

Agenda Items 1-12

Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission Staff Report on Projects for the Bimonthly Meeting on 08.10.2016

	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	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	Presentation by Steve Petersen, Coordinator, Monroe County Economic Development on 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 second of several County Economic Development Director presentations in the coming months to assist the MRRPC in preparing the 2017-2022 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy	Steve Petersen 608.769.9910 steve@gomonroecountywi.com
5	Presentation by Jennifer Kuderer, Regional Economic Development Director, Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation on economic development activities and priorities of the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation.	Receive agency input on 2017-2022 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy	Today's Meeting	This will be the first of several State and Federal agency presentations in the coming months to assist the MRRPC in preparing the 2017-2022 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy	Jennifer Kuderer 608.210.6820 Jennifer.kuderer@wedc.org
6a	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 Counties. Bus transportation will service commuters, elderly, disabled, medical appointments, and personal travel. Projected operating costs for 2016 are approximately \$375,000.	Service began December 3, 2012 – Ongoing	The SMRT Bus has been operating for over three years. 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 and met with Bremer Foundation staff in June to review the application. The Bremer Foundation will announce their funded projects in August	Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 peter@mrrpc.com
6b	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 in May. Four towns have completed their draft zoning maps to date. Staff met with the Towns of Cross, Milton, and Mondovi to assist them with drafting their maps. Staff also held an open house meeting in July for towns or residents to ask questions regarding the zoning maps or zoning districts. Staff will continue to work with Towns over the next several months to create their draft zoning maps.	Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 peter@mrrpc.com

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6c	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	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. Supportive businesses have been identified and employee surveys will be forwarded to the businesses. Demographic data has been collected and tabulated in draft form. Draft routes and service options will be developed in the coming weeks.	Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 peter@mrrpc.com
6d	Crawford County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update	Update the Crawford County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. \$30,000 federal 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 has begun updating the demographic information such as populations, land use, employment. In addition, staff has also began compiling the returned surveys and updating the risk assessment portion of the plan, i.e. number of times each hazard has occurred within the county and the amount of damage caused by the hazard.	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com
6e	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 Energy Management. Once the updated plan is	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 12 th . 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 has begun updating the demographic information such as populations, land use, employment. In addition, staff has also began compiling the returned surveys and updating the risk assessment portion of the plan, i.e. number of	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com

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		approved, the county and other participating local governments are eligible for Federal and State Hazard Mitigation Grant programs.		times each hazard has occurred within the county and the amount of damage caused by the hazard.	
6f	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 the 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. The county has until the end of 2016 to update their existing plan. Total project cost is \$3,600.	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 Land and Water Conservation Board at their August meeting for their approval.	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com
6g	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 the U.S. 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 information meeting on the initial findings was held on June 16, 2016 at the County Courthouse.	Greg Flogstad, Director 608-785-9396 greg@mrrpc.com
6h	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	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. The grants were forwarded	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com

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		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.		through Wisconsin Emergency Management to FEMA for approval.	
6i	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. The 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 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 countrywide map will be created.	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com
6j	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 the 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
6k	Buffalo County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan	Update the Buffalo County, Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. \$30,000 federal planning grant approved requiring \$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	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. Wisconsin Emergency Management has not yet reviewed the plan.	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 Dave@mrrpc.com

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		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.			
6l	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, agricultural 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 submitted to DATCP for their approval. A public hearing on the Farmland Preservation Plan will be held this Fall with final approval prior to 2017.	Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 peter@mrrpc.com
6m	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. The county will be adding a person to this department and that person will be responsible for tourism and outdoor recreation. Due to this MRRPC staff will be making a presentation of what has been done and what is still needed to the new person once they are hired. 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. The county is preparing a list of action items for the plan.	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com

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6n	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 2016. Funding for initial position was provided by the Western Wisconsin Workforce Development Board and TUMMA. The 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 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. In July 2016 WTC was selected as the organization to provide the Director position with the \$80,000 grant from the WWWDB. This position will be housed in the new Integrated Technology Center on the WTC campus. 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 501c 6 status.	Greg Flogstad, Director 608.785.9396 greg@mrrpc.com
6o	Village of Oakdale Strategic Development Plan	The Village contracted with the MRRPC to Administer a \$40,000 State Community Development Block Grant Planning grant that will be used to hire a planning and engineering firm to prepare a five-year capital improvement plan, targeted business feasibility study, blighted property analysis and a sidewalk/trail plan for the Village.	08.07.2015 – 08.06.2017	In the Fall of 2015 MRRPC staff prepared the grant administrative paper then prepared and disseminated a Request for Proposals in January 2016. SEH was selected as the Consultant in March 2016 by the Village Board. A Public hearing was held on July 12,2016 to receive public input on community and economic needs of the community.	Greg Flogstad, Director 608.785.9396 greg@mrrpc.com

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		The contract with the MRRPC is for \$6,000			
6p	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. Revised draft plans will be forwarded to Towns this Fall.	Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 peter@mrrpc.com
7	Old Business				
8	New Business				
9	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 Kindle 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, meeting notices and documents will then be disseminated by this method.	Greg Flogstad, Director 608.785.9396 greg@mrrpc.com