

Agenda Items 1-12

Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission Staff Report on Projects for the Bimonthly Meeting on 12.14.2016

	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 Sue Noble Director, Vernon Economic Development Association on economic development activities and needs in and around Vernon 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 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 fourth of several County Economic Development Director presentations in the coming months to assist the MRRPC in preparing the 2017-2022 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy	Sue Noble 608.638.8332 snoble@veda-wi.org
5	Presentation by Brian Fukuda, Community Development Specialist, La Crosse County on creating positive tax base returns by making small grants to housing contractors to turn around distressed properties that can compete with greenfield developments.	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	Brian Fukuda 608.785.5792 bfukuda@lacrossecounty.org
6	Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy – CEDS Committee Appointments and Commissioner and staff	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	CEDS needs to be adopted at the February	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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	input on economic development strengths, opportunities, weaknesses, threats, and strategies for inclusion in the 2017-2022, GF	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. 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.	2017 Meeting		
7	Presentation on Wisconsin's Public Safety Broadband Project to integrate with FirstNet the nationwide cellular broadband network for public safety by Dave Bonifas Community Development Planner, MRRPC	FirstNet is charged with building a nationwide high-speed broadband cellular data network exclusively for public safety. FirstNet's mission is to provide first responders with a nationwide private cellular data network built to public safety standards, providing interoperability, priority, coverage and capacity. The Wisconsin Public Safety Broadband (WiPSB) project was established to help determine Wisconsin's requirements for FirstNet. WiPSB's priority is to ensure that FirstNet produces a network that meets the needs and expectations of Wisconsin's public safety community.	2016-2022	Regional project kickoff meetings were held in July. Data gathering and a web survey was done in September. Individual county consultations were completed in September, October and November. This data will be submitted to FirstNet who will then develop a State plan back to Wisconsin. Wisconsin will then decide to opt in and accept the FirstNet plan or opt out and develop their own network that will be compatible with the nationwide network that FirstNet is developing.	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com
8a	Status of Wisconsin's Federal Disaster Declaration.	Severe 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	FEMA declared these counties a disaster area. FEMA has held initial public assistance recovery meetings with each county. Pre-applications for mitigation grants will be open soon.	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com
8b	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 four years. To date in 2016 ridership is up by 14% over 2015 ridership. The service provider contract was re-bid this Fall as required by WisDOT and Running Inc. was the low bidder (3 bids received) and was awarded the service provider contract. The MRRPC will continue marketing and promotion and evaluate routes and schedules and integrate service modifications based on the La Crosse, Monroe, and Trempealeau County commuter bus feasibility study.	Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 peter@mrrpc.com

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8c	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 has met with all towns and each town has submitted a draft zoning map. Buffalo County is in the process of compiling the maps and preparing a draft zoning map for the County. 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, Board of Adjustment, etc. have been completed in draft form. Once the draft zoning map and first draft of the zoning ordinance are completed public meetings will be held throughout the County to gather feedback on the drafts.	Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 peter@mrrpc.com
8d	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 draft of the study has been completed and is being reviewed by La Crosse County staff. The study included proposed routes connecting La Crosse-Sparta-Tomah via Interstate 90 and a La Crosse-Arcadia via US Highway 53 and State Highway 93. From a ridership and ridership revenue perspective the bus service is feasible (based on study projections and assumptions). The key determining factor in feasibility will be securing WisDOT grant funding and acquiring annual local matching funds for a WisDOT grant from local units of governments and businesses. The study will be completed by the end of this year.	Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 peter@mrrpc.com
8e	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	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 was 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	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com

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		Federal and State Hazard Mitigation Grant programs.		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 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 was put on hold for a few weeks. Staff will be attending the first quarterly meeting of the Crawford County Towns Association.	
8f	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 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. A public hearing explaining the update process was held on April 12 th . A hazard risk assessment survey was 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 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. Staff has begun the process of updating information on the over 630 structures located within the FEMA 100-year floodplain.	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com

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8g	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	This project has been completed with the Crawford County Board approving the plan on August 16 th .	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com
8h	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
8i	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. 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	The Monroe County grant is to update the existing Monroe County Multi-Hazards Mitigation Plan. The total project is in the amount of \$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	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com

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				the existing Multi-Hazards Mitigation Plan. The grants were forwarded on from the Wisconsin Emergency Management to FEMA for approval.	
8j	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. Staff will be reaching out to those towns which have not submitted draft maps. Staff has begun creating the final maps for those towns which have submitted a draft map.	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com
8k	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 has been prepared and will be forwarded to the Town of Unity for their consideration in December.	Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 peter@mrrpc.com

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8l	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	WEM has approved the plan and has sent the plan down to FEMA for approval. Because the grant cycle ends at the end of 2016 WEM recommended that the county adopt the plan before the end of the year. The county took WEM's recommendation and approved the plan on November 15 th . The final step is to get adoption from all the incorporated communities.	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 Dave@mrrpc.com
8m	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- December 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 on December 7 with final approval by the County Board on December 19, 2016.	Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 peter@mrrpc.com
8n	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. Staff made a presentation to the Parks, Tourism and Economic Development Committee on the process of updating the county's existing plan. The county will need to prepare a list of projects or actions they would like to do to enhance outdoor recreation within the County. A draft of the plan minus the action items was prepared and presented to the Committee for their review. Once the committee prepares an action list a complete draft will be prepared and given to the committee for their review. After approval from the Committee the plan will be presented to the County Board for their approval. The Buffalo county plan has been completed and was adopted by the Buffalo County Board on September 26 th . Individual City and Village plans are being worked on.	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com

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80	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 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	Greg Flogstad, Director 608.785.9396 greg@mrrpc.com

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				the IRS of name change so TUMMA could assume EMMA's tax ID number and non-profit 501c 6 status.	
8p	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. Public Hearings were held on July 12, 2016, September 17, 2016 to receive public input on community and economic needs of the community.	Greg Flogstad, Director 608.785.9396 greg@mrrpc.com
8q	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 for Chimney Rock, Unity, Hale, Preston, and Trempealeau have been completed and will be forwarded to Trempealeau County and the respective Town's by the end of the year.	Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 peter@mrrpc.com
9	Old Business				
10	New Business				
11	Adjourn				