

Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission Staff Report on Projects for the Bimonthly Meeting on 06.08.2016

	Agenda Topic or Project Name	Purpose, Benefit, Project deliverables, and Contract Amount	Project Time Period	Project Status and Next Steps	Contact
1	Roll Call	Confirm a quorum is present	Today's Meeting	NA	NA
2	Minutes of last MRRPC Bimonthly Meeting	Confirm past meetings decisions and outcomes	Today's Meeting	NA	NA
3	Treasurer's Report	Present financial information on all MRRPC and transaction occurring with the four business Revolving Loan Funds since last Bimonthly Meeting.	Today's Meeting	The MRRPC administers four federally funded business revolving loan funds that were awarded to the MRRPC between 1989 and 1995 to assist in overcoming rural economic distress and flooding. The loan funds cover all nine MRRPC counties.	Greg Flogstad Director 608.785.9396 greg@mrrpc.com
4	Election of Officers	Officers are elected every two years in accordance with the By-Laws	Today's Meeting	Jim Ehram, Bill Schroeder and Jo Ann Nickelatti have been appointed to the nominating committee and present candidates for the office of Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary Treasurer	Greg Flogstad Director 608.785.9396 greg@mrrpc.com
5	Presentation by Paul Schwebach, Director, Pierce County Economic Development Corporation on economic development activities and needs in and around Pierce County.	Receive local input on 2017 -2022 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy	Today's Meeting	This will be the first of several County Economic Development Director presentations in the coming months to assist the MRRPC in preparing the 2017 – 2022 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy	Paul Schwebach 715.425.3881 paul@pcedc.com
6	Presentation about partnering with 7 Rivers Alliance about applying for a Regional Workforce Development Strategy Grant to the U.S. Department of Commerce-Economic Development Administration by Lisa Herr, Director, 7 Rivers Alliance.	Workforce development is a major economic development concern for region, and state.	Today's Meeting	This will be the first time this issue has been raised with 7 Rivers Alliance. Upper Explorer Land in NE Iowa may also be involved with this	Lisa Herr 608.787.8777 lisa@7riversalliance.org
7	Scenic Mississippi Regional Transit (SMRT) project serving Crawford, Vernon and La Crosse Counties.	Develop a fixed route public transportation service for Crawford La Crosse and Vernon County. Bus transportation will service commuters, elderly, disabled, medical appointments, and personal travel. Projected operating costs for 2015 are approximately \$375,000.	Service began December 3 2012 - ongoing.	The SMRT Bus has been operating for three years. The SMRT bus provided 19,223 rides in 2015 a 6.2% increase over 2014. To date in 2016 ridership is up by 13%. The MRRPC will continue marketing and promotion and evaluate routes and schedules. The MRRPC submitted a Bremer Foundation Grant in April to help fund bus operation service in 2016.	Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 peter@mrrpc.com
8	Update to Zoning Ordinance for Buffalo County	New zoning ordinance is needed to deal with growing development activity. Zoning Ordinance and Maps are to be completed on or prior to September 30 2017. Contract amount is for \$43,964.	May 2015 – September 2017	Staff met with all 17 Towns to discuss the ordinance revision process and request their assistance in preparing draft zoning maps for their individual towns. Towns were given a menu of zoning districts as well as maps to assist them in preparing draft zoning maps. Staff will contact the Towns in June and July to see where they are at in the process.	Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 peter@mrrpc.com
8	Contract to Update Comprehensive Plans for Trempealeau County Towns	Trempealeau County would like to contract with the MRRPC to update the 13 town comprehensive plans and will provide the MRRPC \$2,200 per town to do so. Trempealeau County will be responsible for the mapping. Total contract calls for \$28,600 in funding to MRRPC and completion of all 13 plans by December 2017.	June 2016- December 2017	Staff have begun compiling and updating statistics in the town plans. The goals and objectives from the existing plans are being forwarded to each town to receive their input and recommendations for modifications.	Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 peter@mrrpc.com

9a	La Crosse County Public Transit Feasibility Study to analyze and make recommendations on service to Trempealeau and Monroe Counties.	La Crosse County is interested in expanding the SMRT Bus concept to Monroe and Trempealeau Counties. A feasibility study is needed to determine the costs and benefits of expanding transit services to these counties. Total Contract is for \$8,000. Project is to be completed by December 2016.	2016	The feasibility study has been initiated and conceptual bus routes have been developed. Sixty-five of the study area's largest businesses (employee's) have been sent a survey requesting their input on the concept of a commuter bus. If supportive businesses are identified, employee survey's will be conducted over the next couple of months.	Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 peter@mrrpc.com
9b	Crawford County Hazard Mitigation Plan update	Update the Crawford County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. \$30,000 federal planning grant approved requiring a \$10,000 match from MRRPC and Crawford County. The original plan was prepared to reduce costs and losses from natural disasters and some manmade disasters. This is an update to the existing plan. Inventories county's vulnerabilities to various types of disasters. Inventories and maps critical facilities and all structures in floodplains. Develops projects and strategies to reduce losses from future disasters. Plans must be approved by DHS-FEMA and Wisconsin Emergency Management. Once the updated plan is approved, the county and other participating local governments are eligible for Federal and State Hazard Mitigation Grant programs.	2016-2018	A grant has been approved by FEMA and the money has been awarded. The grant cycle ends October 30, 2018. A contract with the Planning Commission for an amount not to exceed \$29,000 has been signed. Staff has met with the Crawford County Land Conservation and Zoning Committee who will be the county committee overseeing this update. A public hearing explaining the update process has been held on 4/27/16. A hazard risk assessment survey has been mailed to all municipalities and first responders with a May 31 st deadline for return. Staff will begin updating the demographic information for the plan and begin compiling the returned surveys.	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com
9c	Trempealeau County Hazard Mitigation Plan update	Update the Trempealeau County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. \$30,000 federal planning grant approved requiring a \$10,000 match from MRRPC and Trempealeau County. The original was prepared to reduce costs and losses from natural disasters and some manmade disasters. This is an update to the existing plan. Inventories county's vulnerabilities to various types of disasters. Inventories and maps critical facilities and all structures in floodplains. Develops projects and strategies to reduce losses from future disasters. Plans must be approved by DHS-FEMA and Wisconsin Emergency Management. Once the updated plan is approved, the county and other participating local governments are eligible for Federal and State Hazard Mitigation Grant programs.	2016-2018	A grant has been approved by FEMA and the money has been awarded. The grant cycle ends October 30, 2018. A contract between the Planning Commission and Trempealeau County for an amount not to exceed \$28,000 has been signed. Staff has met with the Trempealeau County Law Enforcement Committee who will be the county committee overseeing this update. A public hearing explaining the update process was held on April 12th. A hazard risk assessment survey has been mailed to all municipalities and first responders with a May 31 st deadline for return. Staff also made a presentation of the updating process at the April 26 th Trempealeau County Towns Association meeting. Staff will begin updating the demographic information for the plan and begin compiling the returned surveys.	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com
9d	Crawford County Land and Water Management Plan	Each county in the state is required to have a Land and Water Resource Management (LWRM) Plan approved by Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP). LWRM plans may be approved for a maximum of 10 years. Crawford County's plan expired in 2015, the county applied for a one-year extension and it was granted.	2016	A draft of the plan was presented to the Crawford County Land Conservation, Zoning and Planning Committee. The committee approved the draft to go to public hearing. A public hearing on the draft was held on 5/24/16. Public comments received at that meeting are being incorporated into the plan. A revised draft will be presented to the Land Conservation, Zoning and Planning Committee for their approval. The county land conservationist will be presenting the draft county plan to the Wisconsin	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com

		The county has until the end of 2016 to update their existing plan. Total project cost is \$3,600.		Land and Water Conservation Board at their August meeting for their approval.	
9e	Report on Status of the Federal Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization (POWER) Grant Program for Buffalo County to prepare an Economic Development Strategy in response to the Alma coal power plant closure.	This is a new \$35 million federal multi agency program for coal impacted communities across the U.S. Grant funding will be used to prepare a detailed economic development plan for Buffalo County to assist in recovering from employment losses and economic losses from closing one of the two coal powered electric plants in Alma. The Grant application was submitted to US Dept. of Commerce - EDA in June. The Grant has been awarded. Total Planning Project is \$100,444. Federal funds will cover just under one-half the costs. The local match will come from Buffalo County \$16,000, MRRPC \$15,000 and UW Extension \$19,268	October 1, 2015 – September 30, 2016	Grant has been awarded. Buffalo County Agricultural Agent, MRRPC Director, Two UW Extension Economic Development Specialists and UW Madison Economist conducted a teleconference in October. On April 11 the County Economic Development Committee will meet to hear on progress and findings of the study to date. The first public meeting on the initial finding is scheduled for June 16, 2016 at the County Courthouse.	Greg Flogstad, Director 608.785.9396 greg@mrrpc.com
9f	Monroe and Vernon County Hazard Mitigation Planning Grants	Grant applications to DHS-FEMA were written by staff to update existing County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plans for Monroe County and Vernon County. The original plans were prepared to reduce costs and losses from natural disasters. These are updates to the existing plan. The existing plans inventory each county's vulnerabilities to various types of disasters. Inventory and maps critical facilities and all structures in floodplains. Develops projects and strategies to reduce losses from future disasters. Plans must be approved by DHS-FEMA and Wisconsin Emergency Management. Once the updated plan is approved, the county and other participating local governments are eligible for Federal and State Hazard Mitigation Grant programs.	2016-2018	The Monroe County grant is to update the existing Monroe County Multi-Hazards Mitigation Plan. The grant application is in the amount of \$43,744. Of this total the grant amount would be \$32,803 with a match requirement of \$10,936. The Vernon County grant is to update the existing plan along with complete parcel mapping within the county. The Vernon County grant application is in the amount of \$259,794. Of this amount the grant would be for \$194,845 and \$64,949 would be the required match. Parcel mapping will make up \$220,039 of the project with \$39,755 being used to update the existing Multi-Hazards Mitigation Plan.	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com
9g	Crawford County Farmland Preservation contract	Crawford County is required to update its Farmland Preservation Plan by December 31, 2015 to meet the requirements of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Protection Working Land's Initiative Program. Counties are required to designate Farmland Preservation areas in their counties in order for land owners to be eligible to receive Farmland Preservation Tax Credits. The Farmland Preservation Plan must also be consistent with the County's comprehensive plan. Total Project Cost \$60,000, The MRRPC contract is for \$30,000	June, 2014 – December 2016	Contract has been approved and staff has updated Agricultural Statistics tables such as "Who owns Farms; Farms by NAICS"; "Market Values of Ag Products Sold"; "Income from Farm Related Sources"; "Crops"; "Land Sales"; etc. have been updated. Staff has compiled a list of Farmland Preservation related goals and policies from the county comprehensive plan. This list was presented to the Land Use Concerns committee and they approved using these goals and policies for the farmland preservation plan. Staff presented information regarding Farmland Preservation plans at the Crawford County Towns Association meeting. Two meetings with the Towns to explain the changes to the Farmland Preservation and to explain to the towns what information the county would like from them have been held. Staff is waiting for the towns to provide the county with maps depicting the areas they would like to see included within the farmland preservation areas. Once these individual towns maps are completed a countywide map will be created.	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com

9h	Town of Unity (Trempealeau County) Comprehensive Plan Contract	Trempealeau County and the Town of Unity requested Assistance from the MRRPC in updating the Town of Unity Comprehensive Plan. The plan revision in part will focus on addressing frac sand mining in the town. \$2,200 Contract.	June 2013- Ongoing	A draft of the revised comprehensive plan was prepared and submitted to the Town Board in order to hold a public hearing The Town Board did not approve the public hearing draft as presented. The MRRPC met with the Town Chairman as part of the Farmland Preservation Planning Process and an updated public hearing draft will be prepared as the MRRPC assists Trempealeau County with revising the County's Farmland Preservation Plan.	Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 peter@mrrpc.com
9i	Buffalo County Multi Hazard Mitigation Plan.	Update the Buffalo County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. \$30,000 federal planning grant approved requiring a \$10,000 match from MRRPC and Buffalo County. Plan is prepared to reduce costs and losses from natural disasters and some manmade disasters. Inventories county's vulnerabilities to various types of disasters. Inventories and maps critical facilities and all structures in floodplains. Develops projects and strategies to reduce losses from future disasters. Plans must be approved by DHS-FEMA and Wisconsin Emergency Management. Once Plan is approved county and other participating local governments are eligible for Federal and State Hazard Mitigation Grant programs.	June 2014 – December 2015	A draft of the plan has been completed and a public hearing was held on 5/3/16. A copy of the draft has been sent to Wisconsin Emergency Management for their review and approval. Once approval is received from the Wisconsin Emergency Management a copy of the draft will be sent to DHS-FEMA for their review and approval.	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com
9j	Trempealeau County Farmland Preservation Plan	Trempealeau County is required to update its Farmland Preservation Plan by December 31, 2015 to meet the requirements of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Protection Working Land's Initiative Program. Counties are required to designate Farmland Preservation areas in their counties in order for land owners to be eligible to receive Farmland Preservation Tax Credits. The Farmland Preservation Plan must also be consistent with the County's comprehensive plan.	March, 2014- August, 2016	Staff has compiled background information (population, housing, land in farms, forest land, agriculture land, types of farms, farm values, types of farm organization, livestock, types of crops, market value of products, farm expenses, farm income, grain storage capacity, organic farms etc.) on farming in Trempealeau County. Draft farmland preservation goals pertaining to public participation, residential and commercial growth, commercial uses, industry uses, public facilities, recreation, and land conservation have been developed. The public hearing draft of the plan has been completed and the Trempealeau County Corporation Counsel is reviewing the draft prior to a public hearing being held and the document being submitted to DATCP for their approval.	Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 peter@mrrpc.com
9k	Outdoor Recreation Planning in Trempealeau, and Buffalo Counties.	Plan for maintenance and expansion of outdoor recreation opportunities in each county. Plan makes county and communities that participate eligible for State Land and Water Conservation Grants and State Stewardship Grants.	2016	In Trempealeau County overall responsibility for outdoor recreation has been changed from the County Clerk to the Division of Land Management. Due to this switch MRRPC staff will be making a presentation of what has been done and what is still needed to the new oversight committee in June. The county will need to prepare a list of projects or actions they would like to do to enhance outdoor recreation within the County. Once the list of action items is completed a draft will be prepared and presented to the Committee for their review and approval. After approval from the Committee the plan will be presented to the County Board for their approval. For the Buffalo County plan staff has updated demographic information and maps needed for the plan. Staff will need to meet with county staff to guide them in developing a list of projects and action items for their plan.	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com

9l	The transition of the Equipment and Metal Manufacturing Association (EMMA) Inc. to The Upper Mississippi River Manufacturing Alliance TUMMA Inc. Industry Cluster Initiative	Manufacturing is a priority economic sector because it is a major economic driver of the region. MRRPC serves a logistical support role by helping convene manufacturers to network in hopes developing joint workforce development services and ventures on new or better products	Continual	On July 15, 2015 the EMMA board of directors met with Western Wisconsin Technical College, Workforce Connections, Western Wisconsin Workforce Development Board on the concept of forming a manufacturing alliance organization similar to the North East Wisconsin Manufacturing Alliance. The EMMA board was open to the idea of reorganizing under a manufacturing brand that would include all kinds of manufacturers. This concept was popular and all parties agreed to further pursue this concept. On November 24 EMMA voted to change its name and bylaws to TUMMA to invite all manufacturers in the tri-state region to join. Its primary focus will be on improving the skill sets and knowledge of the region's manufacturing work force. A TUMMA steering group has been established and has been meeting regularly. Officer elections were held in January 2016. A fulltime director was hired in February 2016 and resigned in March of 2016. Funding for the initial position was provide by the Western Wisconsin Workforce Development Board and TUMMA. T Western Wisconsin Workforce Development Board has prepared a \$80,000 RFP for organizations to provide services to fill the director position on contractual basis. The contractor-director will work directly with the technical colleges, universities, WWDB and manufacturers in the region to raise awareness of manufacturing careers and develop workforce development initiatives. Major emphasis will be to increase K-12 students in manufacturing careers. The MRRPC director assisted EMMA-TUMMA in preparing amended articles of incorporation and notifying the IRS of name change so TUMMA could assume EMMA's tax ID number and non-profit 501 © 6 status.	Greg Flogstad, Director 608.785.9396 greg@mrrpc.com
10	Old Business				
11	New Business				
12	Adjourn				
	Amazon Kindle Fire Tablet Training to improve meeting notice times and communications among MRRPC commissioners and staff via tablets.	Mailing of meeting packets by U.S. mail is now taking just under a week. Use of e-mail with a \$50.00 tablet like a Kindle Fire for each commissioner and staff will improve delivery time and make handling of documents more efficient. At the MRRPC October meeting it was approved to purchase Kindl Fire tablets as a more productive method of sending meeting packets and communicating among commissioners and staff. All documents can be stored on this device or on a cloud. Each Commissioner would need access to Wi Fi for this to work	After today's MRRPC Meeting	Training on use of the Amazon Kindle Fire will occur after the MRRPC meeting. In the future All MRRPC correspondence, meetings notices and documents will then be disseminated by this method	Greg Flogstad Director 608.785.9396 greg@mrrpc.com