

Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission Staff Report on Projects for the Bimonthly Meeting on 08.08.2018

	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	Presentation by Tessa Conroy, PhD, Economic Development Specialist, UW Extension Center for Community and Economic Development on "Slow Churn: Declining Dynamism in America's Dairyland	Focus is on how "churn" is good for the economy i.e. people moving in and out, businesses starting and closing and how Wisconsin is not churning like it used to.	Today's Meeting	NA	Tessa Conroy 608.265.4327 Tessa.conroy@wisc.edu
5	Report on the Wisconsin Department of Administration's proposed Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Close Grant program involving terminating all CDBG Revolving Loan Funds across the state. Then allowing communities to apply for a guaranteed CDBG grant for the amount of RLF funds returned. GF	Due to compliance issues and over \$50 million sitting in bank accounts across the state the WI DOA is proposing to terminate the CDBG RLFs in all communities and counties. As an incentive for RLF communities and counties to participate it will allow counties and communities to apply for a CDBG grant in an amount that is equal to the amount of CDBG funds that are returned. This CDBG grant is guaranteed to be funded. Grants may be for road, water sewer, other public facilities, housing, planning, job training services and centers, food pantries, senior centers, services to the homeless, crime prevention and public safety, child care, health services: substance abuse services-counseling and treatment (opioid treatment), fair housing counseling, education programs, energy conservation,	This program will be rolled out by WI DOA in August and September. Communities and counties will have two years to return the funds and apply for CDBG grant for the amount of RLF funds that they returned to the State.	Attend public meetings that DOA will be sponsoring around the State in August and September 2018 communities and counties will have two years to determine and apply for projects that are CDBG eligible and provide service to a population that is at least 51% Low and moderate income. Counties that will need to address this program are: Pierce, Pepin, Buffalo, Jackson, La Crosse, Monroe and Vernon Counties. Cities and Villages that will have to address this are Tomah, Sparta, Kendall, Hillsboro and Osseo.	Greg Flogstad, Director 608.785.9396 greg@mrrpc.com

		services for senior citizens, and other similar projects approved by DOA. Projects must also benefit a population area that is at least 51% Low and moderate Income.			
6	Decision on 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 nation 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.	Today’s Meeting	Review, question and provide input to regional Revolving Loan Fund Plan. Plan approval is needed by the Commission.	Greg Flogstad, Director 608.785.9396 greg@mrrpc.com
7.	Report on Regionally 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 state and federal transportation funding. The plans must be updated by October 15, 2018.	February 2018 – October 2018.	The plan update will be done on a regional basis. A regional plan will be prepared with county specific sections. In June, the MRRPC contacted transportation providers in the region and request vehicle information. Demographic data was also be updated on a county and regional level. A public input meeting is required and was facilitated by MRRPC staff on July 31 st 2018. Approximately 150 Invitations for the July public input meeting were sent out to transportation representative throughout the region. Staff will continue communication with counties on the plan update process. Input from the July 31, 2018 meeting will be compiled and utilized in updating the County Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plans for each county in the MRRPC Region.	
8	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 was allocated \$587 million in additional funding nation-wide for 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 Region..	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 applications. La Crosse is applying for approximately \$3.0 million for storm water lift and booster pumps at three locations in the North Side. The City of Arcadia approximately \$8 to \$10 million for new main storm sewer lift station, upgrades to five other lifts stations, and	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com

				sewer drainage channels to protect Ashley Furniture and it's 3,000 jobs and the City's downtown from flooding should a breach in a new levy that is also part of the project. Viroqua' Project involves developing a new site for the County Highway Shop in an industrial park that will be developed.	
9	Report on the Association of Wisconsin Regional Planning Commissions First Annual Summit held 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 held a conference on Thursday June 14 that targeted 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 all do their job better	Today's Meeting	James Kuhn, Margaret Baecker, Greg Flogstad, Peter Fletcher and Sarah Ofte attend the summit. Over 95 commissioners and staff from the nine regional planning commissions attended.	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. A meeting with the Crawford County Land Information Officer was held to discuss updating the structures located within the FEMA 100-year floodplain. Chapters 2 (Planning Area), 3 (Risk Assessment) and 5 (Maintenance and Adoption) have been completed. Chapter 1 (Planning Process) is approximately 95% completed and Chapter 4 (Mitigation Strategies) is 80% completed. Meetings with the County Highway Commissioner,	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com

				Land Conservation Department, Zoning, have been held to explain the plan and to get potential mitigation projects from these departments. Meetings with incorporated communities which have not responded to the two surveys are still being held. A draft of the plan will be presented to the Land Conservation Planning and Zoning Committee in September.	
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 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. MRRPC staff has completed updating Chapter 2, "Trempealeau County Planning Area" which contains the economic and demographic data for Trempealeau County. A risk assessment survey has been created and was mailed out in the first week of April. A second survey to those communities which have not responded to the first survey was mailed out. Meetings with municipalities which have not responded to the surveys are being scheduled. Meetings with the Cities of Arcadia and Trempealeau have been held, in addition a phone conversation was held with the Town of Arcadia. Staff has completed 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. The updating of the over 630 structures located within the FEMA 100-year floodplain has begun and is approximately 90% completed. 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	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com

				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. 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 9% 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 City of Prairie du Chien has been the administrator of the SMRT Bus since it began operation in 2012. Since the service has grown and expanded primarily north of the City of Prairie du Chien a change in the local unit of government sponsor (administrator) is being evaluated. A local unit of government sponsor more centrally located is desired. In addition, since the SMRT Bus has expanded service a requirement of the State/Federal DOT grant is that the bus service must be re-bid. The procurement process is underway and service bids need to be submitted by providers this Fall at which time a provider will be selected for the SMRT Bus service for 2019.</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 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.	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 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	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com

				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.	
10e	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 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.	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 June 14, 2018, where they heard a presentation on the State of Western Technical College and its Programs by Roger Stanford, President WTC. At TUMMA's April 12, 2018 meeting they approved \$300.00 to WTC to help them fund WTC's video marketing presentation to promote WTC's Precision Machine Program. The MRRPC Director provided a narrative Titled "Why TUMMA Thinks Manufacturing Matters" for their web site - info@tumma.org.</p>	
10f	Contract to Update Comprehensive Plans	Trempealeau County contracted with the MRRPC to update the 13 town comprehensive plans and will	June 2016 – December 2018	MRRPC staff has completed draft Comprehensive Plan revisions for 13 Towns in Trempealeau County. The	Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 peter@mrrpc.com

	for Trempealeau County Towns	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.		revised plans have been forwarded to Trempealeau County and the respective Town's for their review and approval. All the Towns have conducted public hearings on their revised comprehensive plans. Minor plan modifications are being made based on public input and final plans will be drafted and completed by this Fall.	
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	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		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	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com

		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.		meeting on April 27 th . 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.	
10i	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 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
10j	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
10k	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	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com

				<p>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 2nd 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 5th. The County Zoning Committee recommended to send the plan to the full county board for adoption of the plan at their July 23rd meeting. An informational session regarding zoning ordinance revisions was held on July 9th.</p>	
10l	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
10m	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 has completed a final draft of the corridor management plan and will be submitting it to the Wisconsin Parkway Commission for their review at their August meeting. Recommendations for facility spacing, way finding signage, long term sustainability of the MRPC have been included in the final draft plan. Any additional comments or recommendations will be added to the document with final plan approval anticipated this Fall.	Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 peter@mrrpc.com
11	Old Business				
12	New Business				
13	Adjourn				