

Agenda Items 1-14

Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission Staff Report on Projects for the Bimonthly Meeting on 02.14.2018

	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. The latest was a \$100,000 Loan approved to Driftless Brewery Company LLC in Soldiers Grove on November 8, 2017.	Greg Flogstad, Director 608.785.9396 greg@mrrpc.com
4	Revolving Loan Fund Marketing	US Department of Commerce – Economic Development Administration indicated in a December 2017 letter the MRRPC has excess RLF funds available and would like the MRRPC to indicate extenuating circumstances and steps to resolve this issue. MRRPC director responded with a letter in January 2018 listing extenuating circumstances and steps that will be taken to remedy this situation.	Continual	MRRPC needs to increase awareness of its EDA revolving loan funds to assist businesses, Letters with brochures to banks and economic development organizations in the region have been mailed. The Director has also visited banks in the region to further promote the MRRPC's RLFs.	Greg Flogstad, Director 608.785.9396 greg@mrrpc.com
5	Decision on 2018 Budget.	Understand 2018 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 greg@mrrpc.com
6	Presentation on opportunities for wood fuels as a regional renewable fuel for heat and electricity by Scott Sanford, M Eng., UW Extension Ag Engineer, Rural Energy Program and Statewide Wood Energy Team	Information on opportunities to further build the region's renewable energy resources from the region's vast biomass resources to reduce the region's dependence on imported fossil fuels.	Today's Meeting	Learn about biofuel development opportunities and ways to implement them to improve the region's economy, environment and renewable energy production. A 3 E Win!	Scott Sanford, M Eng., UW Extension Ag Engineer, Rural Energy Program and Statewide Wood Energy Team 608.262.5062 sasanford@wisc.edu www.bse.wisc.edu

7	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 2018 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 2018 are approximately \$350,000.	January 2018-December 2018	Decide on the contract	Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 peter@mrrpc.com
8	Update on Buffalo County zoning ordinance public meetings and open houses. DB	New zoning ordinance is needed to deal with growing development activity. Zoning Ordinance and Maps are to be completed on or prior to May 2018. Contract amount is for \$43,964.	May 2015 – May 2018	Staff has worked with the Buffalo County Zoning Department and has completed the first draft of the revised Zoning Ordinance. Over the past several months Town's reviewed their draft zoning maps that they submitted to the County in the Spring and have made final modifications. The first draft of the Buffalo County ordinance has been completed. Public input meetings on the first draft were held on 1/23, 2/1, 2/5, 2/13. A fifth meeting is scheduled for 2/22. The part of the ordinance that has caused the most concern in the first two meetings was a requirement for a cement floor in new poultry barns. Farmers expressed their opinion that this requirement drastically increased the cost of a new poultry barn and there is no documentation that there is any leaching from poultry barns that could get into aquifers. Comments from those meetings will be compiled and modifications will be made to the draft zoning ordinance and zoning map prior to conducting another public hearing.	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com
9.	Introduction and welcome to Joe Folsom, Director Pierce County Economic Development Corporation. GF	Meet new partner in economic development in region	Today's Meeting	Will be working with Joe on Economic Development projects in Pierce County, RLF assistance will be an immediate priority.	Joe Folsom, Director PCEDC 715.425.3881 joe@pcedc.com
10.	Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plans	The Wisconsin Department of Transportation has requested Regional Planning Commissions to assist counties in updating their "Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plans". Plans were originally prepared with assistance from the RPC's. The plans are required by WDOT for counties to receive	February 2018 – October 2018.	A request will be sent to counties in the MRRPC region if they would like assistance with updating their "Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plans". The plan update will be done on a regional basis. A regional plan will be prepared with county specific sections. A public input meeting is required and will be facilitated by MRRPC staff. Staff will continue communication with counties on the plan update process.	Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 peter@mrrpc.com

		state and federal transportation funding. The plans must be updated by October 15, 2018.		Schedule a regional public planning input meeting for July 2018.	
11a	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 was 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 completed 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 has been sent out to those municipalities which did not return the first survey. Staff is finalizing the social-economic data and hazard assessment chapters of the plan and has begun updating the maps. This involves migrating from the MapInfo software over to the Arc Info software. Staff has completed identifying structures located in the FEMA100-year and updating their assessed values. Staff has met with the county Zoning and Land Conservation Departments to discuss possible mitigation projects and will be setting up meetings with county staff from highway, public health, and sheriff departments to obtain mitigation ideas from them.	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com
11b	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	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 completed the updating of the demographic information such as populations, land use, employment and updating the risk assessment portion of the	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com

		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.		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 compiled the returned surveys. A second survey has been 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. Trempealeau County Land Information office has provided updated GIS data as a base for the mapping required for the plan. Staff made a presentation to the Law Enforcement/Emergency Management Committee to update them on the progress of the plan. Staff will be setting up meetings with county staff from highway, public health, and sheriff departments to obtain mitigation ideas from them	
11c	Scenic Mississippi Regional Transit (SMRT) bus serving Crawford, Vernon Monroe, and La Crosse counties	<p>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.</p> <p>Projected operating costs for 2017 are approximately \$350,000. Funding comes from a federal DOT grant, local governments, corporate donations and the fare box.</p>	Service Began on December 3, 2012 - present	<p>The SMRT Bus has been operating for over five years in La Crosse Vernon and Crawford Counties. In 2017 ridership decreased by about 6% compared to 2016 ridership. In 2017, public transit bus systems in the state and nation have been experiencing decreased ridership ranging from 3% to 7%. There has been no clear answer as why, but numerous theories exist ranging from gas prices, funding, economy, weather, etc.</p> <p>The pilot route that operates two round trips per day between Tomah and La Crosse has been operating since October. Ridership has averaged about ninety rides per month. Minor route and bus stop changes have been made in response to demand and traffic concerns. The addition of a mid-day route would benefit the service providing for schedule flexibility for bus users.</p> <p>Staff assisted La Crosse County in applying for an Bremer Grant for the SMRT Bus in 2018. Staff met with Bremer officials in November to discuss the grant application. It is anticipated that a decision on the Bremer Grant will be made this Spring.</p>	Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 peter@mrrpc.com
11d	Viroqua Outdoor Recreation Planning	Plan for maintenance and expansion of outdoor recreation opportunities in the city of Viroqua. Plan makes the city eligible for State Land and	2017	Staff has met with the city administrator and explained the process and time frame of developing a plan. Staff also made a presentation to the city parks committee on the process and what information the city	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com

		<p>Water Conservation Grants and State Stewardship Grants. The city would like a new bike trail within the city and the development of the old swimming pool property.</p>		<p>will need to provide during the planning process. Staff has updated the old data found in the plan and submitted this data to the city for review. The city reviewed the plan and submitted a list of items to be changed and provided photos to be included in the new plan. Staff has made changes and sent it back to the city for another review.</p>	
11e	<p>The Upper Mississippi River Manufacturing Alliance TUMMA Inc. Industry Cluster Initiative</p>	<p>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 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</p>	Continual	<p>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 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.</p> <p>TUMMA held there Annual meeting on December 14, 2018 at Western Technical College. Officers were elected they then heard presentations on: (1) Tax Law updates, (2) INSPIRE – How and Why it Matters and (3) K-12 Partnerships – Examples of Great Partnering. There next meeting is February 8, 2017 where they will plan 2017 activities including partnership event opportunities and hear a presentation how can TUMMA work with Junior Achievement.</p>	

		manufacturing careers. This position will be housed in the new Integrated Technology Center on the WTC campus.			
11f	Contract to Update Comprehensive Plans for Trempealeau County Towns	Trempealeau County contracted 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 Summer 2018.	June 2016 – June 2018	MRRPC staff has completed draft Comprehensive Plan revisions for 13 Towns in Trempealeau County. The revised plans have been forwarded to Trempealeau County and the respective Town's for their review. Towns are reviewing draft plans and scheduling public hearings to gain public input on the revised plans. The Town of Chimney Rock, Lincoln, and Ettrick have held their public hearings. The remaining towns will be holding public hearings later in 2018.	Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 peter@mrrpc.com
11g	MRRPC preparing an update the Mississippi River Parkway Commission's corridor management plan. PF	The Wisconsin Mississippi River Parkway has contracted with the MRRPC to prepare an update to the Corridor Management Plan for the Great River Road. The contract for the project is \$7,200.	2017-2018	Staff inventoried public facilities along the Great River Road and presented a draft inventory to the Parkway Commission. MRPC Commissioners finalized rating GRR public facilities last Fall and MRRPC staff tabulated the ratings. The MRRPC is utilizing the information to assist the MRPC in preparing recommendations for the various facilities. The first draft of the updated CMP will be completed in February/March 2018 with plan completion in Spring/Summer of 2018.	Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 peter@mrrpc.com

11h	Monroe County Hazard Mitigation Planning	<p>A grant to DHS-FEMA was written by staff to update the Monroe County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plans are prepared to reduce costs and losses from natural disasters for counties and municipalities. This is an update to the existing plan. The plan inventory's the 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. The Plan 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. The total project is in the amount of \$43,744, of which \$32,808 is the grant award and the remaining \$10,936 is a required match.</p>	2016-2018	<p>A contract has been signed and work has begun on this project. Staff has met with the Monroe County Emergency Management Director and a representative from the sheriff's office to work out how the grant will be administered and who will perform what activities. Staff has also began updating the required social – economic data. In addition, 2 surveys have been sent out to all municipalities, first responders, fire departments, and policing departments. A meeting with Monroe County, MRRPC staff and a representative from Fort Mc Coy was held on June 12th. Staff met with the Monroe County Land Information Officer and obtained base maps for the county. Updating the structures located within the FEMA 100-year floodplain has begun. Staff made a presentation at the Monroe County Towns Association meeting on August 17th. Staff has begun creating the maps needed for the project.</p>	<p>Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com</p>
11i	Vernon County Hazard Mitigation Plan	<p>A grant to DHS-FEMA was written by staff to update the Vernon County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan and to complete county parcel mapping. The MRRPC will be preparing the plan update and the county will be responsible for completing the parcel mapping. Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plans are prepared to reduce costs and losses from natural disasters for counties and municipalities. This is an update to the existing plan. The plan inventory's the 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. The Plan must be approved by DHS-FEMA and Wisconsin Emergency Management.</p>		<p>A contract has been signed and work has begun on this project. Staff has met with the Vernon County Emergency Management Director and the Vernon County Land Information Officer to work out how the grant will be administered. Staff has also began updating the required social – economic data. In addition, 2 surveys have been sent out to all municipalities, first responders, fire chiefs and police chiefs. Staff made a presentation at the Vernon County Towns Association meeting on April 27th. A second set of surveys have been sent out to those who have not responded to the first set of surveys. Staff met with the Vernon County Land Information Officer to discuss mapping needs. Work on updating the structures located in the FEMA 100-year flood plain has begun. The Vernon County Emergency Management Director has taken a different job and will be leaving in the middle of October. Staff met with the new director and has brought him up to date with the process. Staff has completed updating approximately 50% of the</p>	<p>Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com</p>

		Once the updated plan is approved, the county and other participating local governments are eligible for Federal and State Hazard Mitigation Grant programs. The total project is in the amount of \$259,793.98, of which \$40,000 of that amount is for the plan update.		demographic data (i.e. population data, employment, land use, etc.)	
11j	Report on the successful Coulee Region' Business Center and Western Wisconsin Workforce Development Board's Joint Application of \$45,000 to the U.S. Department of Commerce - Economic Development Administration to fund a feasibility study on development of a fabrication lab, food processing, packaging and distribution center and a transitional jobs program to assist persons with barriers to employment.	This feasibility study was funded by EDA for \$45,000 and is being matched by an additional \$45,000 from the City of La Crosse, the CRBC and the La Crosse Industrial Park Corporation, each providing \$15,000. The funding will be used to hire a consultant(s) to research the development of a fab lab, a food processing, packaging and distribution operation and training opportunities for hard to employ persons as well as look for additional space because the Coulee Region Business Center is always at or near full capacity. The MRRPC Director assisted in writing this grant.	2017-2018	The MRRPC wrote a Request for Proposal (RFP) that was mailed out in late November to consultants. The consultants were required to submit their proposals by December 18, 2018. Consultants were interviewed on January 12. Place Dynamics was selected as the consultant and the contract was signed in early February. The MRRPC staff will continue to provide assistance where needed to help administer this grant and help implement the recommendations from the feasibility study.	Greg Flogstad, Director 608.785.9396 greg@mrrpc.com
12	Old Business				
13	New Business				
14	Adjourn				