



**MISSISSIPPI RIVER
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**
1707 Main Street, Suite 435
La Crosse, WI 54601
Phone: (608) 785-9396
Email: plan@mrrpc.com
Website: mrrpc.com

*James Kuhn, Cashton, WI
Chairman*
*Margaret Baecker, Independence, 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., December 12, 2018
Americinn, 1835 Rose Street, La Crosse, Wisconsin

Call to Order

Chairman Kuhn called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and asked for the roll call. A quorum was present. There was one guest in attendance, Karrie Jackelen from Congressman Kinds' office. The attendance roster is attached.

Minutes of October 10, 2018 Bimonthly Meeting and October 22, 2018 Executive Committee Meeting

Chairman Kuhn asked for a motion on the October 10, 2018 bimonthly meeting minutes and October 22, 2018 Executive Committee meeting minutes. Commissioner Twidt made a motion to approve the October 10, 2018 bimonthly meeting minutes and the October 22, 2018 Executive Committee meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schroeder. Chairman Kuhn asked if there were any questions or comments and hearing none, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report

Secretary-Treasurer Burke said the September 30, 2018 balance in all MRRPC accounts was \$253,930.48 and the October 31, 2018 ending balance was \$262,150.07. She reported the beginning balance in November 1, 2018 was \$262,150.07 and November 30, 2018 ending balance was \$244,766.71.

Ms. Burke said the Business Capital Fund (BCF) began with a September 30, 2018 balance of \$280,946.27. Activity from October 1, 2018 through November 30, 2018 included loan repayments of \$5,909.29, interest earned of \$118.45, and \$2,136.65 in administrative expense leaving a November 30, 2018 balance on hand of \$284,837.35. The Business Capital Fund (BCF) non-federal account began with a September 30, 2018 balance of \$131,690.40. Activity from October 1, 2018 through November 30, 2018 included interest earned of \$55.03 leaving a balance on hand of \$131,745.43.

Ms. Burke said the Business Capital Fund 2 began with a September 30, 2018 balance of \$211,259.67. Activity from October 1, 2018 through November 30, 2018 included loan repayments of \$864.00, interest earned of \$74.57, a loan funded for \$65,000 and administrative expenses of \$1,267.52 leaving a November 30, 2018 balance of \$145,930.72.

Ms. Burke said the CMV Growth Development Fund began with a September 30, 2018 balance of \$75,455.20. Activity from October 1, 2018 through November 30, 2018 included loan repayments of \$1,726.16, interest earned of \$19.71, and \$745.00 in administrative expenses leaving a November 30, 2018 balance of \$76,411.95.

The La Crosse County Economic Development Fund began with a September 30, 2018 balance of \$43,477.42. Activity from October 1, 2018 through November 30, 2018 included loan repayments of \$4,834.00 and interest earned of \$11.75 leaving a November 30, 2018 balance of \$48,323.17.

The Microloan Fund began with a November balance of \$605,000. Activity from November 1, 2018 through November 30, 2018 included interest earned of \$38.75, loans funded for \$30,000.00, and \$15.00 in administrative expenses leaving a November 30, 2018 balance of \$575,023.75. Chairman Kuhn asked for a motion to approve the treasurer's report as presented. Commissioner Borreson made a motion to approve the treasurer's report as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Krachey. Chairman Kuhn asked if there were any questions or comments. Mr. Flogstad said that there were two loans that had been acted on. He said that one loan was made to the Bumblebee Forest Child Care Center in Trempealeau for \$65,000 from the Business Capital Fund 2 and another was approved for the Cradles to Crayons Child Care Center in Cashton for \$75,000 from the CMV Fund. The money is for the purchase of equipment and has been committed but not disbursed. The Treasurer's Report was unanimously approved.

Report on heavy rain and flooding disaster event of August 27-28 and local, state, and federal recovery efforts to date.

Mr. Bonifas reported that we are passed immediate recovery and now we are moving into long term recovery efforts after the flooding event at the end of August. He said that there are several people still looking for housing which is difficult in rural areas due to few hotels and motels or apartments available if they do not have family nearby to stay with. He said Vernon County has included in their Hazard Mitigation Plan the need to purchase some mobile homes for this purpose. He directed the commissioners to the handout in their packets which outlines individual community needs that the MRRPC has collected through meetings and phone calls with community officials. He said that the Village of Coon Valley's major concern is the community has limited options to relocate because they are in a valley. He said that community officials would like to have a reservoir study completed by the USACE since they are more impacted by what happens upstream than what happens in the community, he also mentioned the village experienced public utility damage. He said the Village of Viola is going ahead with some relocation research. He said this is being led by the Southwest Regional Planning Commission since the majority of the Village of Viola is located in Richland County with a small portion located in Vernon County. He said that the study and recovery efforts are very similar to what has been done in the Gays Mills area to relocate people. He said the Village of Ontario also had quite a bit of damage and have a Flood Recovery Committee established. They have already identified some relocation sites prior to the flooding and were in contact with the landowner and in negotiations. He said that prior to the flooding the village had also had a student from UW-Madison that was going to conduct their capstone project for the community. After the flooding, they talked with the professor and the student will continue with the project and direct the project more towards flood recovery.

The commission hasn't had any official contact with the Village of Readstown or the Village of La Farge outside of attending some of their meetings for immediate recovery. He said that the Village of Readstown is also interested in relocation. Mr. Bonifas said that more contact with city officials is needed and we will be reaching out to both communities and working with Brandon Larson, Emergency Management Director from Vernon County with the next steps for their recovery efforts. He said the City of Hillsboro would like to see a berm put in place in the city to protect some of their businesses. All of these communities need additional funding which will continue to be an issue. The Village of Steuben in Crawford County is also interested in a berm/flood wall built to protect businesses. He said a study needs to be done along with obtaining additional funding. He said the Town of Bergen in Vernon County is looking at buying out some homes and pursuing additional funding. He said that a bridge replacement and a larger culvert are needed near the railroad. In the Town of Shelby near Goose Island they need some road work completed. He said where the railroad tracks have a culvert that goes underneath the tracks the culverts get plugged and the water backs up. He said certain things need to be determined to get these projects moving forward such as what has to be done, who is responsible for doing it, and the actual right of way and taking into account the work to be completed on Hwy 35 which will be done in the near future with a bike path that will be between the road and the railroad tracks. The US Army Corps of Engineers has taken the lead and is conducting a study with meetings scheduled. He concluded that those are some of the planning projects being considered and will stay in contact with these communities.

Mr. Bonifas continued by stating that there is hazard mitigation funding tied to a Federal Disaster Declaration. A percentage of the public assistance money that FEMA awards is designated to the state for mitigation projects. He said that any local government in the state can apply for this funding but local governments impacted by the disaster have priority. The deadline is December 17, 2018 for applications; already there are 100 applicants. They will likely have more applications for acquisition and demolition than funds available. Acquisition and demolition are the number one priority according to FEMA. From the nine MRRPC counties there were 39 different applications, 19 of those applications were for acquisition and demolition, five were for elevations, and one was a relocation. Other types of projects applied for were: river gauges, roads, culverts, back flow valves, erosion repair, trail protection and utility protection. Gays Mills had acquisition and demolition for 7 residential units, the Town of Clayton had 1 acquisition and Gays Mills had 8 commercial acquisition, demolition projects. Some of these made the first cut. He said that after the first cut FEMA will prioritize the remaining applicants. Cost – benefit analysis work is also conducted on the projects. He said another project in Crawford County involves an application for \$11 million to extend two bridges over the Kickapoo River because the county was completely cut in half. This caused adding an hour and a half to EMS and Fire response times. He said this project didn't receive funding, but it is on the list and the state knows it is a concern. Commissioner Schroeder asked about the practicality of having mobile homes in reserve for a flooding incident. Mr. Bonifas replied that there were several elderly people that did not have any family to stay with after the flood. He said that there were also people who had to work but they couldn't stay in their home because it was declared unsafe. The family needed housing, so they rented a mobile home from an RV business.

Mr. Bonifas said that he is encouraging Vernon County to talk with surrounding counties to develop an agreement to defray costs. Commissioner Leys commented that he liked the emphasis on prevention in the mitigation process rather than rebuilding buildings in harm's way because he said that there is a flooding pattern that is obvious. He commented that Jersey Valley Lake's dam in

Vernon County failed. He said he would be reluctant to replace the dam if he were on the Vernon County board due to the flooding. Mr. Bonifas replied that the dam that was built in Jersey Valley was a P.L. 566 dam which was built to prevent flooding downstream. He said that there was a study done and completed in 1996 after the 1993 flood to review the P.L. 566 dams in our area. However, the hydrology has changed, and a new dam study needs to be completed. He said that there is a shift where now people want to be out of the flood plain because they have reached their limit in dealing with the aftermath of these flooding events. He said that many of the communities are looking at the Village of Gays Mills as a model and want to relocate out of the floodplain. Commissioner Schlesselman commented the P.L. 566 dams built in the 1950s and 1960s continue to fill with sediment and it is very expensive to remove that sediment. He also asked if FEMA has reassessed the floodplain boundaries as a result of this flood. Mr. Bonifas replied that FEMA will only reassess them if you complete a hydraulic study. He said that most of Wisconsin has been done within the last 10 to 20 years. He said for example that Vernon County's was completed in 2012. Mr. Bonifas said that the current mapping is done using a 100 year flood measure and if the mapping was done for a 500 year flood which just happened it would require the businesses and homeowners to take out flood insurance that would be cost prohibitive for businesses and homeowners.

Commissioner Krachey commented that the farming that was done in the 1960s, 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s was better than the no till farming practices of today which has also contributed to flooding due to the lack of vegetation on hillsides. Commissioner Schroeder commented that giving landowners the option to elevate their properties would help keep the property tax base. He said that elevating your property does not impact the 50% rule. Mr. Bonifas replied that La Crosse County's floodplain elevation policy does not impact the 50% rule, but it is required that there is dry land access to get emergency vehicles to that structure during a flood unless you can prove that there is a vehicle that can access the structure through the water.

Karrie Jackelen commented that Representative Ron Kind is trying to work on getting additional funding for these communities for the long term recovery. She said that the community center in Ontario has been brought to his attention and asked if there is any funding. Mr. Bonifas said that they are still looking for funding. Mr. Bonifas replied that EDA grants can help. Both the Community-Commerce Center and the Mercantile Center in Gays Mills were funded with EDA funding through a supplemental national appropriation from congress. Mr. Bonifas said that the flooding on the big rivers such as the Mississippi River is more predictable. The smaller rivers are less predictable and flash flooding is difficult to prepare for. Mr. Bonifas concluded by reporting that the Vernon County's All Hazard Mitigation plan is going before the county board for approval December 18th and Crawford County will have a public hearing on their Hazard Mitigation Plan during the second week in January. He said that the Hazard Mitigation Plans for Vernon, Crawford, and Monroe County are being expedited for approval, so they can apply for flood recovery and hazard mitigation grants.

Report on Disaster Recovery Microloan Program lending.

Mr. Flogstad reported that the MRRPC received funding from WEDC to administer a Disaster Recovery Microloan Fund to assist businesses in the impacted counties. He said that the CMV Board met in the middle of November and approved three microloans, of \$15,000 each for NTM Inc. in Juneau County, R and M Enterprises in Vernon County, and Kickapoo Exchange Natural Food Co-op in Crawford County. He said that checks have been issued to NTM Inc. and R and M Enterprises. He said the Kickapoo Exchange Natural Food Co-op needs to have the loan approved by their board before we can close on that Microloan. Mr. Flogstad said that there are at least three loans that will be discussed through a teleconference call with the CMV Loan Board on Monday, December 17th. They are Titanic Canoe Rental, Seventh Deviation, and Drifty Canoe and Kickapoo Paddle Inn. There are four other applications where we are waiting for additional information on. Mr. Flogstad said that these loans are 0% interest, with a four year payback period, \$357 per month with an initial 6 month payment deferral over the four year period. Commissioner Jaekel asked if there were still funds available. Mr. Flogstad replied that there were funds available and the applications will be taken through the end of March. Commissioner Schnitzler asked how many will be ready for review on December 17. Mr. Flogstad replied that there will be three for sure and there are a few others that haven't submitted all their application materials. He said that the loans are for economic development, so the business needs to be a going concern and committed to continuing operations in the community. Commissioner Chown asked if \$15,000 is the maximum amount for the loan and Mr. Flogstad replied yes.

Decision on submission of EDA grant application to fund Economic Recovery Plan for participating communities in the Kickapoo Valley and to provide up to \$25,000 in MRRPC funds as a match in conjunction with equal or greater match funding coming from local, state or federal entities.

Mr. Flogstad said the resolution is based on a series of opportunities for supplemental funding especially from the federal government through EDA, HUD, or the USDA. He said that this is based on some of the communities such as Viola and Ontario that may want to cost share and resource pool for their site design and engineering work for their relocation activities for water and sewer. A third funding possibility is the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation that has a Capacity Building Grant and may be able to provide matching funding with EDA. We might be the applicant or the co-applicant for EDA grant for soft cost planning and engineering work with these communities. Commissioner Burke made a motion to approve Resolution 12.12.2018 authorizing the Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission to submit a grant application up to \$600,000 to the U.S. Department of Commerce – Economic Development Administration (EDA) as an applicant or co-applicant for planning and/or engineering activities to assist with economic recovery activities from the severe storms, tornadoes, straight-line winds, flooding, and landslides that resulted in the DR-4402 Federal Disaster Declaration and to commit \$25,000 in any combination of cash or in-kind funding as its non-federal matching share and seconded by Commissioner Leys and it was unanimously approved.

Decision on MRRPC's Transportation Planning Annual Work Program for 2019 and Self-Certification of compliance with CFDA 20.205 Federal Funding Requirements.

Mr. Fletcher reported that the Draft Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission Transportation Planning Annual Work Program for 2019 was completed and sent to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. He said this work program is required to receive Wisconsin (DOT) funding. He continued by reviewing the Work Program in detail discussing each element and the portion of time allocated for each element. Mr. Fletcher said that new for 2019 was the Self-Certification of compliance with CFDA 20.205 Federal Funding requirements. Commissioner Schroeder asked if it is possible to have transportation programs that cross state lines. Mr. Fletcher responded it is possible for example the MTU bus line in La Crosse crosses over into La Crescent, MN and provides service. He said that there are just a few extra steps to create those collaborations and coordinate funding but it is possible. Commissioner Ross asked if there was any new information about adding a second Amtrak train between the Twin Cities and Chicago. Mr. Fletcher replied that there has been some discussion but there hasn't been any new information about the project. Upon completion of Mr. Fletcher's presentation of the Work Program Commissioner Schnitzler made a motion to approve the MRRPC Transportation Planning Annual Work Program for 2019 and self-certification of compliance with CFDA 20.205 Federal Funding requirements pending final approval by WisDOT. Commissioner Twidt seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Decision on MRRPC's Title VI / Nondiscrimination Agreement & Assurances FFY 2019.

Mr. Fletcher reported that since the commission is a subrecipient of federal funding there needs to be an approved Title VI plan assuring that we are not discriminating against anyone in any of our activities. He said that last year the Title VI plan was approved and this year we are approving the assurances for 2019. He said that this document makes him the Title VI coordinator and the commission maintains a policy statement that we do not discriminate, and we provide an opportunity for anyone to submit a complaint if they feel that they have been discriminated against. Commissioner Burke made a motion to approve the MRRPC's Title VI / Nondiscrimination Agreement & Assurances FFY 2019 and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Ross and was unanimously approved.

Update on the Wisconsin Department of Administration's proposed Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Close Grant program involving terminating all CDBG Revolving Loan Funds in cities and counties across the state with CDBG RLFs. Then allowing these communities to apply for a guaranteed CDBG grant for the amount of RLF funds returned.

Mr. Flogstad reported that the City of Tomah, City of Sparta, Village of Kendall, Village of Hillsboro, City of Osseo, Pierce, Pepin, Buffalo, Jackson, La Crosse, Monroe, and Vernon Counties have Community Development Block Grant Revolving Loan Funds. He said the state wants to close this program down and has provided these communities with two options about how to use the funds. He said option 1 requires the community or county to return all the cash on hand to the Department of Administration and sign over all the active loans to the state. The community or county could then apply for the funds that were returned to the state. The second option is to return all the cash on hand plus the outstanding principal on the active loans. The community or county could then apply for the money that was returned. The active loans would still be administered by the community or county and the principal and interest would continue to be collected and the community or county would be able to use these funds anyway the community or county desires. Mr. Flogstad said that the applications with few exceptions must have a 51% Low- and Moderate-Income benefit. He said that once the program is approved by HUD the communities or counties have two years to identify how to use this money. He said that depending on the amount of money that is available there could be enough for two to four projects.

Old, Business, New Business and Adjourn

Chairman Kuhn asked if there was any old business and new business, hearing none A motion was made to adjourn by Commissioner Schroeder and seconded by Commissioner Borreson. The motion was unanimously approved.

Vicki Burke, Secretary-Treasurer

MISSISSIPPI RIVER REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

MEETING ATTENDANCE ROSTER

DATE: 12-12-2018

PLACE : Americ Inn

	NAME	REPRESENTING
1.	Craig Flogstad	MRRPC Staff
2.	Mary Anne McMillan Drell	Buffalo County
3.	John Schlesselman	Buffalo Co
4.	Del Twist	Buffalo County
5.	Cedric Schnitzler	monroe county
6.	Karrie Jackelon	Rep-Ron King
7.	Phillip J. Borreson	Trempealeau Co.
8.	ERNEST H. Vold	TREMPEALEAU CO
9.	Peter Pletman	Staff
10.	David Bupp	Staff
11.	Todd Stubby	Jackson City
12.	A Brad Chown	Jackson County
13.	Rich Purdy	Pierce Co.
14.	RON LEYS	CRAWFORD
15.	Bill Scheeder	Pierce Co
16.	Donald Brady	Chambers Co.
17.	James Ross	Pierce County
18.	Herbert Cornett	Vernon Co.
19.	Nancy Jackel	Vernon CO
20.	Vikki Burt	Lacrosse city
21.	JAMES KWAN	MONROE Co.
22.	Sarah Otto	Staff
23.		
24.		
25.		