

Agenda Items 1-14

Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission Staff Report on Projects for the Bimonthly Meeting on 06.13.2018

	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. On April 6, 2018 Driftless Brewery Company's \$100,000 loan was closed on.	Greg Flogstad, Director 608.785.9396 greg@mrrpc.com
4	Election of Officers	Officers are elected every two years in accordance with the By-Laws	Today's Meeting	Jim Ehrsam, Bill Schroeder and Jo Ann Nickoletti have been appointed to the nominating committee and will present nominations for the office of Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary Treasurer	Greg Flogstad, Director 608.785.9396 greg@mrrpc.com
5	Presentation on 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 has completed the first draft of the MRPC Corridor Management Plan. Recommendations for facility spacing, way finding signage, long term sustainability of the MRPC has been included in the draft plan. At the April meeting of the MRPC the Commission approved of the action items in the plan draft. The CMP will be finalized this Summer.	Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 peter@mrrpc.com
6.	Presentation on Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation's activities and programs by Jennifer Kuderer, Regional Economic Development Director	Become informed on WEDC's activities and programs to assist the region in its economic development activities	Today's meeting	Utilize information gained for economic development projects in region	Jenny Kuderer, Regional Economic Development Director, WEDC 608-210-6820 jennifer.kuderer@wedc.org
7	Report on US Dept. Of Commerce-EDA public facility flood disaster grant assistance projects in the cities of La Crosse, Arcadia and Viroqua. DB	EDA is awarding \$587 million in aid to communities impacted by 2017 natural disasters. Only 11 counties in the Chicago Region are eligible all of these are in Wisconsin and 7 of them are in the MRRPC area.	Today's meeting	EDA and MRRPC staff has met with the Cities of Arcadia, La Crosse and Viroqua to discuss possible projects. EDA staff has recommended that these communities submit to EDA a description of these projects and how they would impact economic development/retention for further consideration. If EDA does think these projects are worth funding a more complete application will be asked for.	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com

8	Review of EDA Regional Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Plan for the Business Capital Fund, CMV Growth Development Fund and the La Crosse County Economic Development Fund. GF	US Department of Commerce – Economic Development Administration is requesting that all EDA Revolving Loan Funds in the U.S. update their Revolving Loan Fund plans by the end of 2018. At today's meeting we will review the EDA RLF Plan that covers the four EDA RLFs the MRRPC administers. These four RLFs were created at different times among different counties during the 1989 - 1995 time-period. Policy decisions need to be made on interest rates, loan terms, size of loans, whether targeting specific business sectors will occur, job creation etc.	Continual	Review, question and provide input to regional Revolving Loan Fund Plan. Plan approval will likely occur at the MRRPC August or October meetings after the EDA and the respective Revolving Loan Fund Boards have also reviewed the Plan.	Greg Flogstad, Director 608.785.9396 greg@mrrpc.com
9	Report on the Association of Wisconsin Regional Planning Commissions First Annual Summit on Thursday June 14, 2018, in Wisconsin Rapids at the Meade Inn.	The Association of Wisconsin Regional Planning Commissions or AWRPC that is comprised of the state's nine regional planning commissions is going to hold a conference on Thursday June 14 that is targeted to regional planning commission commissioners and staff. The purpose of the conference is to help commissioners and staff become more familiar with RPCs network with each other to help them do their job better	June 14, 2018	James Kuhn, Margaret Baecker, Greg Flogstad, Peter Fletcher and Sarah Ofte will attend the summit. A total of 88 commissioners and staff from the nine regional planning commissions will be in attendance.	Greg Flogstad, Director 608.785.9396 greg@mrrpc.com

10a	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 has completed 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, Land Conservation and Highway Departments to discuss possible mitigation projects and will be setting up meetings with county staff from public health, and sheriff departments to obtain mitigation ideas from them. Staff will also be meeting with those incorporated communities which have not responded to either survey. The draft of the plan is approximately 95% completed.	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com
10b	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	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	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com

		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.		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 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. In addition, staff will be setting up meetings with those incorporated communities which have not responded to either survey. The draft plan is approximately 80% completed.	
10c	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 2018 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%. In the four months of 2018 ridership is up by approximately 11.5 % over 2017 ridership.</p> <p>The new route that operates two round trips per day between Tomah and La Crosse has been operating since October 2017. 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>The Wisconsin DOT approved a grant application for one new bus which is expected to be operational in 6 to 8 months. It is anticipated that the new bus will allow an additional daily round trip route between La Crosse and Tomah. A grant for electric vehicles is also being evaluated for the SMRT Bus system.</p>	Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 peter@mrrpc.com
10d	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 Water	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 will need to provide during the planning	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com

		<p>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>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. Staff is waiting for a response from the city.</p>	
10e	<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</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.</p> <p>There last meeting was on April 12, 2018, where they discussed partnership opportunities with Cashton. And heard a presentation on Wisconsin' Supply Chain Market-Place program. Their next meeting is scheduled for June 11 or June 14. The MRRPC Director provided a narrative Titled "Why TUMMA Thinks Manufacturing Matters" for their web site - info@tumma.org.</p>	

		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.			
10f	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 Fall 2018.	June 2016 – August 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. All the Towns have now scheduled public hearings and all public hearings will be completed by July. Minor plan modifications will be made based on public input and final plans will be drafted and completed by this Fall.	Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 peter@mrrpc.com
10g	Monroe County Hazard Mitigation Planning	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.	2016-2018	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 begun 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 12 th . 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 17 th . Staff has begun creating the maps needed for the project. Staff has also begun updating the risk assessment chapter of the plan. This chapter identifies all the natural hazards along with how often they have occurred in the county and how much damage they have caused. Staff has begun creating the numerous maps to be included within the plan.	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com

10h	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. 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.</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 begun 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. Staff has completed updating approximately 75% of the demographic data (i.e. population data, employment, land use, etc.). In addition, staff has begun the process of updating the risk assessment chapter of the plan, i.e. how many times each hazard has occurred within the count and how much damage these events have caused. Staff has made a presentation to the Emergency Management Committee on 5/3 to explain the updating process to new committee members.</p>	<p>Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com</p>
10i.	Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plans	<p>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 state and federal transportation funding. The plans must be updated by October 15, 2018.</p>	<p>February 2018 – October 2018.</p>	<p>The plan update will be done on a regional basis. A regional plan will be prepared with county specific sections. In June, the MRRPC will be contacting transportation providers in the region and request vehicle information. Demographic data will also be updated on a county and regional level.</p> <p>A public input meeting is required and will be facilitated by MRRPC staff on July 31st 2018. Staff will continue communication with counties on the plan update process. Invitations for the July public input meeting will be sent out to all invitees by June 20, 2018.</p>	<p>Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 peter@mrrpc.com</p>

10j	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. A steering committee met with the consultant in May and will meet again with the consultant on June 20, to here about progress, answer questions and provide suggestions. The project should be completed by September with project closeout occurring in October 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
10k	City of Mondovi Comprehensive Plan	Assist Mondovi in having a up to date Comprehensive Plan that meets Wisconsin Statutes. Total contract is for \$12,000	June 2018 – August 2019	Contract was approved at the MRRPC's April meeting. Base data will start to be collected during the summer of 2018 and first meeting with the City Planning Commission is expected to be in late summer or early fall.	Greg Flogstad, Director 608.785.9396 greg@mrrpc.com
10l	Update on Buffalo County zoning ordinance public hearing and county board meeting. 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. The Town's each created their own draft zoning maps and submitted them to the County in the Spring. A first draft of the Buffalo County ordinance was completed. Public input meetings on the first draft were held on 1/23, 2/1, 2/5, 2/13 and 2/22. The part of the ordinance that has caused the most concern in the first 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 were compiled and modifications were made to the plan and a 2 nd draft was completed. Two additional open house meetings were held on the revised draft ordinance and zoning maps. A final draft of the plan has been completed based upon comments received from the public and a public hearing was held on April 5 th . The County Zoning Committee recommended to send the plan to the full county board for adoption of the plan at their July 23 rd	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com

				meeting. An informational session regarding zoning ordinance revisions will be held on May 29th.	
10m	Pierce County Community Development Block Grant Revolving Loan Fund	A contract with Pierce County to administer their Community Development Block Grant Revolving Loan Fund has been executed	Continual	MRRPC staff, WCWRPC and Pierce County EDC staff have a meeting set for June 21 st at which time they will meet to transfer the records and the MRRPC will start to administer the program.	Greg Flogstad, Director 608.785.9396 greg@mrrpc.com
11	Old Business				
12	New Business				
13	Adjourn				