

Agenda Items 1-12

Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission Staff Report on Projects for the Bimonthly Meeting on 10.12.2016

	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 all financial activities occurring on the MRRPC accounts and 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. A \$75,000 Loan was made to Pearl Street Brewery in late August.	Greg Flogstad, Director 608.785.9396 greg@mrrpc.com
4	Presentation by Jim Hill Director, La Crosse Area Development Corporation on economic development activities and needs in and around La Crosse County	Receive local input on 2017-2022 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. By preparing and member counties participating in the development of this report, the nine county Mississippi River Region maintains its Economic Development District designation conferred upon it by the U.S. Department of Commerce-Economic	Today's Meeting	This will be the third of several County Economic Development Director presentations in the coming months to assist the MRRPC in preparing the 2017-2022 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy	Jim Hill 608.638.8332 ladco@centurytel.net
5	Presentation by Carol Wetuski, Area Director, USDA, Rural Development Administration on economic development activities and priorities of the USDA Rural Development Administration	Receive agency input on 2017-2022 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. By preparing and member counties participating in the development of this report, the nine county Mississippi River Region maintains its Economic Development District designation conferred upon it by the U.S. Department of Commerce-Economic Development Administration (EDA). This qualifies the region's communities, institutions and businesses to be eligible for EDA assistance under its public works and economic development facilities program, technical (research) assistance programs, loan programs, and planning programs.	Today's Meeting	This will be the second of several State and Federal agency presentations in the coming months to assist the MRRPC in preparing the 2017-2022 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy	Carol Wetuski 920.948.8651 Carol.wetuski@wi.usda.gov
6	Commissioner Input on economic development strengths, opportunities, weaknesses, threats, and strategies for inclusion in 2017- 2022 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy - CEDS	The CEDS for the Mississippi River Region documents the Region's conditions and strategies to improve our Region's environment, economy, and quality of life. By preparing and member counties participating in the development of this report, the nine county Mississippi River Region maintains its Economic Development District designation conferred upon it by the U.S. Department of Commerce-Economic Development Administration (EDA). This qualifies the region's communities, institutions and businesses to be eligible for EDA assistance under its public works and economic development facilities program, technical	CEDS needs to be adopted at the February 2017 Meeting	Get input from economic development organizations, Hold Public Information Meeting at MRRPC February 2017 Meeting	Greg Flogstad, Director 608.785.9396 greg@mrrpc.com

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		(research) assistance programs, loan programs, and planning programs. Through the years millions of dollars in Federal EDA grants have funded industrial parks, economic research studies, public facility projects and business loans through this partnership.			
7	Approval of 2017 Regional Transportation Work Program	An annual work plan is required in order to receive WIDOT funding for the Transportation Planning work in the Region. The funding allows the Transportation Planner to provide planning and development assistance to communities in the region. Total Budget \$62,872 – Federal \$50,297, State \$6,287, MRRPC \$6,287	January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017	A draft work plan has been prepared and submitted to the MRRPC and WIDOT for their review and approval. The MRRPC and WIDOT must approve the work plan.	Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 peter@mrrpc.com
8	Status of Wisconsin's Federal Disaster Declaration.	Sever rainstorm and flooding occurred on Sept 22, 2016 causing over \$20 million damages to public infrastructure and homes. 7 MRRPC counties are included with the 13 the State included in their application for Presidential Disaster Declaration	To be determined	Wait on determination from FEMA. If declaration is declared Applications for Hazard mitigation projects will be researched and applied for.	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com
9a	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 \$343,000.	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 and in September received notification of a grant award of \$25,000 and this funding has been received.	Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 peter@mrrpc.com
9b	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 continues to meet with Towns to discuss the ordinance revision process and assist them in preparing draft zoning maps for their individual towns. Approximately ten towns have completed draft zoning maps to date. Staff will continue to work with Towns over the next several weeks to create draft zoning maps. Staff has also been meeting with the Zoning Committee to complete draft chapters of the revised zoning ordinance. Chapters on non-conforming uses, Zoning Committee and Zoning Administrators powers and duties have been completed in draft form.	Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 peter@mrrpc.com
9c	La Crosse County Public Transit Feasibility Study to analyze and make recommendations on service to	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	2016	The MRRPC assisted in facilitating two open house meetings held in Trempealeau and La Crosse counties to gain public input on the study. Approximately 15 people	Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 peter@mrrpc.com

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	Trempealeau and Monroe Counties.	is for \$8,000. Project is to be completed by December 2016		attended the meetings and were supportive of the proposed bus service. The first draft of the study will be completed by the end of October which will include conceptual routes, costs, and projected ridership. Supportive businesses have been identified and employee surveys have been forwarded to the businesses.	
9d	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. The Plan Inventories and maps critical facilities and all structures in floodplains. The Plan 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. 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 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. In addition, staff has also began compiled the returned surveys. A second survey is being sent out to those municipalities which did not return the first survey. Due to the flooding which occurred in late September this project will be put on hold for a few weeks.	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com
9e	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. The Plan inventories the county's vulnerabilities to various types of disasters. The Plan inventories and maps critical facilities and all structures in floodplains. The Plan 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 approved, the county and other participating local governments are eligible for	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. 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	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com

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		Federal and State Hazard Mitigation Grant programs.		County Towns Association meeting. Staff has begun updating the demographic information such as populations, land use, employment 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. In addition, staff has also begun compiling the returned surveys. A second survey is being sent out to those municipalities which did not return the first survey.	
9f	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	The county land conservationist presented the county plan to the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Board at their August meeting for their approval. The Board approved the plan. The final step of this project is for the Crawford County Board to approve the plan.	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com
9g	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	The 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. Due to wide spread damage to roads and homes from severe storms that depleted county resources and staff, a project extension request was made. This request was approved. The project completion date is now June 30, 2017.	Greg Flogstad, Director 608-785-9396 greg@mrrpc.com
9h	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	2016-2018	The Monroe County grant is to update the existing Monroe County Multi-Hazards Mitigation Plan. The total project is in the amount of	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com

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		<p>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. 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.</p>		<p>\$43,744. Of this total the grant amount would be \$32,808 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 involves a total project 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 on from the Wisconsin Emergency Management to FEMA for approval.</p>	
9i	Crawford County Farmland Preservation contract	<p>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.</p>	June 2014 – December 2016	<p>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. Staff will be reaching out to those towns which have not submitted draft maps.</p>	<p>Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com</p>

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9j	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
9k	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 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. Wisconsin Emergency Management has reviewed the plan and suggested 3 minor amendments. Staff is working on making these suggestions after which the plan will be submitted to FEMA for approval.	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 Dave@mrrpc.com
9l	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	The public hearing draft of the plan was submitted to DATCP in August. DATCP approved the Trempealeau County Farmland Preservation Plan in September. A public hearing on the Farmland Preservation Plan will be held in October with final approval by the County anticipated in December.	Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 peter@mrrpc.com
9m	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	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com

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				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 completed a draft plan. A public hearing was held on the plan. The final step is for the County Board to approve the plan. Individual City and Village plans are being worked on.	
9n	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. In June 2016 a \$80,000 Request for Proposals RFP was issued by the Western Wisconsin Workforce Development Board. The RFP was awarded in July to Western Technical college to hire a Business Services Coordinator to assist	Greg Flogstad, Director 608.785.9396 greg@mrrpc.com

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				TUMMA and other industry sectors. The Business Services Coordinator will work directly with technical colleges, universities, Workforce Boards 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. 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.	
9o	Village of Oakdale Strategic Development Plan	The Village contracted with the MRRPC to Administer a \$40,000 State Community Development Block Grant Planning Project 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. The contract with the MRRPC is for \$6,000	08.07.2015 – 08.06.2017	In the Fall of 2015 MRRPC staff prepared the grant administrative paperwork 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 Hearings were held on July 12,2016 and September 17, 2016 to receive public input on community and economic needs of the community.	Greg Flogstad, Director 608.785.9396 greg@mrrpc.com
9p	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 continue to compile and update statistics in the town plans. The goals and objectives from the existing plans have been 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
10	Old Business				
11	New Business				
12	Adjourn				