

Agenda Items 1-13

Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission Staff Report on Projects for the Bimonthly Meeting on 08.09.2017

	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.	Greg Flogstad, Director 608.785.9396 greg@mrrpc.com
4	Presentation on Mississippi River Region's high capacity well situation	Learn about the region's growing high capacity wells and their impact on the environment, as well as the permitting process and the DNR's authority.	Today's Meeting	To be determined, based on presentation.	Bob Smail Water Supply Specialist Bob.smail@wisconsin.gov Ian Anderson, Hydrogeologist ian.anderson@wisconsin.gov
5.	Status of MRRPC counties impacted by severe storms, July 19-22, 2017	Share information on storms impact, recovery efforts and state-federal assistance provided and future long term recovery assistance.	Today's Meeting	To be determined, based on presentation.	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com
6.	Commissioner completion of Minority Representation Data Collection Form for adherence to Title 6 of the Civil Rights Act.	Fulfill Civil Rights Act requirement to collect racial/ethnic make-up of any non-elected boards, commissions and councils.	Today's meeting	Tabulate completed forms and put information in Title 6 Program / Limited English Proficiency Plan and submit plan to Wisconsin DOT.	Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 peter@mrrpc.com
7.	Report on Foxconn economic impact in selecting Southeast WI for its \$13 billion expansion involving performance based tax incentives up to \$3 billion and report on Black River Fall's new Certified Site designation by the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation-WEDC	Provide information on Foxconn's decision to locate in SE Wisconsin and its economic impact on the state if the state legislature approves the incentive package of tax credits, environmental regulation waivers and infrastructure provisions. Black River Falls recently accomplished having a 76 acre industrial site designated a "Certified Site" allowing them to receive enhanced marketing assistance from WEDC. The site meets pre-defined criteria for size, infrastructure, environmental, physical condition, and local community support.	Today's meeting	Monitor situation for identifying supply chain opportunities to benefit the region's businesses.	Greg Flogstad, Director 608.785.9396 greg@mrrpc.com

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8.	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 May 2018. Contract amount is for \$43,964.	May 2015 – May 2018	Staff has met with all towns and each town has submitted a draft zoning map. Buffalo County has prepared the first draft zoning map for the County. Staff has met with towns to resolve any map discrepancies. Staff has also been meeting with the Zoning Committee to complete draft chapters of the revised zoning ordinance. The majority of the draft zoning ordinance is complete. Staff will be submitting the definitions chapter of the ordinance to Buffalo County in August. Upon completing the draft zoning map and first draft of the zoning ordinance public meetings will be held throughout the County to gather feedback on the drafts. It is anticipated public input meetings will be held this Fall.	Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 peter@mrrpc.com
9.	Report on Coulee Region' Business Center and Western Wisconsin Workforce Development Board's Joint Application to 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 if funded would provide a plan on how to provide 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	Today's Meeting	Provide assistance where needed to help apply for and implement the grant if awarded.	Greg Flogstad, Director 608.785.9396 greg@mrrpc.com
10a	Report on Crawford County's Farmland Preservation Plan	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	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 working with the Land Conservation Committee created goals and policies compiled a list of Farmland Preservation related goals and policies. Staff	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com

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		<p>must also be consistent with the County's comprehensive plan. Total Project Cost \$60,000, The MRRPC contract is for \$30,000.</p>		<p>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. The first draft of the plan was presented to the Land Conservation Committee for their comments and recommendations. Following the approval from the Land Conservation Committee a public hearing on the plan was held on April 18th. The plan was revised based upon public comments and was presented to the Land Conservation Committee for their approval. The approved plan has been submitted to DATCP to see if it meets the requirements for certification. DATCP has sent a letter to the county stating that the plan meets their requirement. The final step is for the county board to adopt the plan.</p>	
10b	<p>Report on Scenic Mississippi Regional Transit (SMRT) project serving Crawford, Vernon and La Crosse Counties.</p>	<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. Projected operating costs for 2017 are approximately \$350,000.</p>	<p>Service began December 3, 2012 – Ongoing</p>	<p>The SMRT Bus has been operating for four years. In 2016 ridership increased by 8% over 2015 ridership. In the first three months of 2017 ridership decreased slightly from 2016, but in May and June ridership numbers have once again increased. The SMRT Bus has been name a finalist for the Wisconsin Economic Development Associations "Community and Economic Development Award" which will be given out in September. 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.</p>	<p>Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 peter@mrrpc.com</p>
10c	<p>Public Transit Feasibility Study Results on service from La Crosse County to Monroe and Trempealeau Counties. PF</p>	<p>La Crosse County Public Transit Feasibility Study which analyzed and made recommendations on service to Trempealeau and Monroe Counties. La Crosse County is interested in expanding the SMRT Bus concept to Monroe and Trempealeau Counties. Total contract is for \$8,000.</p>	<p>2016-2017</p>	<p>The study has been completed and the findings are being presented to various committees, officials, and businesses. In June staff gave presentations to the Sparta City Council and the Monroe County Board. Staff will continue outreach efforts by meeting with the Tomah City Council and businesses in August and September. Staff will also be meeting with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to discuss the availability of grant funding for operating and capital costs associated with the service expansion in 2018.</p>	<p>Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 peter@mrrpc.com</p>

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10d	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. The Buffalo County Economic Recovery Strategy was adopted by the County Board at their June 26 meeting and the final progress report was submitted as was the final Plan. The final fund drawdown is all that remains to be done on this project.	Greg Flogstad, Director 608-785-9396 greg@mrrpc.com
10e	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 has been held on 4/27/16. A hazard risk assessment survey was mailed to all municipalities and first responders with a May 31 st deadline for return. Staff has begun updating the demographic information such as populations, land use, employment and updating the risk assessment 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. 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. Identifying structures located in the FEMA100-year floodplain has begun.	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com

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10f	Trempealeau County Hazard Mitigation Plan update	Update the Trempealeau County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. \$30,000 federal planning grant approved requiring a \$10,000 match from MRRPC and Trempealeau County. The original was prepared to reduce costs and losses from natural disasters and some manmade disasters. This is an update to the existing plan. The Plan inventories the county's vulnerabilities to various types of disasters. The Plan inventories and maps critical facilities and all structures in floodplains. The Plan develops projects and strategies to reduce losses from future disasters. Plans must be approved by DHS-FEMA and Wisconsin Energy Management. Once the updated plan is approved, the county and other participating local governments are eligible for Federal and State Hazard Mitigation Grant programs.	2016-2018	A grant has been approved by FEMA and the money has been awarded. The grant cycle ends October 30, 2018. A contract between the Planning Commission and Trempealeau County for an amount not to exceed \$28,000 has been signed. A public hearing explaining the update process was held on April 12 th . A hazard risk assessment survey was mailed to all municipalities and first responders with a May 31 st deadline for return. Staff also made a presentation of the updating process at the April 26 th Trempealeau County Towns Association meeting. Staff 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. 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.	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com
10h	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 a plan that will include the development 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.	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com
10i	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 and knowledge of	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 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	

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		<p>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>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>At the April 13, 2017 TUMMA Board meeting scholarships for students going into manufacturing careers were discussed, A presentation was made about process to place Offender population with manufacturers, Jackson County will be the beneficiary of the region's Inspire Program. Involving connecting students to businesses through work based learning activities. The K-12 Task Force is working on scheduling manufacturing open houses during October – "Manufacturing Month". K-12 Task Force also sent out survey to 43 Tech, Science, Math instructors and administrators on what they would like to see from an organization like TUMMA. TUMMA wrote letters of support for Fab Lab grants that were awarded to Onalaska and Necedah High Schools. Manufacturing week is October 2-6, 2017. TUMMA also looks to participate in the Coulee Region Job Fair -September 21 and the Apprenticeship Breakfast on September 19.</p>	
10j	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	The goals and objectives from the existing plans have been forwarded to each town to receive their input and recommendations for modifications. In addition, revised draft plans for 13 Towns in Trempealeau County have been completed and have been forwarded to Trempealeau County and the respective Town's for their review. Towns are reviewing draft plans and sending modifications back to MRRPC staff. The Town of Chimney Rock held their public hearing in May and approved their plan. The Town of Lincoln held a public hearing in June. The remaining towns will be holding public hearings later in 2017.	Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 peter@mrrpc.com

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10k	MRRPC preparing a Commissioners handbook for the Wisconsin Mississippi River Parkway Commission. PF	The Wisconsin Mississippi River Parkway Commission has contracted with the MRRPC to prepare a Commissioner handbook. The handbook will assist new/existing Commissioner's in understanding the Great River Road and their responsibilities. The contract for the project is \$1,200.	2017-2018	Staff has prepared the final draft of the Commissioner handbook and the MRPC has reviewed the draft and provided comments. The MRPC will be providing a map to be incorporated into the handbook and the Commissioner Handbook will be completed in August.	Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 peter@mrrpc.com
10l	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 at their May meeting. The facilities are being rated by MRPC Commissioners in June and July. MRRPC will be tabulating facility ratings in August and assist with preparing recommendation for the various facilities in August and September.	Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 peter@mrrpc.com
10m	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 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 12 th . Staff will be meeting with the Monroe County Land Information Officer to get updated base maps for the county. Updating the structures located within the FEMA 100-year floodplain has begun.	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com
10n	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 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		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 27 th . A second set of surveys have been sent out to those who have not responded to the first set of surveys. Staff will be meeting with the	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com

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		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.		Vernon County Land Information Officer to discuss the mapping needs.	
12	Old Business				
13	New Business				
14	Adjourn				