



**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., April 10, 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: Representative Loren Oldenburg, Dan Baumann, WI DNR, Roxie Anderson, Monroe County Planner, and Mike Temp, CPA Tostrud and Temp, S.C. The attendance roster is attached.

Minutes of February 13, 2019 Bimonthly Meeting

Chairman Kuhn asked for a motion on the February 13, 2019 bimonthly meeting minutes. Commissioner Cornell made a motion to approve the February 13, 2019 bimonthly meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schnitzler. 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 January 31, 2019 balance in all accounts was \$265,935.53 and the February 28, 2019 ending balance was \$265,612.93. She reported the beginning balance in March 1, 2019 was \$265,612.93 and March 31, 2019 ending balance was \$308,898.19.

Ms. Burke said the Business Capital Fund (BCF) began with a January 31, 2019 balance of \$195,428.27. Activity from February 1, 2019 through March 31, 2019 included loan repayments of \$6,471.29, and interest earned of \$96.32 leaving a March 31, 2019 balance on hand of \$201,995.88. The Business Capital Fund (BCF) non-federal account began with a January 31, 2019 balance of \$131,806.81. Activity from February 1, 2019 through March 31, 2019 included interest earned of \$63.94 leaving a balance on hand of \$131,870.75.

Ms. Burke said the Business Capital Fund 2 began with a January 31, 2019 balance of \$147,062.96. Activity from February 1, 2019 through March 31, 2019 included loan repayments of \$864.00, and interest earned of \$71.59 leaving a March 31, 2019 balance of \$147,998.55.

Ms. Burke said the CMV Growth Development Fund began with a January 31, 2019 balance of \$78,072.56. Activity from February 1, 2019 through March 31, 2019 included loan repayments of \$3,227.24, interest earned of \$3.79, \$200.00 loan closing fees, and a loan funded for \$75,000 leaving a March 31, 2019 balance of \$6,503.59.

The La Crosse County Economic Development Fund began with a January 31, 2019 balance of \$53,835.08. Activity from February 1, 2019 through March 31, 2019 included loan repayments of \$4,834.00 and interest earned of \$16.44 leaving a March 31, 2019 balance of \$58,685.52.

The Microloan Fund began with a January 31, 2019 balance of \$520,014.98. Activity from February 1, 2019 through March 31, 2019 included interest earned of \$74.42 and loans funded for \$102,959.00 leaving a March 31, 2019 balance of \$417,130.40. 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 Ehram. Chairman Kuhn asked if there were any questions or comments hearing none the Treasurer's Report was unanimously approved.

Presentation on 2018 MRRPC Audit by Mike Temp, CPA, Tostrud and Temp S.C.

Mike Temp of Tostrud and Temp S.C. said his firm prepared the 2018 Financial Statements and Independent Auditors report for the Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission (MRRPC). He said there were no significant findings when preparing the audit and there were no disagreements with management. He referenced the opinion on page 5 of the audit that states "In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the aggregate discretely presented component units, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission as of December 31, 2018, and the respective changes in financial position, and where applicable, cash flows thereof for the year then ended, in conformance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America". He then referred to Page 7.7, the Management's Discussion and Analysis, a laymen's overview of what happened at the Commission the past year. Mr. Temp then reviewed the 2018 Statement of Net Position, Statement of Activities, the 2018 Balance Sheet, and the Reconciliation for Governmental Funds. He also reviewed the balance sheets for the four revolving loan funds. Mr. Temp said the MRRPC's 2018 Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance shows an increase of \$1,640. Commissioner Schlesselman commented that the audit was very impressive and thanked the staff for the accuracy of the audit. Mr. Temp opened the floor for questions. Chairman Kuhn asked if the audit report was submitted to any other government entities. Mr. Temp replied that the audit gets posted to the Federal Audit Clearinghouse and anyone that would like to review the audit would be able to access it from that website.

Decision to accept the 2018 MRRPC Audit.

Chairman Kuhn asked if there were any questions regarding Mr. Temp's audit presentation. Hearing none he asked for a motion to accept the 2018 Financial Statements and Independent Auditor's Report as presented. Commissioner Twidt made a motion to accept the 2018 Financial Statements and the independent auditor's report as presented. Commissioner Burke seconded the motion. Chairman Kuhn asked if there were any questions or comments and hearing none, the minutes were approved.

Decision on the Executive and Administration Committee's recommendation on 2019 staff wage adjustments.

Commissioner Baecker reported that the Executive and Administration Committee met at the Buffalo County Courthouse in Alma on March 26, 2019. She said the committee went into closed session to discuss wage adjustments for the MRRPC staff. She reported that during the open session a motion was made and seconded to recommend a 2.0% increase for all MRRPC staff effective July 1, 2019 funded out of the general fund. Commissioner Twidt made a motion to approve the Executive and Administration Committee's recommendation of a 2.0% wage increase for all commission staff effective July 1, 2019 and funded out of the general fund. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jaekel. Chairman Kuhn asked if there were any questions or comments and hearing none the motion was unanimously approved.

Decision on the Executive and Administration Committee's recommendation on 2020 County Contributions.

Commissioner Baecker reported that the Executive and Administration Committee was recommending the same amount (\$138,860) of funding from counties for 2020 as in 2019 resulting in a county contribution rate of .000548493% based on 2018 real property equalized values. Commissioner Schroeder made a motion to approve 2020 county contributions totaling \$138,860. Commissioner Nickelatti seconded the motion. Chairman Kuhn asked if there were any questions or comments and hearing none the motion was approved.

Decision on Existing Employer Update Resolution Wisconsin Public Employers' Group Health Insurance Program.

Mr. Flogstad reported that there is a resolution that was included in the packets that was mailed out to all the government units that participate in the State Health Insurance Program. He said that the existing resolution needed to be updated due to the location of the guidelines and rules that participants need to abide by are now located in the administrative manual. He said that this resolution is needed due to the change in language. Commissioner Burke made a motion to approve the updated Resolution for participants of the Wisconsin Public Employers' Group Health Insurance Program. Commissioner Leys seconded the motion. Chairman Kuhn asked if there were any questions or comments and hearing none the motion was 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 after the Kickapoo River flooding of 2018 communities have been meeting individually to figure out what they would like to do. He said that they have also met as a group to potentially pursue a US Department of Commerce – Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant.

He said that he had attended a meeting with these affected communities at the Kickapoo Valley Reserve and a Vernon County board supervisor who attended suggested that these communities approach Vernon County for the EDA grant match money through their allocation from the Ho-Chunk gaming fund. Vernon County receives funding each year based on the amount of Ho-Chunk land within its borders.

He said that Vernon County has the largest amount of Ho-Chunk land in the state due to Ho-Chunk land being part of the Kickapoo Valley Reserve. He said that there is approximately \$1.2 million of Ho-Chunk funds available. At the meeting a Vernon County supervisor proposed that a resolution be presented to the county for these communities to use the Ho-Chunk funds as a match for the EDA grant. He said that a resolution was presented to the Finance Committee meeting on March 21st and the Finance Committee did approve \$40,000 for each of these communities for flood recovery. They didn't designate it as match money but instead that these communities could use it for flood recovery. He said the Vernon County board will be meeting April 16th to act on the resolution. In the resolution they included the communities of Hillsboro, La Farge, Ontario, Viola, Readstown, Coon Valley, Chaseburg, De Soto, and Genoa. He said that if the resolution passes at the county board meeting on April 16th, these communities will have these funds to aid in the flood recovery. He said that an EDA grant is being pursued to assist with economic recovery costs involved with planning and engineering. Mr. Bonifas said that he and an EDA representative toured the affected communities on March 7th and met with village officials to discuss their economic recovery ideas. The EDA representative after the tour was very supportive and suggested that we go forward with the EDA grant. Mr. Bonifas said that we need to get a resolution from these communities to show they are committed and willing to fund their matching share towards the EDA grant.

Mr. Bonifas said that he is also involved with other flood recovery efforts including attending meetings of a long term recovery group which includes La Crosse, Monroe, and Vernon Counties. He said this group is concerned with meeting unmet needs such as heating/air conditioning. He said that one case worker has been hired and an additional case worker is going to be hired. These caseworkers will be meeting with people who have unmet needs. He said that there are other groups that are meeting to see what they would like to see remain in their communities and types of additional businesses that they would like to see in their communities such as gas stations, convenience stores, small grocery stores, and other small businesses. They would also like to see hydraulic studies completed for their watersheds.

Mr. Bonifas introduced Dan Baumann, WI DNR Director of the West Central Wisconsin Region to address this topic. Mr. Bauman works with nineteen counties and three regional planning commissions in the state. Mr. Baumann said that they were working through the flood recovery from the August 2018 flooding. He said that they have a transportation liaison in the department that works with towns and county highway commissioners from recovery to sizing to designing infrastructure. He said that there are two issues that he has been hearing the most from the municipalities is funding for upsizing culverts since the old measurements are based on hydraulic model of 50 years ago which requires adjusting those numbers to replace the culverts with the correct size and the second issue is funding for debris removal. He said an example of this is in the Town of Shelby in Mormon Coulee Creek. He said that if the stream corridor is jammed other issues such as road washes occur. Mr. Baumann in listening to the concerns of the municipalities developed a training called "Breaking the Cycle of Flood Damage: Building Stronger Roads and Structures which is being rolled out in Washburn, WI next week. The training covers topics such as training personnel from towns and counties in the newest techniques to handle the short duration storms with the heavy precipitations which cause flooding. He said that the trainings will be set across the state for town and county personnel to attend. He will share when the trainings will be taking place across the state by contacting the highway commissioners. He said they are working towards bringing all stakeholders together to help make decisions. Mr. Bonifas concluded that the All Hazard Mitigations Plans that have been revised address the issue of needing larger culverts if they are blown out during a flooding event so that larger replacements can be funded by FEMA.

Decision on submission of EDA grant application to fund economic recovery planning and engineering activities up to \$800,000 for participating communities and to provide up to \$25,000 in MRRPC funds as its match for administration in partnership with the participating communities.

Mr. Flogstad reported that the commission passed a similar resolution at the December meeting for an EDA grant for economic recovery planning and engineering activities up to \$600,000 and this resolution would increase the amount to \$800,000. He directed the meeting participants to a handout which outlines the planning, engineering and administration activities needed for the communities in the Kickapoo River Valley that would be funded under this grant. Commissioner Burke made a motion to approve the resolution authorizing the grant submission to EDA to fund economic recovery planning and engineering activities up to \$800,000. Commissioner Schnitzler seconded the motion. Chairman Kuhn asked if there were any questions or comments and hearing none the motion was approved.

Report on US Dept. of Commerce-EDA public facility flood disaster grant awards for the cities of La Crosse -\$3.6 Million and City of Arcadia \$4.3 million for flood control infrastructure to protect manufacturing operations and commercial business districts.

Mr. Bonifas reported that in 2017 there were hurricanes, wildfires, and flooding and as a result EDA was awarded \$587 million in supplemental funding for disaster recovery nation-wide. He said that out of this amount the Chicago Regional Office was awarded \$8 million for disaster recovery from flooding and the money would go towards those counties with flooding issues. He said that there were eleven counties that were affected in the Chicago Region that serves Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin and Illinois and they were all in Wisconsin. He said we made contact with various communities and three decided to apply for the funds. La Crosse, Viroqua, and Arcadia. La Crosse received \$3.6 million for lift station and a booster station equipment and infrastructure to help the businesses on the Northside. He said the City of Arcadia was awarded \$4.3 million for stormwater and sewer pumps and pump station upgrades and pipes to protect Ashley furniture and part of the downtown, and the City of Viroqua was awarded \$2.6 million for an industrial park expansion and infrastructure to address the need for safe business sites free from flooding. He said the original amount awarded was for \$8 million but extra funding was found and over \$10 million was provided for these three projects.

Report on Pepin County 2019 Contributions.

Mr. Flogstad said that he was notified by email in January by the Pepin County Administrator Coordinator that Pepin County did not want to be a member in 2019 and did not want to pay their \$3,600 in membership dues. He said that he asked to be put on their February 20th county board agenda and attended their county board meeting to share the different planning and economic development projects that have been accomplished in the past for Pepin County by the MRRPC. He said that after the meeting they said that they would not make any decisions at that meeting. He said that a letter that was signed by the commissioners at the last commission meeting and was mailed to all the county board supervisors. This letter summarized past projects the MRRPC was involved in Pepin County. He said the Pepin County Board has not taken any further action that he is aware of on this.

Update on plans and Commissioner input for the Regional Economic Diversification Summit (REDS) on June 12, 2019.

Mr. Fletcher reported that the commission is hosting a Regional Economic Diversification Summit - REDS on June 12, 2019. He directed the commissioners to the handout in their folders. He said that the purpose of the meeting is to get economic developers, utilities, and local officials together in a regional working session on economic development projects with regional, state and federal agency representatives also being invited to answer questions, guide and advise. He said that the next bimonthly meeting will begin earlier for the commission to conduct its regular business and then the Regional Economic Diversification Summit will follow. He said that invitations will be sent out in early May to local officials, economic development organization representatives, regional, state and federal agencies to attend the meeting and share in the discussion.

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, hearing none a motion was made to adjourn by Commissioner Schroeder and seconded by Commissioner Twidt. The motion was unanimously approved.

Vicki Burke, Secretary-Treasurer

MISSISSIPPI RIVER REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

MEETING ATTENDANCE ROSTER

DATE: 4-10-2019

PLACE : AmericInn

	NAME	REPRESENTING
1.	Margaret Baecker	Trempealeau Cty.
2.	Mary Anne McMillan Urell	Buffalo Cty
3.	John Schlesselman	Buffalo Cty
4.	Del Twardt	Buffalo Co
5.	James Ehson	LAX Co.
6.	Cedric Schmitler	monroe co.
7.	Sharon Falcoy	Monroe Co.
8.	Phillip Barneson	Trempealeau Co.
9.	ERNEST Vold	TREMPEALEAU CO
10.	Sarah Ofte	MRRPC staff
11.	Dave Bonifar	"
12.	Peter Fletcher	"
13.	[Signature]	Jackson County
14.	Ron Cairns	Jackson County
15.	Todd Stubbleburg	Jackson County
16.	Bill Schroeder	Pierce Co
17.	RON LEYS	CRAWFORD
18.	[Signature]	Vernon
19.	Herbert Cornell	Vernon
20.	Golann Nickelatto	Vernon Co.
21.	[Signature]	Income County
22.	James B. Kuh	MONROE CO.
23.	Greg Flogstad	MRRPC staff
24.	[Signature]	96 state Assembly
25.	Roxie Anderson	Monroe County

MISSISSIPPI RIVER REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

MEETING ATTENDANCE ROSTER - Page 2

NAME	REPRESENTING
26. Jennifer Lu	self
27. Dan Baumann	WI Dept. of Natural Resources
28. Mike Temp	Tostrud and Temp S.C.
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