

Agenda Items 1-13

Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission Staff Report on Projects for the Bimonthly Meeting on 10.11.2017

	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. The latest loan was a \$75,000 Loan to Pearl Street Brewery in late August 2016.	Greg Flogstad, Director 608.785.9396 greg@mrrpc.com
4	Presentation on Geologic Natural Resource Mapping Project influenced by frac sand mining in Buffalo and Pepin counties by Jay Zambito Geologist, Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey, UW Extension	Learn about the region's bed rock formations and water quality threats from mining and other land use activities	Today's Meeting	To be determined, based on presentation.	Jay Zambito, Geologist, Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey 608.262.3385 jay.zambito@wgnhs.uwex.edu
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	A formal request from the Governor for a Presidential Disaster Declaration was sent to FEMA. FEMA personnel toured Western Wisconsin and inspected the damage and reviewed damage receipts. The paper work has been submitted requesting a Presidential Disaster Declaration. SBA loans are available to businesses and homeowners impacted by the floods in July 2017. No decision has been made on whether individual or public assistance funds will be awarded as part of a Presidential Disaster declaration.	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com

6.	Report on the Wisconsin Supply Chain Market Place Portal -web site for doing business with Foxconn and other industries.	Provide information on Foxconn's decision to locate in SE Wisconsin and opportunities to become part of its supply chain and other industry supply chains through this state wide supply chain network. www.wisupplychainmarketplace.com	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
7	Report on October 2 nd launch of the Scenic Mississippi Regional Transit's service from La Crosse to Tomah	La Crosse County Public Transit Feasibility Study analyzed and made recommendations on service to Trempealeau and Monroe Counties. Total contract for preparing the study was \$8,000.	2016-2017	The 2016 study recommended a pilot route (SMRT Expansion) that began operations on Monday October 2, 2017. The pilot route consists of two round trips per day (Mon. – Fri.) operating between Tomah and La Crosse (morning and evening). This pilot route is currently being funded by La Crosse County and Gundersen Health to date. Staff has been meeting with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to discuss the availability of grant funding for operating and capital costs associated with the expanded route in 2018. The WIDOT has been supportive of the service expansion.	Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 peter@mrrpc.com
8.	Report on the Scenic Mississippi Regional Transit's (SMRT) Statewide Award for a project that focuses on "Growth within Communities and Regions" by the Wisconsin Economic Development Association	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. Peter Fletcher, MRRPC Transportation Planner was asked to accept this award on behalf of the Scenic Mississippi Regional Transit (SMRT) bus service on September 1, 2017 at the Wisconsin Economic Development Association's Award Ceremony for a project that focuses on "Growth within Communities and Regions" The SMRT bus provides efficient and accessible transportation to work, education and recreation in 11 communities with plans to expand to other cities. Projected operating costs for 2017 are approximately \$350,000. Funding comes from a federal DOT grant, local governments, corporate donations and the fare box.	Service Began on December 3, 2012 - present	The SMRT Bus has been operating for over four years in to La Crosse Vernon and Crawford Counties. In 2016 ridership increased by 8% over 2015 ridership. So far in 2017 ridership has decreased slightly from 2016. In September the SMRT Bus was named as the Top Economic Development Initiative in the state in 2017 by the Wisconsin Economic Development Association at their Community and Economic Development Awards ceremony. The MRRPC will continue marketing and promotion and evaluate new routes and schedules and integrate service modifications that expand to Tomah and Arcadia.	Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 peter@mrrpc.com

9.	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	Provide assistance where needed to help hire a consultant and help implement the recommendations from the feasibility study.	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 to meet the requirements of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Protection Working Land's Initiative Program. Counties are required to designate Farmland Preservation areas in their counties for land owners to be eligible to receive Farmland Preservation Tax Credits. The Farmland Preservation Plan must also be consistent with the County's comprehensive plan. Total Project Cost \$60,000, The MRRPC contract is for \$30,000.	June 2014 – August 2017	Project completed. Plan has been adopted by the County Board.	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com
10b	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 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	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com

				<p>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. Identifying structures located in the FEMA 100-year floodplain has begun.</p>	
10c	Trempealeau County Hazard Mitigation Plan update	<p>Update the Trempealeau County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. \$30,000 federal planning grant approved requiring a \$10,000 match from MRRPC and Trempealeau County. The original was prepared to reduce costs and losses from natural disasters and some manmade disasters. This is an update to the existing plan. The Plan inventories the county's vulnerabilities to various types of disasters. The Plan inventories and maps critical facilities and all structures in floodplains. The Plan develops projects and strategies to reduce losses from future disasters. Plans must be approved by DHS-FEMA and Wisconsin Energy Management. Once the updated plan is approved, the county and other participating local governments are eligible for Federal and State Hazard Mitigation Grant programs.</p>	2016-2018	<p>A grant has been approved by FEMA and the money has been awarded. The grant cycle ends October 30, 2018. A contract between the Planning Commission and Trempealeau County for an amount not to exceed \$28,000 has been signed. A public hearing explaining the update process was held on April 12th. A hazard risk assessment survey was mailed to all municipalities and first responders with a May 31st deadline for return. Staff also made a presentation of the updating process at the April 26th 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 has been sent out to those municipalities which did not return the first survey. Staff has begun the process</p>	<p>Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com</p>

				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.	
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 begun updating the old data found in the plan and will be submitting this data to the city for review.	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com
10e	The transition of the Equipment and Metal Manufacturing Association (EMMA) Inc. to The Upper Mississippi River Manufacturing Alliance TUMMA Inc. Industry Cluster Initiative	<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.</p> <p>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</p>	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 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	

		<p>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>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 September 14, 2017 TUMMA Board meeting it was reported that during the week of October 2-6th there will be 3 public tours of manufacturers. Walzcrafft, Duratech and LB White have volunteered their plants for tours to celebrate Manufacturing Month. Wednesday will be dedicated to student tours. TUMMA will also be sponsoring a Manufacturing Appreciation luncheon on Friday October 6th. TUMMA's K-12 task force will be making t-shirts for students to promote manufacturing careers.</p>	
10f	<p>Contract to Update Comprehensive Plans for Trempealeau County Towns</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>June 2016 – December 2017</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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 and 2018.</p>	<p>Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 peter@mrrpc.com</p>
10g	<p>MRRPC preparing a Commissioners handbook for the Wisconsin Mississippi River Parkway Commission. PF</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>2017-2018</p>	<p>Staff has completed the Commissioner handbook for the MRPC. The Commissioner Handbook will be distributed to the MRPC Commissioners in October.</p>	<p>Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 peter@mrrpc.com</p>

		their responsibilities. The contract for the project is \$1,200.			
10h	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 Spring meeting. Staff developed a facility rating system and in August MRPC Commissioners finalized rating GRR public facilities. MRRPC staff completed tabulating facility ratings in September and will be presenting the results of the inventory to the MRPC in November. The MRRPC will then assist the MRPC in preparing recommendations for the various facilities in November and December. The Corridor Management Plan is scheduled to be completed in the Spring/Summer of 2018.	Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 peter@mrrpc.com
10i	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. Staff made a presentation at the Monroe	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com

				County Towns Association meeting on August 17 th .	
10j	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 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.		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 Vernon County Land Information Officer to discuss the 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 will meet with the new director as soon as one has been hired. Staff will still be able to work on this project during the hiring process.	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com
10k.	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 worked with the Buffalo County Zoning Department and has completed the first draft of the revised Zoning Ordinance. Towns have 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 revised zoning map will be completed in October. Once the Zoning Committee reviews the draft documents, public information	Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 peter@mrrpc.com

				meetings will be scheduled throughout the County. Input from those meetings will be compiled and modifications will be made to the draft zoning ordinance and zoning map. The first draft of the ordinance was also submitted to DATCP to determine if it will be certified so landowners in the ANR-40 district can be eligible to receive tax credits. A preliminary review by DATCP indicates the zoning ordinance will meet certification requirements.	
11	Old Business				
12	New Business				
13	Adjourn				