



**MISSISSIPPI RIVER
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**
1707 Main Street, Suite 435
La Crosse, WI 54601
Phone: (608) 785-9396
Email: plan@mrrpc.com
Website: mrrpc.com

*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., August 14, 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: Diane McGinnis, Vernon County Resources & Community Development Director, Christina Dollhausen Vernon County Economic Development Coordinator, Rebecca Giroux Business & Community Engagement Officer WHEDA, Roxie Anderson, Monroe County Planner, Samuel Bachmeier Economic Development Coordinator LADCO, Ryan Kalinowski Economic Development Intern LADCO, and Shane Summers, MRRPC Intern. The attendance roster is attached.

Minutes of June 12, 2019 Bimonthly Meeting

Chairman Kuhn asked for a motion on the June 12, 2019 bimonthly meeting minutes. Commissioner Twidt made a motion to approve the June 12, 2019 bimonthly meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Purdy. 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 the May 31, 2019 balance in all accounts was \$353,748.63 and the June 30, 2019 ending balance was \$328,011.17. She reported the beginning balance in July 1, 2019 was \$328,011.17 and July 31, 2019 ending balance was \$313,285.89.

Ms. Burke reported the Business Capital Fund (BCF) began with a May 31, 2019 balance of \$112,122.29. Activity from June 1, 2019 through June 30, 2019 included loan repayments of \$7,874.78, interest earned of \$56.29, and administrative expenses of \$4,017.84 leaving a July 31, 2019 balance on hand of \$116,035.32. The Business Capital Fund (BCF) non-federal account began with a May 31, 2019 balance of \$131,936.88. Activity from June 1, 2019 through July 31, 2019 included interest earned of \$66.17 leaving a balance on hand of \$132,003.05.

Ms. Burke reported the Business Capital Fund 2 began with a May 31, 2019 balance of \$150,482.59. Activity from June 1, 2019 through July 31, 2019 included loan repayments of \$1894.00, and interest earned of \$76.02 leaving a July 31, 2019 balance of \$152,452.61.

Ms. Burke reported the CMV Growth Development Fund began with a May 31, 2019 balance of \$11,502.28. Activity from June 1, 2019 through July 31, 2019 included loan repayments of \$6,200.16 and interest earned of \$2.37 leaving a July 31, 2019 balance of \$17,704.81.

The La Crosse County Economic Development Fund began with a May 31, 2019 balance of \$66,617.86. Activity from June 1, 2019 through July 31, 2019 included loan repayments of \$3,079.67 and interest earned of \$20.52 leaving a July 31, 2019 balance of \$69,718.05.

The Microloan Fund began with a May 31, 2019 balance of \$397,211.89. Activity from June 1, 2019 through July 31, 2019 included interest earned of \$66.20, loan payments of \$3096.00, and loans funded for \$30,000.00 leaving a July 31, 2019 balance of \$370,374.09. Chairman Kuhn asked for a motion to approve the treasurer's report as presented. Commissioner Ehrsam made a motion to approve the treasurer's report as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schlesselman. Chairman Kuhn asked if there were any questions or comments hearing none the Treasurer's Report was unanimously approved.

Report and comments on the Regional Economic Diversification Summit.

Mr. Flogstad reported that the Regional Economic Diversification Summit (REDS) was held June 12th after an abbreviated Commission Bimonthly meeting with over 60 participants attending the Summit. He said that the purpose of the summit was to provide information about regional initiatives and projects and how collaborations with state and federal agencies could move those projects forward. He said that some of the projects mentioned at the summit during the panel question and answer session included housing issues in Crawford County, a new industrial park in the City of Westby, docks and piers along the Mississippi River, and the marketing of and demand for river sand. Commissioner Schlesselman commented that this summit was an excellent way to communicate the different resources available to local governments. Commissioner Burke commented that the La Crosse County Planners were very complimentary of the Summit. Commissioner Nickelatti commented that a speaker to speak on the topic of the river and docks would be beneficial. Commissioner Purdy commented that the Summit was one of the best public meetings he attended.

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 MRRPC serving as the applicant and grant administrator.

Mr. Flogstad reported that the EDA grant application has been submitted to fund the economic recovery planning, engineering and administration participation activities for the communities of Ontario, La Farge, Viola, and Readstown that were impacted in the flooding last August and September. He said that if the grant is funded each community will be getting \$200,000. He said that \$160,000 in matching funds was needed and each of the four communities will provide \$40,000 in matching funds which they have received through annual Ho Chunk Nation funding. He said that he was told that it will be one of the first applications acted on if the supplemental allocation was approved. He said that the commission is the applicant for the grant and will be the administrator and will be paying the consultants the communities have agreed upon to complete the work for the flood recovery plans.

Report on status of supplemental disaster funding opportunities for counties & communities in region included in existing and pending federal disaster declarations.

Mr. Bonifas reported that EDA's Chicago Regional Office received an additional \$50 million in supplemental funding as a result of the Presidentially declared major national disasters in 2018 and 2019. The only places eligible to use this supplemental funding are the counties that were federally declared disaster areas in 2018 and 2019. He said the Disaster Declaration 4402 included the flooding disaster of 2018 affecting Vernon, Crawford, Monroe, Jackson, and La Crosse counties in our region and the Disaster Declaration 4383 which affected northern counties in the state. He said that our application for the recovery planning in the Kickapoo Valley has been submitted. He said the Small Business Administration (SBA) has Economic Injury Disaster Loans up to \$2 million available for small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture and private nonprofit organizations residing in the counties of Buffalo, Jackson, Pepin, Pierce, and Trempealeau as a result of the winter kill, rain, freezing rain, cold, and snow from January 1 through May 31, 2019. This declaration by the SBA is in conjunction with the USDA's disaster declaration to help farmers recover from damages and losses to crops from this same time period. The SBA funds can be used for payroll, pay debts, accounts payable, and other debts that would have been paid if the disaster had not occurred. Mr. Flogstad said that there are two tracks of funding one for Small Businesses through SBA and another through the USDA which would have programs to assist farmers. He said that the local county offices would be a good resource for this assistance.

Report on Disaster Recovery Microloan Program lending to businesses.

Mr. Flogstad reported that the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) had been working to create an economic recovery program and hoped to roll out the program in 2019. With the flooding disasters in August and September of 2018 it resulted in the WEDC rolling out their program in September 2018 to help businesses economically recover. WEDC used the planning commissions across the state to deploy this program. He said the planning commission was given \$600,000 with \$5,000 for administration to begin making loans after the flooding disaster. He said the maximum loan amount is \$15,000 with 0% interest, 48 month payback period, and a six month deferral for the first payment. The first Disaster Microloan was made in November of

2018. He said that since the beginning of the program \$233,059 has been loaned out to 16 businesses. He said that most of the loans have been made to businesses in Vernon County, one in Juneau County, and one in Crawford County. He said that there was a July 31st deadline to make microloans and that the remaining funds would need to be returned to WEDC by August 31st unless the WEDC decides to leave some funds with the planning commissions to have on hand for future disasters.

Report on the City of Mondovi and the City of Westby Federal EDA Industrial Park Grant Applications.

Mr. Flogstad reported that both the City of Mondovi and the City of Westby are applying for grants to build new industrial parks. He said that the City of Mondovi is creating a new industrial park that would be located on 210 acres of land on the west side of the city on Highway 10. He said that there is an existing business in the city that would like to expand in the new park. He said the total cost of the project would be \$7.4 million. The application would be a regular EDA grant application and include road water, sewer, storm sewer, new wastewater treatment plant with an anaerobic digester. Mr. Flogstad said that the City of Westby is also applying for funds to create a new industrial park that would be 70-75 acres in size with 50 acres dedicated for industrial and commercial use. The total project is \$4.3 million.

Closed Session

A motion was made by Commissioner Borreson and seconded by Commissioner McMillan Urell to enter into closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)c considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility to wit: Decisions on filling staff positions the motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

A motion was made by Commissioner Burke and seconded by Commissioner Purdy to enter into open session, the motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Twidt and seconded by Commissioner Jaekel to approve the same planner job description as presented and hiring procedures as described in the Executive and Administration Meeting Minutes of July 11, 2019. This motion was made with the knowledge that Mr. Bonifas would accept taking the position vacated by Mr. Fletcher at Mr. Bonifas's existing salary. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Burke and seconded by Commissioner Purdy to approve the job description for the position of Director that would include: 1) Salary range of \$70,000 to \$78,000 2) Posting in the La Crosse Tribune, La Crosse Tribune online jobs, Indeed, Wisconsin Job Center and the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Planning Association. 3) The position will be posted until September 27, 2019 or until filled 4) Health insurance, deferred compensation withholding, life insurance, and retirement benefits would start immediately upon hire. 5) A 12 month probationary period would apply to the position, 6) a starting date January 2, 2020. 7) The Executive and Administration committee shall interview and select the candidate. Motion carried unanimously.

Old, Business, New Business and Adjourn

Chairman Kuhn asked if there was any old business. Commissioner Schlesselman asked about the communication with Pepin County. Mr. Flogstad said that Mr. Fletcher and Mr. Bonifas were invited to attend a meeting July 8th in Pepin County and since then he has received an email from the County Finance Director that there will be a budget amendment submitted for consideration at the August meeting to pay the dues. Chairman Kuhn asked if there was any other 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: 8-14-2019

PLACE : Americ Inn

	NAME	REPRESENTING
1.	Greg Flogstad	MRRPC Staff
2.	Nancy Jackson	Vernon County
3.	Del Tisditt	Buffalo Co.
4.	John Schussel (man)	Buffalo Co.
5.	James Ehsan	La Crosse
6.	Sharon Tolson	Monroe
7.	Phillip Borreson	Trempealeau
8.	Ernest T Vold	TREMP
9.	Shane Summers	Intra
10.	Sarah Ofte	MRRPC staff
11.	Dani Belf	staff
12.	Mary Anne McMullen Urell	Buffalo
13.	Todd Littleberg	Jackson
14.	A. Brad Chown	Jackson
15.	Ron Louny	Jackson
16.	Richard Purdy	Pierce Co.
17.	Bill Schneider	Pierce Co.
18.	Desdel Knack	Cass Co.
19.	Herb Cornett	Vernon Co.
20.	John Nickelatti	Vernon Co.
21.	Vicki Baska	La Crosse Co.
22.	James B Kuhra	Monroe
23.	Diane McGinnis	Vernon
24.	Christina Dollhausea	Vernon
25.	Roxie Anderson	Monroe

MISSISSIPPI RIVER REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

MEETING ATTENDANCE ROSTER - Page 2

NAME	REPRESENTING
26. Samuel Bachmeier	LADCO
27. Ryan Kalinowski	LADCO
28.	
29.	
30.	
31.	
32.	
33.	
34.	
35.	
36.	
37.	
38.	
39.	
40.	
41.	
42.	
43.	
44.	
45.	
46.	
47.	
48.	
49.	
50.	