



**MISSISSIPPI RIVER  
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**  
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*James Kuhn, Cashton, WI  
Chairman*  
*Margaret Baecker, Independence, WI  
Vice Chairman*  
*Vicki Burke, Onalaska, WI  
Secretary & Treasurer*  
*Dave Bonifas, La Crosse, WI  
Director*

**MINUTES**  
**MISSISSIPPI RIVER REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (MRRPC)**  
**BIMONTHLY MEETING**  
**9:30 a.m., February 12, 2020**  
**Americinn, 1835 Rose Street, La Crosse, Wisconsin**

**Call to Order**

Chairman Kuhn called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and asked for the roll call. A quorum was present. There were several guests in attendance: Dan Baumann WI DNR, Mark Tallman WEDC, Gregg Wavrunek Representing Senator Tammy Baldwin, Tim Hundt Representing Congressman Ron Kind, Sarah Semrad Representing Senator Jennifer Shilling, Mike Holland Representing Senator Ron Johnson, and Francis Schelfhout, WI DOT. The attendance roster is attached.

**Minutes of December 11, 2019 Bimonthly Meeting**

Chairman Kuhn asked for a motion on the December 11, 2019 bimonthly meeting minutes. Commissioner Twidt made a motion to approve the December 11, 2019 bimonthly meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ehrsam. Chairman Kuhn asked if there were any questions or comments and hearing none, the minutes were unanimously approved.

**Treasurer's Report**

Secretary/Treasurer Burke reported that the November 30, 2019 balance in all accounts was \$309,557.17 and the December 31, 2019 ending balance was \$283,365.22. She reported the beginning balance in January 1, 2020 was \$283,365.22 and January 31, 2020 ending balance was \$340,348.11.

Ms. Burke reported the Business Capital Fund (BCF) began with a November 30, 2019 balance of \$129,855.38. Activity from December 1, 2019 through January 31, 2020 included loan repayments of \$8,350.95, and interest earned of \$57.36 leaving a January 31, 2020 balance on hand of \$138,263.69. The Business Capital Fund (BCF) non-federal account began with a November 30, 2019 balance of \$132,132.22. Activity from December 1, 2019 through January 31, 2020 included interest earned of \$56.12 leaving a balance on hand of \$132,188.34.

Ms. Burke reported the Business Capital Fund 2 began with a November 30, 2019 balance of \$155,041.64. Activity from December 1, 2019 through January 31, 2020 included loan repayments of \$1,894.00 and interest earned of \$66.32 leaving a balance on hand of \$157,001.96.

Ms. Burke reported the CMV Growth Development Fund began with a November 30, 2019 balance of \$26,787.60. Activity from December 1, 2019 through January 31, 2020 included loan repayments of \$6,667.24 and interest earned of \$4.13 leaving a January 31, 2020 balance of \$33,458.97.

Ms. Burke reported the La Crosse County Economic Development Fund began with a November 30, 2019 balance of \$79,431.46. Activity from December 1, 2019 through January 31, 2020 included loan repayments of \$5,496.67 and interest earned of \$10.83 leaving a January 31, 2020 balance of \$84,938.96.

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***Providing Planning and Economic Development Services to Improve the Environment, Economy and Quality of life***  
***•Land Use Planning and Zoning Assistance • Transportation Planning • Economic Development Planning • Recreation Planning • Business Lending • Grant Writing • Economic Data Dissemination • Assisting Local Interests in Responding to State, Federal and Private Programs • Advisory Services on Planning and Development Issues • Coordinator for Programs and Activities • Advocate on Issues Affecting the Region***

Ms. Burke reported the Microloan Fund began with a November 30, 2019 balance of \$14,540.58. Activity from December 1, 2019 through January 31, 2020 included interest earned of \$3.11, loan payments of \$10,137.00, and administrative expenses of \$1,900.00 leaving a January 31, 2020 balance of \$22,780.69. Chairman Kuhn asked for a motion to approve the treasurer's report as presented. Commissioner Borreson made a motion to approve the treasurer's report as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jaekel. Chairman Kuhn asked if there were any questions or comments hearing none the Treasurer's Report was unanimously approved.

**Update on submission of an EDA grant application to fund economic recovery planning, engineering, and administration activities for the communities of Ontario, La Farge, Viola, and Readstown with the MRRPC serving as the applicant and grant administrator.**

Mr. Bonifas reported that the EDA grant application to fund economic recovery planning, engineering, and administration activities in the Villages of Ontario, La Farge, Viola, and Readstown has been approved. He said that work has begun on the beginning stages of the grant and the Request for Proposal (RFP) has been developed.

**Decision on RFP for recovery planning for the communities of Ontario, La Farge, Viola, and Readstown.**

Mr. Bonifas reported that a general Request for Proposal (RFP) was developed for consultants to respond to recovery planning for the communities of Ontario, La Farge, Viola, and Readstown. The RFPs included the scope of work, timeline for the project, and input on their design concepts, and cost estimates. Francis Schelfhout helped with the final revision of the RFPs to be sent out to the consultants with the recommendation that Mr. Bonifas should be the sole contact person for the consultants to help alleviate confusion during the project. A motion was made by Commissioner Burke and seconded by Commissioner Schroeder to accept the RFPs as presented to be sent out to the consultants. The motion was unanimously approved.

**Report on City of Mondovi and City of Westby Industrial Park EDA Applications.**

Ms. Nicewander reported that the Cities of Mondovi and Westby are both pursuing Federal EDA grants to develop new industrial parks. The City of Mondovi is a 210 acre project providing 25 jobs and is expected to cost \$7.5 million with 50% of the cost planning to be covered by the EDA grant. The business beneficiaries are still being working on as is the preliminary engineering report. She said that the City with MRRPC assistance is still in the process of applying for this grant. The City of Westby Industrial Park expansion is a 74 acre project and is expected to cost \$4.3 million with 80% being provided through an EDA grant due to the disaster declaration. She said that there have been 6 beneficiaries that have signed on to the project creating 49-67 new jobs. Assuming that each of these 6 businesses will purchase 5 acre lots that will leave 28 acres remaining 6 jobs per acre would create an additional 120 jobs. The grant application was submitted October 3<sup>rd</sup> and an environmental narrative was written investigating the impacts on the environment from the industrial park. After communicating with the Fish and Wildlife Service, the State Historic Preservation Office, and the Army Corps of Engineers, and DNR it was found that there will be no environmental issues stopping the project from moving forward. Further documentation was also required by EDA on the effects of the beneficiaries after the first narrative was submitted. A new narrative was submitted to EDA with a preliminary engineering report and bond schedule. The additional materials were submitted November 30<sup>th</sup>. She said that a Public Notice was completed this week to be displayed for 15 days.

**Decision on Resolution 20200212-1 authorizing the Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission to apply for the U.S. Department of Commerce – Economic Administration's (EDA) Partnership Planning Grant Program.**

Mr. Bonifas reported that our current three-year EDA planning grant will be ending at the end of March and our new planning grant that we are applying for would begin April 1<sup>st</sup>. He said that a resolution is needed to accept and apply for the grant and agree to the \$210,000 match over the three-year period. A motion was made by Commissioner Burke and seconded by Commissioner Pelock to approve Resolution 20200212-1 authorizing the Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission to apply for the U.S. Department of Commerce – Economic Administration's (EDA) Partnership Planning Grant Program. Chairman Kuhn asked if there was any discussion on the motion hearing none the motion was unanimously approved.

**Decision on 2020 MRRPC Budget.**

Mr. Bonifas reviewed the 2020 budget. He reviewed the revenue sources that total \$384,859 and noted new contracts for administering the EDA grant for the City of Westby's new Industrial Park for \$10,000 and a proposed contract for \$6,000 to update La Crosse County Town Comprehensive Plans. Expenditures are budgeted for \$384,859. He also stated that salaries assume a 2% increase beginning July 1, 2020, but this actual amount would be determined at the April 2020 MRRPC Meeting. Chairman Kuhn asked for a motion to approve the MRRPC 2020 Budget as presented. Commissioner Twidt made a motion to approve the 2020 Budget as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Burke and was unanimously approved.

**Report and Acceptance of Executive and Administrative Committee minutes and announcement of new Senior Planner.**

Mr. Bonifas reported that four interviews of candidates were scheduled with 1 cancelling. Three candidates were interviewed. A motion was made by Commissioner Purdy and seconded by Commissioner Schroeder to approve the Executive and Administration Committee’s recommendation of hiring Bob Gollnik as the new Senior Planner of the Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission. The motion was unanimously approved.

**Old, Business, New Business and Adjourn**

Chairman Kuhn asked if there was any old business hearing none, Chairman Kuhn asked if there was any new business. A motion was made to adjourn by Commissioner Twidt and seconded by Commissioner Schroeder. The motion was unanimously approved.

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Vicki Burke, Secretary/ Treasurer

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Date

MISSISSIPPI RIVER REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

MEETING ATTENDANCE ROSTER

DATE: 2-12-2020

PLACE : Americ Inn

	NAME	REPRESENTING
1.	Dave Bonifas	St. Rt
2.	James Kuhn	MONROE Co.
3.	Vicki Bunte	La Crosse Cty.
4.	Jo Ann Nickelath	Vernon Co.
5.	Heather Cornell	Vernon Co
6.	Nancy Sobel	Vernon Co
7.	Albert Prady	Camford Co.
8.	Bill Schreyer	Pierce Co
9.	Janet Sepkowitz	Crawford Co
10.	Dennis Febold	Crawford County
11.	Bob	Jackson County
12.	Roy Carney	Jackson county
13.	Ernest Veldt	Tamp Co.
14.	Phillip Barrison	Frank. Co.
15.	Rich Kurdy	Pierce Co.
16.	Cedric Schmitzler	monroe ca
17.	Jim EHRSAM	LA CROSSE CO
18.	Del Gurd	Buffalo Co.
19.	John Schlesselman	Buffalo Co.
20.	Mary Anne McMillan Urell	Buffalo County
21.	Dan Baumann	DNR
22.	MARK TULLMAN	WERC
23.	Gregg Wawrzyniak	Senator Baldwin
24.	Tim Hundt	Cong. Kind
25.	Sarah Semrad	Senator Shilling
26.	Margaret Baucker	Tempeleau Cty.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

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NAME	REPRESENTING
26. <i>MIKE HOLLAND</i>	<i>SENATOR JOHNSON</i>
27. <i>Francis Schelfhout</i>	<i>Wis DOT</i>
28. <i>Sarah Ofte</i>	<i>MRRPC Staff</i>
29. <i>Abbey Nicewander</i>	<i>MRRPC Staff</i>
30. <i>BOB GOULNIK</i>	<i>MRRPC STAFF</i>
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