



**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*  
*Greg Flogstad, Onalaska, WI  
Director*

**MINUTES**  
**MISSISSIPPI RIVER REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (MRRPC)**  
**BIMONTHLY MEETING**  
**10:00 a.m., February 13, 2019**  
**Americinn, 1835 Rose Street, La Crosse, Wisconsin**

**Call to Order**

Chairman Kuhn called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and asked for the roll call. A quorum was present. There were several guests in attendance: Karrie Jackelen from Congressman Kind's office, Jason Matthys, Pierce County Administrative Coordinator, Francis Schelfhout, Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Charlie Handy, La Crosse County Planner, Brian Fukuda, La Crosse County Community Development Specialist, Brad Williams, Mid-west Family Radio, Dave Pawlisch, Bureau Director, Community Development, Wisconsin Department of Administration, and Roxy Anderson. The attendance roster is attached.

**Minutes of December 12, 2018 Bimonthly Meeting**

Chairman Kuhn asked for a motion on the December 12, 2018 bimonthly meeting minutes. Commissioner McMillan Urell made a motion to approve the December 12, 2018 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 said the November 30, 2018 balance in all MRRPC accounts was \$244,766.71 and the December 31, 2018 ending balance was \$227,774.15. She reported the beginning balance in January 1, 2019 was \$227,774.15 and January 31, 2019 ending balance was \$265,935.53.

Ms. Burke said the Business Capital Fund (BCF) began with a November 30, 2018 balance of \$284,837.35. Activity from December 1, 2018 through January 31, 2019 included loan repayments of \$5,463.28, interest earned of \$127.64, and a loan funded for \$95,000 leaving a January 31, 2019 balance on hand of \$195,428.27. The Business Capital Fund (BCF) non-federal account began with a November 30, 2018 balance of \$131,745.43. Activity from December 1, 2018 through January 31, 2019 included interest earned of \$61.38 leaving a balance on hand of \$131,806.81.

Ms. Burke said the Business Capital Fund 2 began with a November 30, 2018 balance of \$145,930.72. Activity from December 1, 2018 through January 31, 2019 included loan repayments of \$864.00, interest earned of \$68.24, and loan closing fees of \$200 leaving a January 31, 2019 balance of \$147,062.96.

Ms. Burke said the CMV Growth Development Fund began with a November 30, 2018 balance of \$76,411.95. Activity from December 1, 2018 through January 31, 2019 included loan repayments of \$1,726.16, interest earned of \$17.77, and \$83.32 in administrative expenses leaving a January 31, 2019 balance of \$78,072.56.

The La Crosse County Economic Development Fund began with a November 30, 2018 balance of \$48,323.17. Activity from December 1, 2018 through January 31, 2019 included loan repayments of \$5496.67 and interest earned of \$15.24 leaving a January 31, 2019 balance of \$53,835.08.

The Microloan Fund began with a November 30, 2018 balance of \$575,023.75. Activity from December 1, 2018 through January 31, 2019 included interest earned of \$91.23 and loans funded for \$55,100.00 leaving a January 31, 2019 balance of \$520,014.98. 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 Ehrsam. Chairman Kuhn asked if there were any questions or comments hearing none the Treasurer's Report was unanimously approved.

**Presentation and Q & A on the Wisconsin Department of Administration's new Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Close Grant program by Dave Pawlisch, Bureau Director, Community Development, Wisconsin Department of Administration.**

Mr. Pawlisch, Bureau Director, Community Development - Wisconsin Department of Administration, presented information regarding the new Community Development Block Grant - CDBG – CLOSE Program. In December, he said that the State submitted to HUD a Substantial Amendment to the State's Comprehensive Plan to create an ED-RLF closeout program (CDBG-CLOSE) which HUD has now officially approved. The CDBG CLOSE Program was launched February 1<sup>st</sup> which includes the 132 locally held revolving loan funds for economic development around the state. The CDBG RLFs can no longer make loans. He said that these CDBG ED-RLFs fall into two categories: the funds that were capitalized Pre-1992 and the post 1992 funds. He said that municipalities with funds that were capitalized pre-1992 can apply to the state to certify those dollars. He said that once the certification process is completed by the state, those dollars become defederalized and the municipality can use those dollars without any federal strings attached and will no longer be required to file reports with the state. He said the municipality can continue their revolving loan fund or use the funds for other needs since the federal regulations on these funds no longer apply. He said that there have been 29 requests to certify that the funds have been capitalized pre-1992. He said that the remaining 100 RLFs fall into the second category whose funds are federalized and are given a couple different options. He said that option one would involve using their cash on hand, they would return this cash on hand to the State and then that money would be granted back to the municipality for any eligible CDBG project. Option two involves returning both cash on hand and additional local government funds to DOA that equal the amount of principal owed to the RLF from the businesses. The local government can then apply for an eligible CDBG project that would total the sum of these two amounts and also continue its RLF if it chooses since the funds owed to the RLF would still be coming in from the businesses. Or they could use these payments for other county needs. He said under option one the state would take over the administration of the loans owed to the local government. He said that communities have two years to apply for this program and two more years to complete their project, making January 31, 2023 the final project completion date. CDBG Projects selected are required to meet a national objective, for example benefit low- and moderate-income persons, prevention or elimination of slums or blight, or address community development needs having a particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community for which other funding is not available. He then gave examples of potential projects that included: roads/streets, water/sewer lines, wastewater treatment plants, municipal wells, community centers, senior centers, fire stations, planning, drug rehab, health care or dental clinics and environmental remediation.

**Report on approved loans since December 12, 2018 Bimonthly Meeting.**

Mr. Flogstad reported on all of the active revolving loan funds which include the Business Capital Fund, the CMV Growth Development Fund, the La Crosse County Fund, and the Disaster Recovery Microloan Fund. He said that there are 14 active loans in the EDA revolving loan funds. All the loans are current. He said that the Microloan program that was established with state funds from WEDC began making loans in November 2018. Those loans are also all current since they all have a six month deferral period. He said that two more loans will be closed on next week. He said the loan terms are 0% interest with a four year term, with the maximum loan being \$15,000.

**Decision on 2019 Budget.**

Mr. Flogstad reviewed the 2019 budget. He reviewed the revenue sources that total \$384,859 and noted new contracts for the Microloan RLF Fund in the amount of \$5,000 for administration of the fund and a proposed federal US Department of Commerce Economic Development grant of \$25,000 to aid in long term flood recovery in the Kickapoo Valley to relocate their communities. Expenditures are budgeted for \$384,859. He also stated that salaries assume a 2% increase beginning July 1, 2019, but this actual amount would be determined at the April 2019 MRRPC Meeting. Chairman Kuhn asked for a motion to approve the MRRPC 2019 Budget as presented. Commissioner Borreson made a motion to approve the 2019 Budget as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ehram and was unanimously approved.

**Report on community flood recovery activities in Coon Valley, Ontario, La Farge, Viola, Readstown, and Steuben from heavy rain and flooding disaster event of August 27-28.**

Mr. Bonifas reported that the communities along the Kickapoo are continuing to meet after the flooding disaster of August 27-28. He said that he attended a meeting of a long term recovery group that has been established and right now their main focus is to address immediate community needs such as housing and psychological care. He said that this group is actively meeting and fundraising. He said our part in the recovery efforts will be geared more toward long term recovery. He said that the response from the communities is that they are tired of the flooding and are willing to look at relocation out of the flood plain. He said that this last flood has really taken a major toll on these communities due to areas being flooded that were never flooded before.

He said a meeting is being set up for February 26, 2019 at the Kickapoo Valley Reserve where local officials from the villages in Kickapoo Valley will meet to discuss joint projects and cost sharing that will likely include a federal EDA grant. He said that he had met with local government officials and they are receptive to applying for EDA funding but decisions of what each community wants to apply for and coming up with a local match for the EDA grant are things that still need to be done. After the meeting on February 26<sup>th</sup>, we should know more about the process and projects that are now being looked into. Commissioner Borreson asked if those who are outside the floodplain would be ineligible for federal funding. Mr. Bonifas responded that the EDA grant as it stands now would be for planning and engineering costs that can be used in any community that meets their eligibility requirements and being in a floodplain is not a requirement. Commissioner Leys commented that the Kickapoo River is getting close to the flood stage now and asked if residents are taking it upon themselves to move and if these communities along the river were getting smaller. Mr. Bonifas said that some residents and businesses have left or already moved, these communities are seeing little growth and attraction of younger working age persons is a problem. He said that the residents want to stay within their communities, but there is a housing shortage. Karrie Jaekelen from Ron Kind's office thanked the Commission for their assistance in these complicated issues. Mr. Flogstad responded that if the proposed EDA grant concept were approved there would be \$600,000 to \$800,000 to do planning and engineering work to determine how much residential and commercial area is needed and site design work to determine where the streets would go and the location of the residential and commercial areas. Mr. Bonifas said it is similar to the work done in Gays Mills, where the community was presented with four different site options to choose from. He said to make sure these are quality sites an hydraulic and environmental analysis would need to be performed.

### **Report on Pepin County Contribution Correspondence**

Mr. Flogstad reported that on January 8<sup>th</sup> he received an email from the Pepin County Administrative Coordinator stating that they did not budget for commission dues in 2019. He said that it is a big concern since we want all our counties to participate. Pepin County' annual contribution for 2019 is \$3,466 annually. Pepin County is also one of our founding members who petitioned the Governor in the mid-1960s to create the regional planning commission. Mr. Flogstad said that he is on the February 20<sup>th</sup> meeting agenda. Commissioner Mary Ann McMillan-Urell made a motion to send the letter to each of the Pepin County Supervisors informing them of the benefits of the MRRPC and request that they maintain their membership, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Vicki Burke. The motion was unanimously approved.

### **Decision on date of Regional Economic Diversification Summit.**

Mr. Fletcher directed the participants to a handout in their packets. He said that to maintain the MRRPC status as a US Department of Commerce - EDA Economic Development District we are requested to hold a Regional Economic Diversification Summit (REDS) He said that there are four common objectives for the meetings 1) Strengthen relationships among Federal, State, Regional, Local Stakeholders 2) Remove obstacles and expand access to resources for economic diversification 3) Achieve optimal resource alignment 4) Advance action plans and outcome metrics. He said many of the regions issues and projects are well documented and the REDS need to consider these. These include the MRRPC's CEDS, The WISE Plan and the SET Plan. Workforce development, attraction, retention; workforce housing; childcare; broadband; and worker transportation are examples of some of the objectives and projects included in these plans. Mr. Fletcher said that the REDS process would need to be coordinated so it isn't duplicating other efforts He said that our June commission meeting would be an opportunity to hold a REDS meeting and invite local, state and federal officials to this Summit. He suggested having it after the June commission meeting and beginning the regular meeting earlier at 9:30 am, adjourn and then have the REDS from 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM Commissioner Ehram made a motion to hold the regular June commission meeting earlier at 9:30 AM and the Regional Economic Diversification Summit (REDS) meeting will follow at 10:00 AM, seconded by Commissioner Schroeder. The motion was unanimously approved.

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

Chairman Kuhn asked if there was any old business. Mr. Bonifas said that the Crawford County Hazard Mitigation Plan will be going to the county board for approval this month. Chairman Kuhn asked if there was any new business, hearing none a motion was made to adjourn by Commissioner Schroeder and seconded by Commissioner McMillan Urell. The motion was unanimously approved.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

MEETING ATTENDANCE ROSTER

DATE: 2-13-2019

PLACE : Americ Inn

	NAME	REPRESENTING
1.	<u>Cory Flogstad</u>	<u>MRRPC Staff</u>
2.	<u>Mary Anne McMillan (unclear)</u>	<u>Duffalo County</u>
3.	<u>JAMES HRSAM</u>	<u>LACROSS CT.</u>
4.	<u>James K Kraft</u>	<u>Perris Cts.</u>
5.	<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>Jackson County</u>
6.	<u>Phil Borreson</u>	<u>Trampolean Co.</u>
7.	<u>Ernest H Yell</u>	<u>trampolean Co</u>
8.	<u>Sarah Opto</u>	<u>MRRPC Staff</u>
9.	<u>Peter Pickney</u>	<u>MRRPC</u>
10.	<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>MRRPC Staff</u>
11.	<u>RON LEYS</u>	<u>CRAWFORD COUNTY</u>
12.	<u>Bill Schroeder</u>	<u>Pierce Co</u>
13.	<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>Henri County</u>
14.	<u>Karrie [unclear]</u>	<u>Rep Rod King</u>
15.	<u>Vicki Bunker</u>	<u>La Vonne Cty.</u>
16.	<u>James B. [unclear]</u>	<u>MOURNE Co.</u>
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