

**Agenda Items 1-13**

**Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission Staff Report on Projects for the Bimonthly Meeting on 02.08.2017**

	<b>Agenda Topic or Project Name</b>	<b>Purpose, Benefit, Project deliverables, and Contract Amount</b>	<b>Project Time Period</b>	<b>Project Status and Next Steps</b>	<b>Contact</b>
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. The latest loan was a \$75,000 Loan to Pearl Street Brewery in late August.	Greg Flogstad, Director 608.785.9396 <a href="mailto:greg@mrrpc.com">greg@mrrpc.com</a>
4	Decision on 2017 Budget. GF	Understand 2017 revenue and expense activities compared to 2016 and status of projects that are ending and starting	Today's Meeting	Make decision on budget.	Greg Flogstad Director 608.785.9396 <a href="mailto:greg@mrrpc.com">greg@mrrpc.com</a>
5	Report on Public Transit Feasibility Study Results on service from La Crosse County to Monroe and Trempealeau Counties. PF	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	2016-2017	The study has been completed and the findings are being presented to various La Crosse County Committees. Outreach efforts will also include presentations to Monroe and Trempealeau County committees and officials. 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.	Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 <a href="mailto:peter@mrrpc.com">peter@mrrpc.com</a>
6	Decision on contract between City of Prairie du Chien and MRRPC for MRRPC to provide management services for Scenic Mississippi River Transit (SMRT) service serving parts of La Crosse, Vernon and Crawford counties. PF	Contract of \$4,200 for 2017 will assist the MRRPC in covering expenses in managing and coordinating the 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. In 2016 ridership increased by 8% over 2015 ridership. In four years of service the SMRT bus has experienced ridership increases every year. The MRRPC will continue marketing and promotion and evaluate routes and schedules and integrate service modifications based on the La Crosse, Monroe, and Trempealeau	Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 <a href="mailto:peter@mrrpc.com">peter@mrrpc.com</a>

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				County commuter bus feasibility study.	
7	Decision on contract between the Wisconsin Mississippi River Parkway Commission and the MRRPC for the MRRPC to prepare a Commissioners handbook. PF	The Wisconsin Mississippi River Parkway Commission would like to contract with the MRRPC to prepare a Commissioner Handbook and update the Corridor Management Plan for the Great River Road. The project would include two contracts \$1,200 for the Commissioner Handbook and \$7,000 for the Corridor Management Plan update.	2017-2018	Need approval of the contracts at today's meeting.	Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 <a href="mailto:peter@mrrpc.com">peter@mrrpc.com</a>
8	Decision on contract between the Wisconsin Mississippi River Parkway Commission and the MRRPC to update the Parkway Commission's management plan. PF	The Wisconsin Mississippi River Parkway Commission would like to contract with the MRRPC to prepare a Commissioner Handbook and update the Corridor Management Plan for the Great River Road. The project would include two contracts \$1,200 for the Commissioner Handbook and \$7,000 for the Corridor Management Plan update.	2017-2018	Need approval of the contracts at today's meeting.	Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 <a href="mailto:peter@mrrpc.com">peter@mrrpc.com</a>
9	Status report and Commissioner Input on the 2017 – 2022 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. GF	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 (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.	CEDS needs to be adopted at the April 2017 Meeting	After receiving input from economic development organizations and federal and state agencies on Economic Development activities and needs during the June, August, October and December meetings need final input from commissioners on Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. Also, need to hold Public Information Meeting at MRRPC April 13, 2017 meeting.	Greg Flogstad, Director 608.785.9396 <a href="mailto:greg@mrrpc.com">greg@mrrpc.com</a>

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10a	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 were due by 1/12/17. WEM will review and rank the preapplications, then ask those who rank high to submit a full app.	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 <a href="mailto:dave@mrrpc.com">dave@mrrpc.com</a>
10b	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. In 2016 ridership increased by 8% over 2015 ridership. In four years of service the SMRT bus has experienced ridership increases every year. 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 <a href="mailto:peter@mrrpc.com">peter@mrrpc.com</a>
10c	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, specific use requirements, zoning districts, 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. It is anticipated public input meetings will be held this Spring.	Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 <a href="mailto:peter@mrrpc.com">peter@mrrpc.com</a>
10d	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	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	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 <a href="mailto:dave@mrrpc.com">dave@mrrpc.com</a>

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		<p>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>with a May 31<sup>st</sup> 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 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 is finalizing the social-economic data and hazard assessment chapters of the plan.</p>	
10e	Trempealeau County Hazard Mitigation Plan update	<p>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.</p>	2016-2018	<p>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<sup>th</sup>. A hazard risk assessment survey was mailed to all municipalities and first responders with a May 31<sup>st</sup> deadline for return. Staff also made a presentation of the updating process at the April 26<sup>th</sup> Trempealeau County Towns Association meeting. Staff is finalizing the updating of 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.</p>	<p>Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 <a href="mailto:dave@mrrpc.com">dave@mrrpc.com</a></p>

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10f	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 met 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. A draft of the Strategy document has been submitted to the County and the MRRPC received a copy of it on January 20, 2017.	Greg Flogstad, Director 608-785-9396 <a href="mailto:greg@mrrpc.com">greg@mrrpc.com</a>
10g	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 the existing Multi-Hazards Mitigation Plan. The grants were forwarded on from the Wisconsin Emergency Management to FEMA for approval. FEMA has not yet allocated any funds for these projects.	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 <a href="mailto:dave@mrrpc.com">dave@mrrpc.com</a>

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10h	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 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 has begun creating the final maps for those towns which have submitted a draft map.	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 <a href="mailto:dave@mrrpc.com">dave@mrrpc.com</a>
10i	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 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 <a href="mailto:peter@mrrpc.com">peter@mrrpc.com</a>



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10j	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 <sup>th</sup> . The final step is to get adoption from all the incorporated communities. Adoption resolutions for all the municipalities will be mailed to them for their official approval. After each municipality approves the plan a copy of the adopting resolution will be sent to WEM.	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 <a href="mailto:Dave@mrrpc.com">Dave@mrrpc.com</a>
10k	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 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 <a href="mailto:peter@mrrpc.com">peter@mrrpc.com</a>
10l	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 presented a draft of the plan to the Parks, Tourism and Economic Development Committee. This committee approved the draft plan and it will go to the County Board for approval. The Buffalo county plan has been completed and was adopted by the Buffalo County Board on September 26 <sup>th</sup> . Individual City and Village plans are being worked on for both counties.	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 <a href="mailto:dave@mrrpc.com">dave@mrrpc.com</a>
10m	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. On November 24, 2015 EMMA voted to change its name and bylaws to TUMMA to invite all manufacturers in the tristate region to join. Its primary focus will be on improving the skill sets	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 like the North-East Wisconsin Manufacturing Alliance. The EMMA board was open to the idea of	Greg Flogstad, Director 608.785.9396 <a href="mailto:greg@mrrpc.com">greg@mrrpc.com</a>

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		<p>and knowledge of the region's manufacturing work force. A TUMMA steering group was established and met 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. 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' interests in manufacturing careers. This position will be housed in the new Integrated Technology Center on the WTC campus.</p>		<p>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. The MRRPC instigated this industry cluster initiative in 2005 and has been serving as a liaison for EMMA since and was instrumental in helping EMMA Incorporate in 2007. In 2015 the MRRPC Director assisted EMMA-TUMMA in preparing amended articles of incorporation and completing the IRS name change form from EMMA to TUMMA so TUMMA could assume EMMA's tax ID number and non-profit 501c 6 status. At the January 12, 2017 TUMMA Board meeting The Board indicated a need for: a strategic plan, a desire to hold a manufacturing expo in the fall of 2017, develop a manufacturing all-star magazine to promote employees in manufacturing, work with children museums across the state to include manufacturing exhibits and review their K-12 Survey for future actions.</p>	
10n	Village of Oakdale Strategic Development Plan	<p>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</p>	08.07.2015 – 08.06.2017	<p>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. A draft of the Strategic Development Plan was submitted to the Village in January 2017 for review.</p>	<p>Greg Flogstad, Director 608.785.9396 <a href="mailto:greg@mrrpc.com">greg@mrrpc.com</a></p>



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10o	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, Gale, Albion, and Trempealeau have been completed and have been forwarded to Trempealeau County and the respective Town's for their review. The draft plans for the remaining towns will be completed in draft form this Spring.	Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 <a href="mailto:peter@mrrpc.com">peter@mrrpc.com</a>
11	Old Business				
12	New Business				
13	Adjourn				