/regulation to lessen the impact on your business? He said the form can be filled out online at www.smallbusiness.wi.gov.

Ms. Mistele said another thing that is going on with reform right now is the Legislature and Assembly is engaged in a project called "Right the Rules" where they have been charged with going through all of the codes in the books and everything on line right now to see what can be changed. Mr. Knilians said the Board is empowered to review all existing regulations so if there is a regulation that's been on the books for a long time you feel is outdated and needs to be changed, complete the form or contact the Office of Business Development. Future regulations can also be looked into. If a regulation comes out that has a negative impact on business, the Governor's office has the opportunity to say "No" as this has a negative impact on the businesses. He said state agencies have to give a fiscal impact of a regulation on businesses so the Governor's office and Small Business Regulatory Board can look at that before regulations are enforced.

Ms. Mistele said so everyone understands what the process is, Legislature passes the law, the agencies write the rules for implementation, and in the past there was no requirement that those come back through the legislature so they weren't always reviewed. She said its rules and how they are enforced at the street is where the rubber meets the road. Mr. Knilans said the Governor in his "State of the Union" address talked about the Small Business Regulatory Review Report. He said this report was from Executive Order 61 in 2012 when the Governor demanded agencies after reviewing their regulations to come up with a list of regulations within their agency that can be changed, repealed or modified in some sort to make them more efficient for the State of Wisconsin. He said the Wisconsin Regulatory Review Report can be found on the Office of Business Development website that provides details on the 307 proposed modifications to rule chapters that were identified, including 40 for full repeal, that affect 208 of Wisconsin's Administrative Rule chapters. He said this was a great start. Right now he and Ms. Mistele are working on making sure all the recommendations are passed and taken care of in the fall session coming up. Ms. Mistele suggested people look through the Regulatory Review Report and see if there are regulations that affect you before you send in a form requesting a change or modification.

Ms. Mistele said every year businesses are required to go online, sign up, and make sure all corporate information is accurate, and then pay the State \$30. She said a business owner did this and several months later moved the business. When the business contacted the Department of Financial Institutions (DFI) to change the business address again DFI wanted to charge the business another \$10. He told them he was not paying any more money so DFI also told him it's really not necessary, you can change it next year when you are required to update your information. She said this is an opportunity to look at something that's affecting business and see what the State can do to improve the process. She said the State is working on a portal right now to make sure when you come in and register your business that all agencies get the same information. Mr. Knilans discussed the process by which the rules and regulations are being reviewed by the Assembly, Legislature and state agencies. Mr. Knilans said the success of regulation reform doesn't come from Bureaucrats or Legislators in Madison but from business owners that deal with the regulations every day. How can we change these regulations to work better for all business? Ms. Mistele said the suggestions we receive actually have the opportunity to be made in to law. Mr. Knilans outlined an issue himself and Ms. Mistele were currently working. Ms. Mistele said what we are doing really does have an impact and can affect businesses success.

Mr. Knilans said the numbers coming out for Wisconsin look really well but businesses are dealing with regulation, taxes, energy, labor shortage etc. He commented about labor shortage being a concern and when traveling around the state we hear that businesses are competing against the unemployment benefits to get workers and that they have incentive to sit at home and not work. He said regulation is still a big concern and we are not going to pick up our numbers with jobs unless we tackle regulation. He said businesses can look at Wisconsin as a state to come to where 94% of CEOs are saying the State is moving in the right direction. They see that, but if they look at the regulations on the books they say no I can't be in Wisconsin because the regulation environment is too hard on us. Mr. Knilans stated you can help by spreading the word, participating in the process, and letting us know how we can help you or help others that work with you in your area. Ms. Mistele said if she could send you away with six words to remember it would be: "Regulatory Reform By Business For Business". That's really our goal and our mission. Mr. Knilans said we have a unique opportunity as business owners in the State. We have a pro-business Governor and a pro-business legislature that are looking for ways to change that environment in the State so we get more business. He said we can make the State more competitive with our neighboring states.

Commissioner Borreson asked if the Office of Business Development was dealing primarily with state regulation or administrative code and what is your relationship to federal code as well as local and municipal code. Mr. Knilans said with the locals it's difficult because your local officials have more control but as far as Federal code and regulations we've reached out to Senator Johnson's office. Ms. Mistele said the Governor also has a representative in Washington D.C. so if we hear of issues that are of the federal nature we can relay them there. She said we've had a few issues that are really federally governed that impact small businesses in the State. Ms. Mistele said let us be a catch all for everything. Ms. Mistele said in the case of municipal code, municipalities often have the capacity to go above and beyond with their own code and supersede state law, but there are also issues where the state has intervened, each case should be looked at individually. Commissioner Borreson asked what if any new business has evolved in Wisconsin because of your efforts and have you been contacted by business and been able to mediate something to make business more attractive. Mr. Knilans said he is working with the DNR right now on an issue where a business is looking at moving 80 jobs to Arkansas. He is working with DNR to find out what the issues are and try to expedite this through as they have been approved by Arkansas but they have not been approved by the DNR in Wisconsin. Ms. Mistele provided an overview of a project in Rice Lake where they also helped resolve an issue to keep a business project moving forward. Commissioner Burke asked who were the seven small business owners on the

Small Business Review Regulatory Board? Mr. Knilians listed some board members and provided information on their backgrounds. He added that all of the board members are volunteers. He outlined the stipulations serving as a board member. Ms. Mistele said Office of Business Development hears issues that affect all business and the Small Business Regulatory Review Board focuses on regulations that affect small business. She said bring us anything because if a business isn't relocating 100 jobs to Wisconsin because of a regulatory issue concern, bring it to our attention. She said anything that affects small business will obviously affect others as well. Commissioner Burke said she was going to suggest that perhaps Minnesota and Illinois have a different attitude about workers and in the whole picture of having economic success, is the treatment of workers. Ms. Burke said she took exception to the remark that people would rather sit at home. Mr. Knilians said that this something he has been told, and you can take exception to that, but that is something we hear from business owners. They hear people have jobs open, they come and apply because they have to do that as a requirement for collecting unemployment; the business owner offers them the job, and they decline the job because they have unemployment for a while longer. Commissioner Schroeder said he could concur with this. He said he's tried to hire people and they don't come to work because they can collect unemployment. Commissioner Schroeder then asked about the purpose of the green card because we end up filing our corporate income tax in Wisconsin. Ms. Mistele said that would be a question to ask DFI but it's probably to maintain accurate records on all people that are doing business in the State. Mr. Knilians commented on looking at past reports and over the last 4 or 5 years and the fees collected from business owners for doing business in the State went up \$17 million. He asked how do you control that, that's a question we are trying to work on. He said by making government more efficient, reducing some of the regulations or modifying some of the regulations, but still working in a safe environment is what we hope to do. Mr. Schroeder said in his case he has 3 LLC's and an S-Corp. Mr. Schroeder described another situation with the Department of Transportation. He said at a sand drying plant located in Hager City when a truck comes in and makes a left turn there is no left turn lane on Highway 35. He said he is a member of the Pierce County Safety Committee and working with the liaison from WIS-DOT District 6 they suggested a left turn lane because Highway 35 was scheduled to be resurfaced in 2013. He said DOT came back two weeks later and said they would put in a turn lane if the business would pay for it. Mr. Schroeder commented this was hypocritical because we are trying to get more business in Wisconsin. Mr. Mistele said that would be a case where you bring it to our attention and we would go into the Secretary's office. If issues are brought to our attention we can bring them to the leadership. Commissioner Krachey said he is in the petroleum business. He explained if the state determines your pump is wrong, you pay a fee to certify your pump. He said he then had to pay an additional fee for an inspection even after the pump was just recertified. Ms. Mistele said that Mr. Krachey should write his situation up on their form and send it to them, especially if it's a change, and if it was acceptable yesterday, why isn't it acceptable today. Commissioner Murray said we should call the fees what they are, a tax. Mr. Knilians said a lot of the fees are initiated not necessarily by the Legislature but by the agencies themselves. Commissioner Ross mentioned the fees required by LLC's annually and also the trademark fee every five years. Mr. Ross said these fees are expensive to a small business owner. Ms. Mistele said often it's not even the money for a business owner but it's the time needed to complete the paperwork required to meet state requirements. Mr. Flogstad said crowd funding was mentioned earlier, and asked why did they limit the amount to \$5,000 or an accredited investor and what is an accredited investor. Ms. Mistele said they are trying to match up with some federal laws. She said she would have to ask David Craig for more specifics on that. She said this is all about trying to create vehicles for businesses to raise cash from investors and protect the investors.

Commissioner Input on Regional Subsidized Housing Inventory – Review and Discussion on Regional Housing Goals

Mr. Law presented some data on the number of housing units, type of housing units, value of housing, building permit trends, age of housing, housing affordability and subsidized housing that came out of research done for the Mississippi Regional Planning Commission Region Comprehensive Plan. He said from 1970-1990 the housing units in the region increased by 40%; from 1990-2010 housing growth was around 27-28% for the Region, State and Nation; and growth for the future is projected to be more modest. In the Region, State, and Nation the majority of housing is single family housing 1-unit detached units. Mr. Law said between 1980-1990 housing lost value in the region and state. He said in 2011 even with the loss of value between 1980-1990 housing value is still increasing in the region and holding its value. He reviewed building trends in the Region from 2000-2010. He said there was a building boom in 2004 and then building permits declined until 2009 with a modest upturn again in 2010. He said 24% of the housing in the Region was built 1939 or before compared to 22% in the State and 14% in the Nation. Mr. Law said nearly 25% of households in the region are living at 50% of their county's median income. About 25% of households in the Region do not have enough income to pay their county's median gross rent. He said 35% are paying more than 30% of income on their mortgage and 43% of renters are paying more than 30% of their income for rent. Mr. Law said there are 23,977 low-income households (50% or less of median household income) in the Region; 4,831 subsidized low-income units in Region; 593 HUD and Veterans' vouchers in Region (806 total vouchers allowed-213 unfunded); an estimated 23,231

households left in need of housing assistance; and 435 applicants on HUD Housing Choice Vouchers wait-list. Mr. Leys mentioned the number of trailers used for housing in Crawford County.

Mr. Law provided a synopsis of the regional housing situation. He said the Region has a lower percentage of multi-unit housing than the State or Nation has. The Region has lower vacancy rates for rental properties and homeowners than the State or Nation. Siting new housing near concentrations of employment can reduce energy use and commuting time, and increase residents' quality of life – a feature the Region can capitalize on. Building for higher density, reusing existing structures, and making use of infill opportunities sometimes requires encouragement, since the building industry typically prefers to build new on greenfields (especially in Regions like ours, where undeveloped lands are accessible, affordable, and seen as a path that entails less resistance). Guiding higher density away from greenfields and toward already-developed areas will protect undeveloped land from environmental damage and/or keep it in agricultural production. Creative reuse of existing buildings and infill construction make efficient use of existing infrastructure and do not require the high impacts of newly constructed infrastructure that new housing developments do.

Mr. Law said everyone should have an updated subsidized housing inventory in their packets. He asked the Commissioners review the data and relay any comments back to MRRPC staff. He continued by reviewing a table providing information on Housing Choice Vouchers in the region.

Mr. Law presented draft housing goals: 1) Maintain an adequate supply of affordable housing for individuals of all income levels that meets existing and forecasted housing demand throughout the Region; 2) Encourage Planned Unit Developments and Traditional Neighborhood Developments that allow for a mix of housing: types (single, two and multi-family), lot sizes, values, density bonuses, adaptive reuse, and live and work units to increase the supply of affordable housing; 3) Encourage the use of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) to provide affordable housing in a municipality; 4) Encourage new housing developments to be constructed efficiently and sited near employment areas to lessen commuting times, energy consumption and public service costs; 5) Increase the supply of modest single family and multi-family housing to address job – housing imbalances in communities that can provide a full range of public services in an economical manner; 6) Ensure adequate housing for seniors and disabled residents to allow them to live close to family and friends; and 7) Encourage housing development in existing communities that can provide a full range of public services economically to help protect prime farmland, working forests, sensitive natural areas from residential development. Mr. Law said in the last decade or so more and more homeowners are very interested in living in more walkable communities. He said smaller lot sizes could be encouraged near employment centers and workforce housing subsidies for low-income employees could also be considered. Mr. Law stressed the importance of transit related to housing. In regards to senior and disabled housing Mr. Law said alterations of, additions to, and creation of transit routes should be explored; ensure that multi-unit housing is a primary use of land in designated residential areas; and consider design guidelines or incentives for developers to include features like ramps, wide doorways, grab-bars in bathrooms, etc. Mr. Law said we need to encourage infill and creative use of existing buildings. We also need to Institute environmental –protection-oriented design guidelines and building requirements. He asked for input from the Commissioners. Mr. Leys said there will be a continued demand for subsidized housing. He said the best way to provide affordable housing is to work on the income end; there won't be demand for new houses until we have jobs that pay living wages. Commissioner Schroeder said he was involved in a 60-unit apartment building in Red Wing and without the subsidy it didn't happen. Tenants do not have the dollars to pay the rents without the subsidies. Commissioner Barr was concerned about the word "ensure" in Goal 6. He said the word "ensure" implies certainty or guarantee. There was some more discussion on using the word ensure. The word encourage was determined to be a better word.

Presentation on Buffalo, Crawford, Jackson, La Crosse, Monroe, Pepin, Pierce, Trempealeau and Vernon County Five Year Public Transit – Human Service Transportation Plans

Mr. Fletcher provided an update of the coordinated planning process required by each county in our region. He said staff is currently working with the counties on updating the Five Year Public Transit-Human Service Transportation Plans that are required in order to obtain grant funds through Federal Section 5310 (Elderly Individuals and Individuals with Disabilities). He said a lot of what we are talking about is the funding that fund mini-buses in each of the counties. Mr. Fletcher said the 2005 SAFETEA-LU Transportation Bill required that projects seeking funding under Section 5310 (Elderly Individuals and Individuals with Disabilities), Sections 5316 (Job Access and Reverse Commute), and 5317 (New Freedom) programs be derived from a "locally developed, coordinated public transit human services transportation plan"; that the plan be developed through a process that includes representatives of public, private, and non-profit transportation and human services providers and participation by members of the public; and that plans must be updated every five years. Mr. Fletcher reviewed the

impacts of MAP 21 that repealed the 5316 (Job Access and Reverse Commute) program that are now eligible to be funded in the public transportation grants programs (5311 and 5307) which do not require coordinated planning; Map-21 also repealed the 5317 (New Freedom) program. These projects are now eligible to be funded in the expanded 5310 (Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities) program that requires coordinated planning. He said it is not a requirement for 2013 coordinated plans to include low-income employment transportation but it will be addressed in the plans.

Mr. Fletcher said WisDOT has designated RPC's as lead agencies in this planning process. He outlined the RPC's role. Mr. Fletcher said the goal of the coordinated planning process is to develop a five-year plan that emphasizes strategies for specialized transportation that are broad and encompassing to accommodate action items. He reviewed the required elements of the coordinated plan. He said MRRPC staff will prepare a regional coordinated plan and each county will have a section within that plan. He said the deadline for having the coordinated plans completed is December 20, 2013. He said a public meeting must be held as part of the planning process. Mr. Fletcher said a regional public meeting was held on July 31, 2013. He said we were able to conduct that and have one meeting regionally. He explained many transportation providers provide services in many counties in the region so a regional meeting makes the most sense because of this. Over 160 transportation providers and advocates, county staff, state officials etc. were invited to the meeting. Mr. Fletcher presented the draft transportation goals that came out of the public meeting for inclusion in the plan: Increase transportation options for the transportation disadvantaged; Develop/expand/continue transportation services; Strive to increase transportation funding to create sustainable transportation services; Develop and improve access to information and increase awareness of transportation services (marketing/educational outreach); and Maximize the efficiency of transportation services through technology, innovation and coordination. Mr. Fletcher said transportation needs and gaps were also identified. The questions were also asked what has been done well in the last 5 years, and what can be done better? Mr. Fletcher said a draft plan will be prepared and distributed to everyone at the meeting for comment. The final plan will be prepared and submitted to DOT in December 2013. Commissioner Nickelatti commented the SMRT Bus has really taken hold in Vernon County. Commissioner Barr asked about ridership on the SMRT Bus and the goals to increase ridership.

Update on Scenic Mississippi Regional Transit Bus Service Running in Crawford, Vernon and La Crosse Counties

Mr. Fletcher said the Scenic Mississippi Regional Transit (SMRT) bus serves three counties in the region and in the last three months the service averaged between 930 and 970 riders per month. He explained 80% of funding for the service comes from State and Federal revenues and the remaining funds have to come from fare box revenue, business, local government and health care institutions. He said there is a \$3 one way fare. Ultimately we need to get to around 1,100 riders per month or we will need to find a way to raise more funds. Mr. Fletcher said they wanted to keep a low fare to get people to use the service. He discussed aspects and opportunities of funding for the bus. Mr. Fletcher said some route adjustments were made in the end of May to make a better connection between Prairie du Chien and La Crosse. Mr. Fletcher said they lost riders during the summer due to the loss of student riders going to Western Technical College etc. He's hoping ridership will increase in September when school resumes. Mr. Fletcher said a free week to ride the bus will be offered the end of September to market the service as well as a 10-day ad campaign on WXOW TV. Mr. Fletcher said one of the things we struggle with is awareness of the service so these marketing efforts should help. He stressed anyone can use the service. Commissioner Leys asked about ridership on the new route between La Crosse and Prairie du Chien. Mr. Fletcher said there are 5-6 people that use it daily and it's starting to pick up.

Decision on Town of Unity (Trempealeau County) Comprehensive Planning Contract

Mr. Fletcher presented a contract between the Town of Unity and the Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission whereby the Commission staff would provide assistance in updating the Town's Comprehensive Plan. He provided an overview on the process of updating the Town of Unity's Plan and added it will address frac sand mining. Ms. Burke made a motion to approve the contract as presented; the motion as seconded by Commissioner Borreson and approved unanimously.

Commissioners Questions and Comments on Projects Listed in Written Staff Report

Mr. Flogstad mentioned the article included in everyone's packets on the importance of the forest industry in our region. Mr. Flogstad also mentioned the letter from the Wood Communications Group regarding a survey of 2,000 Wisconsin state-certified teachers. He said meetings will be held in several communities through the state discussing the survey findings and for the opportunity to talk about crucial issues affecting education. Commissioner Borreson asked who Wood Communications is? Mr. Flogstad said it's a private company in Madison who has done a lot of similar work like this around the state. Mr. Leys said it is

interesting to note that 80% of respondents think things are not going right in the State education but 52% believe education in their area is on the right track.

Old Business and New Business

Chairman Savage asked if there was any old business. He then asked if there was any new business. Chairman Savage asked if there was any more discussion on any new or old issues and hearing none a motion was made to adjourn.

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the June 12, 2013, bimonthly meeting minutes approved on the 14th day of August 2013.

Vicki Burke, Secretary-Treasurer