



## **MISSISSIPPI RIVER REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

1707 Main Street, Suite 435  
La Crosse, WI 54601  
Phone: (608) 785-9396  
Fax: (608) 785-9394  
Email: [plan@mrrpc.com](mailto:plan@mrrpc.com)  
Website: [mrrpc.com](http://mrrpc.com)

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., August 11, 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; John Medinger representing U.S. Senator Kohl; and Cindy Thomas, DNR Brownfield Outreach Specialist.

#### **Minutes of June 9, 2010 Bimonthly Meeting**

Commissioner Dupre made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Baker, to accept the minutes of the June 9, 2010, bimonthly meeting. Approved unanimously.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Chairman Savage asked Secretary-Treasurer Burke to present the treasurers reports. Ms. Burke said the June 1, 2010 balance in all MRRPC accounts was \$265,589.88 and the June 30, 2010 ending balance was \$259,451.42. Ms. Burke reported that the beginning balance in July 2010 was \$259,451.42 and the balance in all accounts at month's end was \$240,893.56.

Ms. Burke then presented the financial report for the Business Capital Fund. The balance in this account as of May 31, 2010 was 188,107.58. From June 2010 through July 2010, activity in this account included loan repayments of \$23,726.36, account interest of \$165.77, Business Capital Fund Annual Meeting Expense of \$118.48 and a loan drawdown of \$6,745.58. The ending balance in the Business Capital Fund as of July 31, 2010, was \$205,135.65. Ms. Burke said that as of May 31, 2010, the Business Capital Fund II RLF had a balance of \$61,894.13. She said that from June 2010 through July 2010, interest on this account totaled \$49.83, loan repayments of \$5,611.27 were made, and a loan draw down of \$12,325.00 was made leaving a July 31, 2010, balance of \$55,230.23.

The CMV Growth Development Fund began with a May 11, 2010, balance of \$55,436.70. Ms. Burke said that from the period of May 12, 2010, through July 13, 2010, interest earned on this account totaled \$14.48, and loan payments of \$1,055.02 were made leaving a July 13, 2010, balance of \$56,505.20. Ms. Burke said the balance in the CMV-EDA Sequestered Fund as of May 11, 2010, was \$148,453.85. During the period of May 12, 2010 through July 13, 2010, activity in this account consisted of interest earned of \$38.43 leaving a balance of \$148,492.28.

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#### ***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 May 13, 2010 balance of \$47,758.09. During the period of May 14, 2010 through July 13, 2010, loan repayments of \$2,289.00 were made and interest earned totaled \$16.19. The ending account balance as of July 13, 2010, was \$50,054.28. 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 Schroeder, and approved unanimously.

Bryan Law, MRRPC Economic Development Planner stated the Economic Development Administration recently contacted the MRRPC regarding the default rate of three federal Revolving Loan Funds the MRRPC administers. Mr. Law explained there is a benchmark and if an RLF exceeds that benchmark EDA is required to obtain and analyze information on the defaulted loans and what action is underway to address the default situation. Mr. Law the MRRPC provided responses to EDA that addressed all criteria on three loans currently in default.

Mr. Law said the Business Capital Fund (BCF) held their annual meeting on June 30<sup>th</sup>. He said the current slate of officers was reelected as well as two new board members. The Board also discussed some changes to the administrative plan. Mr. Law said the BCF Board also approved a loan extension for a floral business in Mondovi and approved 2 new loans to retail businesses in Galesville and Whitehall. He said the Board also approved action on a loan in default involving a letter from an attorney requesting payment.

Commissioner Ehram asked about the status of Skipperliner? Mr. Flogstad said Skipperliner (a yacht and tour ship manufacturer) filed Chapter 128 (voluntary debt consolidation plan). He said their loan is in default and the business went into receivership but both receivers resigned. Mr. Flogstad said a local businessman is interested in buying Skipperliner and hopefully this will lead to all parties including the banks, county, state, and the Town of Campbell having their loans paid back.

#### **Status of Commissioner Appointments**

Director Flogstad provided the status of Commissioner appointments. He said all appointments need to be made by the Governor. There are 6 appointments pending, 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 Wisconsin's Brownfield Site Redevelopment Grant Program, Cindy Thomas, Brownfield Outreach Specialist, WDNR**

Ms. Thomas said a study in the 90's estimated there are over 1 million problem or contaminated properties in the State of Wisconsin. Ms. Thomas said she works with the Department of Natural Resources Remediation and Redevelopment Program (RR). Ms. Thomas said the RR program in Wisconsin is one of the top 5 in the U.S. consistently since it began. In 1997 the legislature appointed the Brownfields Study Group. Ms. Thomas said brownfields are abandoned, idle or underused commercial or industrial properties where expansion or redevelopment is hindered by real or perceived contamination. She said brownfields can be anything from a large manufacturing plant to a small gas station. Ms. Thomas shared a best case scenario success story in Adams County that involved a mom and pop grocery store/gas station/restaurant that sat vacant for 12-13 years. She said the county received the property back due to tax delinquency. The County followed the proper procedures for acquiring the property and a grant was applied for, awarded and used to clean up the site. The grant also covered the Phase 1 and Phase 2 site assessment. She explained the County was able to use the tax delinquency as the 20% match for the grant. She said after the cleanup the County put the property out for bid and the highest bid received was \$71,000. She said the property was sold to the highest bidder, and two months later the buyer turned around and sold the property to an LLC for \$138,000 and two vacation homes were put on the property. During the whole process the assessed value of the property rose from \$9,000 to \$161,000. She said this is a sample of a best case scenario of brownfield site redevelopment.

Ms. Thomas said a study done by Northeast Midwest Institute (NEMW) entitled *The Environmental and Economic Impacts of Brownfields Redevelopment, July 2008* outlined five major benefits of redeveloping brownfields in a community. The benefits include: 1) Increased tax revenue (improvements to brownfield sites add value to property and to surrounding neighborhoods); 2) One dollar in public investment in brownfield redevelopment leverages eight dollars or more in additional and private investment; 3) Compact communities save money and energy (communities that build "up" save more money and energy than communities that build "out"); 4) 4.5 acres of greenfields saved for every acre of brownfields used (redevelopment of brownfields is an antidote to suburban sprawl onto undeveloped land – i.e. greenfields); and 5) Improve public health (cleanup of environmental contamination helps remove threats to groundwater and public health).

Ms. Thomas said she wanted to talk about legal protection afforded by State Statutes and used through the RR program. She said there are 4 liability exemptions. She explained the Local Government Unit Liability Exemption means that a local government can take ownership of a brownfield property and if the local government has not contributed or participated in the contamination of the property, it will not be liable for any cleanup costs. Ms. Thomas referred attendees to the meeting packets she handed out at the beginning of the meeting. She said a fact sheet is enclosed in the packet explaining liability protection for local government units and economic development corporations. Ms. Thomas then made reference to State Statute 75.17 "Transfer of contaminated land to a municipality". She said this statute gives a municipality opportunity to make a written request to the county for a contaminated property and the county may either retain ownership or transfer ownership of the property to the municipality. Ms. Thomas said there is also a Lender Liability exemption which exempts lenders from liability if they have not contributed to contamination of the property. Commissioner Krachey asked if individuals were eligible for R&R funds. Ms. Thomas said individuals are not eligible for site assessment grants, only local governments, but there may be situations where an individual is able to work with a local government on a project. She said there may also be some recovery act funds available to an individual property owner for cleanup if a new business is developed on the property that would create jobs. She mentioned the PECFA program, the Petroleum Environmental Cleanup Fund administered by the Wisconsin Department of Commerce and the Natural Resources to assist businesses and individuals in dealing with cost of cleaning up pollution from leaking petroleum storage tanks. There was some discussion on RR program and PECFA program. Commissioner Semb said that Trempealeau County has been involved with a remediation project for about 4 years and it's been a very slow process. Ms. Thomas was aware of the project and provided an overview and the reason there has been some delays. She said that working through the available programs, creative solutions can be developed in dealing with contaminated properties. Ms. Semb said currently no one is interested in purchasing the property she mentioned because of the contamination issues. Ms. Thomas said new buildings can go forward on a property with written legal documents in place stating who is responsible for cleanup.

Ms. Thomas said another exemption is the Voluntary Party Liability Exemption (VPLE). She said the VPLE is a process by which parties can voluntarily conduct an environmental investigation and cleanup of a property and then receive limits on their future liability. The VPLE is found in section 292.15 of the Wisconsin Statutes and is implemented by the Wisconsin DNR. She said another exemption is the Off-Site Contamination Liability Exemption. She explained if the contamination to a property is coming from a contiguous property the owner can be exempt.

Ms. Thomas said there are two legal documents that offer legal protection: 1) the General Liability Clarification Letter, and 2) the Voluntary Party Liability Exemption Certificate of Completion (COC). She said that a General Liability Clarification Letter clarifies a person's liability for environmental investigation and cleanup. She provided several situations where this process was used in the region. She said the Voluntary Party Liability Exemption COC provides a legal endpoint for a voluntary remediation process. She gave an example of a former 3M Plant site in Crawford County that is now the Crawford County Administration Center that used this protection process. She said there are fees associated with both legal protection processes.

Continuing with her PowerPoint presentation of brownfields, Ms. Thomas provided an overview of financial tools available. She said there are two site assessment grants available through the DNR. She said eligible activities include assessment and investigation, demolition, asbestos abatement and abandoned container and storage tank removal. Ms. Thomas said there is also a new grant available through the DNR, the Wisconsin Plant Recovery Initiative that is oriented towards plant closings.

Ms. Thomas provided a brief overview of two other financial tools available through the Wisconsin Department of Commerce, the Blight Elimination & BR Redevelopment (BEBR) Grant and the Petroleum Environmental Cleanup Fund Award (PEFCA). Ms. Thomas added that through the BEBR program, there's a requirement to fund seven projects in small communities during each two year funding cycle.

Ms. Thomas explained the ER-TIF program is available through the Wisconsin Department of Revenue and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. She explained an ER TIF differs from other tax incremental financial districts in many ways. She said the ER TIF is explained in full on pages 33 and 34 of *The Financial Resource Guide For Cleanup & Redevelopment* included in the meeting packets. Commissioner Schlesselman asked how does a municipality know how much money to apply for based on assessment. Ms. Thomas said communities often hire an environmental consultant.

Ms. Thomas reviewed a remediation project in River Falls. She said there was a bulk oil facility in a location for over 50 years. The site included 2 large tanks and a dilapidated building and was located on a biking trail, within 50 ft. of the Kinnickinnic River, and 1,200 ft. from a school and near several homes. She said the City applied for a site assessment grant and used a tax

delinquent amount as a match. The \$30K grant plus \$19K match covered tank removal, building demolition, Phase 1 site assessment and site investigation. The cleanup included groundwater monitoring and the removal of 550 tons of contaminated soil. She said the project was a collaborative effort between four partners: the City of River Falls, DNR's RR Program, DNR's Parks and Recreation Program, and the Wisconsin Department of Commerce. She showed a picture of the before and after and explained the blighted property actually became park property. Ms. Thomas also gave an overview of a project in Prairie du Chien that resulted with two new manufacturers on a site, and another project in the City of Viroqua that resulted in a new retail business. Commissioner Nickelatti said the Viroqua project involved a very blighted property and the redevelopment resulted in a new attractive retail center.

Ms. Thomas said that under Smart Growth Planning, three of nine elements are applicable to brownfields: economic development, land use, and implementation. She made reference to a Brownfields and Comprehensive Planning Fact Sheet in the meeting packets. She said brownfield redevelopment can be included in a communities' comprehensive plan. Ms. Thomas then provided information on resources for the DNR Remediation and Redevelopment Program. She also wanted to make everyone aware of the Bureau of Remediation & Redevelopment Tracking System (BRRTS) database. She said there are many success stories listed online. She said if anyone wants to stay informed to sign up for the newsletters available on the remediation and redevelopment program. She said you can receive these newsletters online. Ms. Thomas said if anyone has any questions to please call the telephone numbers listed on the handout. She asked if anyone has any further questions. Commission Carney said that Jackson County had a private waste site that closed down and the owner quit paying taxes so Jackson County was awarded the responsibility to maintain the site. Ms. Thomas said the program has never dealt with a landfill that she knows of. She said assistance may be available through various waste programs on the DNR website. Chairman Savage thanked Ms. Thomas for her presentation.

#### **Approval of Regional Comprehensive Planning Grant Contract with Wisconsin Department of Administration**

Mr. Flogstad said the Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission was awarded a \$175,000 planning grant to prepare a regional comprehensive plan. He said this will be a major work initiative over the next 3 ½ years. Mr. Flogstad reviewed the benefits of preparing a regional plan and explained that regional cost sharing and resource pooling opportunities should be identified during the process to improve the quality of life in the region and to improve and reduce public service delivery costs. Mr. Flogstad said the regional plan will seek to determine the best way for the region and its communities to grow in respect to 1) natural resources and environment, 2) people and housing, 3) economic activity and jobs, and 4) transportation and infrastructure. Mr. Flogstad said the plan is advisory. Mr. Flogstad said the grant requires a 25% match. Mr. Flogstad laid out the next steps in preparing the plan that includes preparation of a public participation plan and regional plan study design. He said staff will begin socioeconomic data collection and land use inventory work in the coming months as well. Chairman Savage asked for a motion to approve the Regional Comprehensive Plan Contract. Commissioner Vinehout made a motion to approve the Regional Comprehensive Planning Contract between the MRRPC and the Wisconsin Department of Administration. Commissioner Burke seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously with no further discussion.

#### **Approval of USDA Rural Business Opportunity Grant for Wood Product Research and Development Activity in the Kickapoo Valley**

Mr. Flogstad said the MRRPC submitted an application for a \$24,000 USDA Rural Business Opportunity Grant that will look at the untapped potential of the wood products industry in the Kickapoo Valley. He reviewed the Scope of Work. He explained the forest and wood products industry was chosen because it is an economic driver industry in western Wisconsin and the entire State of Wisconsin. Mr. Flogstad said that he was asking for approval from the MRRPC Board of Commissioners to authorize submission of this grant. Commissioner Ehsam made a motion to approve the USDA Rural Business Opportunity grant application and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Schroeder. There was no further discussion and the motion was approved unanimously.

#### **Approval of Contract with Crawford County for Update to its Shoreland-Floodplain Zoning Ordinance**

Mr. Bonifas presented a contract in the amount of \$6,666.67 between Crawford County and the Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission to amend Crawford County's zoning ordinance to comply with the requirements of Wisconsin Administrative Code, NR 115 (as revised effective February 2, 2010). Mr. Bonifas reviewed aspects of the contract and asked for approval. Commissioner Burke made a motion to approve the contract between Crawford County, Wisconsin and the Mississippi

River Regional Planning Commission to amend Crawford County's shoreland zoning ordinance. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Nickelatti and approved unanimously.

**Approval of Contract with Village of Cashton to Prepare Environmental Assessment for Expansion of Community Hall**

Mr. Fletcher explained the Village of Cashton contacted the MRRPC for assistance in preparing an environmental review required by Wisconsin Department of Commerce to secure Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for an addition to the Cashton Community Center. Mr. Fletcher asked for approval of the contract in the amount of \$900 as presented. Commissioner Baker made a motion to approve the contract between the Village of Cashton and the MRRPC to prepare an environmental assessment. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schnitzler and approved unanimously.

**Approval of Memorandum of Understanding with Wisconsin Department of Commerce to Assist in Preparing a Statewide Post Disaster Economic Resiliency Model**

Bryan Law presented a memorandum of understanding between the Wisconsin Department of Commerce and the Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission whereas Commerce and MRRPC have been working together to design, develop and pilot a Local Post-Disaster Economic Resiliency Model. Mr. Law asked for a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding in the amount of \$5,500. Commissioner Schnitzler made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Commerce and the MRRPC. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schroeder. Commissioner Kaftan questioned the spelling of the acronyms in the agreement and Mr. Law stated that the acronyms should be spelled the same way. No further discussion occurred, and the agreement was 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 this project involves building a database listing all county assets involved in emergency response. Mr. Bonifas said he recently received access to the Office of Justice Assistance database to update the required information. He said MRRPC will also be holding workshops in several counties providing training on how to gather the needed information to update the database. Commissioner Murray said he just received a letter from the Federal Government saying that broadband access was required in all communities by 2013. He asked if this project was duplication. It was noted that broadband Internet access and radio frequency capability are two separate forms of communication both having a different role in emergency communication. There was some discussion on State and Federal mandates. Commissioner Vinehout said an inventory would help target resources where they are most needed. Commissioner Semb said a lot of communities are wide band and need to go broadband. The issue was also raised of companies buying up frequencies. Mr. Bonifas said a first step will be to inventory emergency response assets in an up-to-date database in preparation of meeting State and Federal mandates. Commissioner Ross said it's very difficult to get communication during emergency situations in some of the hilly areas of Western Wisconsin. He was recently at the scene of an emergency where this was really brought to the forefront. Discussion occurred on the problem of emergency radio access in the hilly terrain of Western Wisconsin. Mr. Bonifas said there will be a plan prepared as part of the project. Commissioner Vinehout said Western Wisconsin is unique in this area and has problems other parts of the state don't have. Resources should be targeted to the areas that need them. Commissioner Nickelatti added that during recent emergencies in her county communication was extremely tough in some areas.

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

Mr. Fletcher said that the Department of Transportation funded a study to look at the feasibility of a commuter bus on the Highway 35 corridor between Crawford county and La Crosse. He said that the travel corridor being studied is a triangle loop on Highway 35 between Prairie du Chien and La Crosse, Highway 27 between La Crosse and Cashton, and Highway 14 between Viroqua and La Crosse. He said the committee overseeing the study is at the state of presenting options for the service and will be holding open houses in Prairie du Chien and Viroqua. After the open houses, the next step is to apply for implementation funding and those applications are due in November and that hopefully a service can be in operation. Commissioner Murray asked if the commuter buses would be handicapped accessible and Mr. Fletcher said yes. He said this is a huge area of the population that has to be served. Commissioner Murray said there was a commuter bus service in operation in the Red Wing, Wabasha area.

**Status on Safe Route to Schools Grant Applications Submitted for Viroqua, Westby, and Spring Valley**

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 that he and Bryan Law prepared two separate Safe Route to School applications in the current funding cycle. 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 awards will be announced by the Department of Transportation in early September.

**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 a shrink wrap recycling program was developed through the formation of FRAN. He said the FRAN website is also up and running and is located at FranNetwork.org. Mr. Law said the FRAN website should help FRAN membership grow through publication of FRAN efforts. He said that training programs are ongoing at Western Technical College and provide important training for FRAN manufacturers. Mr. Law reported the FRAN group met last on August 5th. Mr. Law said at that meeting the FRAN members had a roundtable discussion on sustainability efforts.

**Report on Equipment and Metal Manufacturing Association's (EMMA) Participation in the SBA's Innovation Cluster Grant**

Mr. Law said the Equipment and Metal Manufacturing Association (EMMA) has been targeted by the 7 Rivers Alliance for involvement in a joint grant application to the Small Business Administration for a Regional Innovation Center (RIC) contract. The goal of these contracts is to build existing clusters by aligning public-private partnerships in ways that enhance and increase job growth, help competition on a national and global scale and attract further business investments. Mr. Law said the Equipment and Metal Manufacturing Cluster is bucking national trends during these difficult economic times. Mr. Law said everyone should have received a copy of a partnership agreement between the Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission and the 7 Rivers Alliance. Mr. Flogstad explained this partnership agreement will help the grant application succeed. He said the best way the Commission can help is to show we are willing to partner on the application. He said we will continue to support EMMA and industry cluster growth with resources we can provide. Mr. Flogstad explained there is no financial commitment involved with the proposed agreement. Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the partnership agreement between the MRRPC and the 7 Rivers Alliance to assist in obtaining and implementing a Regional Innovation Cluster Contract. Commissioner Nickelatti seconded that motion and it was approved unanimously.

**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) through conceptual work. He said staff prepared two maps: 1) Kickapoo Valley Recreational Trail Map, and 2) Kickapoo Valley Recreation and Cultural Resources map. Mr. Law said the group has been working on the concept of a recreational trail between the communities of Wilton and Wauzeka and are trying to garner support for that concept. He said an informal meeting will be held on September 2<sup>nd</sup> and if all goes well it will be repeated at other communities throughout the area. Mr. Law said the project is clearly a long term project. Mr. Law said there is also an ongoing effort to bolster the wood products industry cluster in the Kickapoo region.

**Status of Crawford County Land and Water Resource Management Plan and Village of Gays Mills Comprehensive Plan**

Mr. Fletcher said he worked with Crawford County to update their Land and Water Resource Management Plan. He said a public hearing was held on the plan and the State and Water Board has also approved the plan. He said the plan will go to the County Board on August 17<sup>th</sup> for final approval.

Mr. Fletcher said that the first draft has been completed for the Gays Mills Comprehensive Plan. He said a public meeting was held on July 29<sup>th</sup> and 25 people attended that meeting. Mr. Fletcher said there was good feedback at that meeting. He said minor changes to the plan came out of that meeting. Mr. Fletcher said a public hearing will be held in September on the final plan, and the plan will hopefully be adopted by the village in October.

**Status 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 information meeting was held on the Jackson County cluster plans in July. He said 4 towns in Jackson County did not approve their cluster plans. He explained 3 towns did not approve their plans, and 1 town tabled action on their plan. Mr. Bonifas said the final Jackson County Plan should go to the County Board in October.

Mr. Bonifas said the Vernon County Comprehensive Planning is ongoing. He said a three member committee has been formed to review the plan and tweak some language included in the plan. He said there is no time frame as to when the plan will be finalized but they are still moving forward. Mr. Bonifas said as of last month the Monroe County Comprehensive Plan was tabled because the County doesn't like the ordinance to adopt the plan.

Commissioner Leys asked about the time extension recently passed by the legislature regarding comprehensive plans. Mr. Flogstad said that legislation provides an extension for local governments that have applied for but have not received a comprehensive planning grant from the Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA). These local governments must adopt a resolution stating that they will adopt a comprehensive plan by January 1, 2012. He said the legislation also gives the DOA the discretionary authority to grant local governments that have received a comprehensive planning grant from the DOA a time extension to adopt a comprehensive plan. During the period of the extension, the local government is exempt from the requirement that certain ordinances be consistent with the local comprehensive plan.

Mr. Bonifas said that Pepin County was awarded a comprehensive planning grant in the last funding cycle. He said MRRPC may be assisting Pepin County with their plan.

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

Dave Bonifas said staff is updating Monroe County's outdoor recreation plan. He said he will be meeting with the Monroe County Forester in the next few weeks. He said he hopes to have the update completed by the end of the year. He said all municipal outdoor recreation plans will be completed as well. Mr. Bonifas said staff is also updating Crawford County's Outdoor Recreation Plan.

Mr. Bonifas said the Pierce County Outdoor Recreation plan has been approved by the Land Management Department and has been sent on to the Finance Committee for approval. He said the plan will hopefully be approved by the County by the end of September. Mr. Bonifas reported the Pierce County Recycling Ordinance was sent to the County Planner for his review and if there are no problems, it will be sent to Corporate Counsel for review and then to the County Board for final approval.

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

Mr. Bonifas said that Vernon and Crawford County Multi Hazard Mitigation Plans were completed and sent to the State. He explained the State is requiring some minor changes be made to the plans before they will approve them. Mr. Bonifas reviewed the changes that need to be made. Mr. Bonifas said that that work on the Trempealeau County update continues. Mr. Bonifas said he is in the process of updating structures in the floodplain in the county plan. He explained the Town of Trempealeau had a voluntary buyout and that area was annexed to the Village of Trempealeau. Mr. Bonifas said Pepin County Hazard Mitigation Plan is in the beginning stages and currently he is working on identifying structures in the floodplain.

**Old Business and New Business**

No old business was reported. No new business was brought up.

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 August 11, 2010, bimonthly meeting minutes approved on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of October 2010.

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Vicki Burke, Secretary-Treasurer