

Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission Staff Report on Projects for the Bimonthly Meeting on 08.14.2019

	Agenda Topic or Project Name	Purpose, Benefit, Project deliverables, and Contract Amount	Project Time Period	Project Status	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 transactions occurring in all accounts that includes: (1) Operational funds (checking , savings, CDs) (2) The four business Revolving Loan Funds and (3) the Disaster Recovery Microloan Fund.	Today's Meeting	(1) Review operational fund transaction activity that include: Checking, savings and certificate of deposit transactions. (2) Review transaction activity in the 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. (3) Review transaction activity in the Disaster Recovery Microloan program funded from Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation – WEDC.	Greg Flogstad, Director 608.785.9396 greg@mrrpc.com
4	Report on June 12, 2019 Regional Economic Diversification Summit (REDS)	EDA requires all RPCs to each hold a summit to identify and develop economic development projects.	The Summit was held on June 12, 2019	A report of the Summit is included in the Bimonthly Meeting. The goal is to pursue development of projects identified during the summit.	Greg Flogstad, Director 608.785.9396 greg@mrrpc.com
5	Status on the submission of an US Department of Commerce – Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant application to fund economic recovery planning, engineering, real estate appraisal, engineering and environmental assessment activity for the Villages of Ontario, La Farge, Viola and Readstown. If approved as submitted up to \$200,000 per community will be available for the above mentioned activities.	Economic Recovery Planning is needed by the flood impacted communities of Ontario, La Farge, Viola and Readstown. The following Planning Activities are proposed to assist these communities with economic recovery and long term sustainability: (1) site relocation decision research, (2) site design for community economic development and resettlement, (3) community facility assessment engineering and design, (4) public infrastructure engineering assessment and design, (5) project cost estimating, (6) real estate appraisal, (7) environmental assessment and (8) public participation.		A grant application was submitted to EDA in the third week in June. EDA requested some additional information on the application in late July. The MRRPC provided this information to EDA on July 31. An EDA representative stated that the Chicago Regional Office is still awaiting an additional allocation of funds from the supplemental appropriation approved by Congress for natural disasters across the U.S. in 2018 and 2019. Upon receipt of these funds the MRRPC grant application will be reviewed by EDA. The total project will be \$925,000 with \$185,000 in local match. No set time-line for EDA decision on the application has been given.	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com

6	Report on status of Supplemental Disaster Funding opportunities for counties & communities in region included in existing and pending federal disaster declarations.	A Federal Disaster Declaration was approved for August – September 2018 flooding and a State request is in for a Disaster Declaration for 2019. There is a strong possibility that supplemental funding will be made available to counties and communities impacted by these disasters.	Hopefully supplemental funding will be approved in August 2019	Waiting for Federal Agencies to publish Notice of Funding Opportunities.	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com
7	Report on Disaster Recovery Microloan Program.	Due to the increased frequency of natural disasters impacting businesses in Wisconsin the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation started developing a microloan program in early 2018. They were planning to roll it out in 2019. The recent flooding however sped this program up and they accepted applications in 2018 to assist to businesses impacted by the flooding of August 23-24 and September 3-4, 2018. WEDC has contracted with the MRRPC to administer this program in the MRRPC region.	Today's Meeting	The grant application was approved the initial allocation of \$605,000 has been deposited in the MRRPC bank account The maximum loan amount is \$15,000 to businesses damaged by flooding. The interest rate will be 0% for a four year period with a six month initial payment deferral. The funds that are repaid to us can be used to cover administrative costs, set up an ongoing micro loan fund or for other economic development purposes. There are no federal regulations and minimum state tied to these funds. 15 loans have been approved and disbursed as of July 31, 2019 which was the application deadline. Excess funds will need to be returned to WEDC.	Greg Flogstad Director 608.785.9396 greg@mrrpc.com
8.	Report on City of Mondovi and City of Westby Industrial Park EDA Applications.	The Cities of Mondovi and Westby are both pursuing Federal EDA grants to develop new industrial parks. Mondovi's New Industrial Park will be located on the City's West side it will 210 acres in size and serve an expanding industry that will locate there and create 25 jobs. Included within the boundary of the industrial park will be the City's new wastewater treatment facility that will use an anerobic digester that will also generate electricity for the City. The total project cost is expected to be \$7.5 million with ½ the costs hopefully covered by a Federal EDA grant. The City of Westby is planning a 50 acre industrial park on the north side with costs totaling \$4.3 million, hoping that an EDA grant will cover ½ the costs	Grant applications for both projects are expected to be submitted to EDA in the Fall of 2019.	MRRPC staff is presently assisting with the grant applications	Greg Flogstad Director 608.785.9396 greg@mrrpc.com

9.	<p>Closed Session: The Commission will entertain a motion 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: <u>Decisions on Filling Staff Positions</u>. The Commission will reconvene to open session at the conclusion of the closed session and finalize any action needed.</p>	<p>The MRRPC needs to fill a Senior Planner staff position vacated by Peter Fletcher who resigned to take another job.</p>	<p>Today's Meeting</p>	<p>Commission action is needed to fill this position. The Job Description has been approved by the Executive and Administration Committee and the position has been posted and advertised with applications accepted until August 16, 2019 or until the position is filled.</p>	<p>Greg Flogstad Director 608.785.9396 greg@mrrpc.com</p>
10a	<p>Status on US Dept. Of Commerce-EDA public facility flood disaster grant assistance projects in the cities of La Crosse, Arcadia and Viroqua. DB</p>	<p>EDA was allocated \$587 million in additional funding nation-wide for communities impacted by 2017 natural disasters. Only 11 counties in the Chicago Region are eligible all of these are in Wisconsin and 7 of them are in the MRRPC Region.</p>	<p>Today's meeting</p>	<p>The City of La Crosse was awarded a \$3.6 million EDA grant to do the following: 1) Upsize the wet well, increase pumping capacity and increase the storm water pipe size at the Taylor Street and George Street lift station; 2) Install an additional pump at the Moore Street and Rose Street lift station; and 3) Install a new lift station with greater capacity plus adding a secondary booster station at the Monitor Street and Lang Drive lift station.</p> <p>The City of Arcadia was awarded a \$4.3 million EDA grant to fund Storm Water System Flood improvements. The grant will be used to fund upgrades and redevelop four storm water pumping stations in the downtown area to protect Ashley Furniture's manufacturing operations and the City's downtown from flooding should a breach in a new levy that is currently being planned occur.</p> <p>The City of Viroqua was awarded a \$2.6 million EDA grant to support the construction and expansion of the City of Viroqua/Vernon County Industrial Park.</p>	<p>Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com</p>

10b	Trempealeau County Hazard Mitigation Plan update	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.	2016-2018	A draft of the plan has been completed and a public hearing has been scheduled for August 14 th . Public comments from the hearing will be incorporated into the plan and revised draft will be sent to Wisconsin Emergency Management for review. Once Wisconsin Emergency Management approves the plan it will be presented to the Trempealeau County Board of Supervisors for approval.	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com
10c	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 inventories 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	2016-2018	A draft of the plan has been completed and a public hearing has been scheduled for August 14 th . Public comments from the hearing will be incorporated into the plan and revised draft will be sent to Wisconsin Emergency Management for review. Once Wisconsin Emergency Management approves the plan it will be presented to the Monroe County Board of Supervisors for approval.	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com

		award and the remaining \$10,936 is a required match.			
10d	Jackson County Hazard Mitigation Plan	Update the Jackson County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. \$30,000 federal grant approved requiring a \$10,000 match from MRRPC and Jackson 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.	August 2018 through March 2021	Jackson County received notification from FEMA in August that their grant application to update their existing plan has been approved. The final plan is due in March 2021. MRRPC staff has begun updating demographic information for the plan. Also, staff has begun creating a hazard risk assessment survey which will be mailed out to all municipalities, EMS, Fire Departments, Police Departments and various county departments. In addition work has begun updating information on all structures located within the FEMA 100-year flood boundary.	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com
10e	La Crosse County Hazard Mitigation Plan	Update the La Crosse County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. \$31,331 federal grant approved requiring a \$10,444 match from MRRPC and La Crosse 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	August 2018 through March 2021	La Crosse County received notification from FEMA in August that their grant application to update their existing plan has been approved. The final plan is due in March 2021. MRRPC staff has begun updating demographic information for the plan. Also, staff has created a hazard risk assessment survey which was mailed out to all municipalities, EMS, Fire Departments, Police Departments and various county departments. Staff has begun updating the historical occurrences of all the hazards identified in the plan.	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com

		participating local governments are eligible for Federal and State Hazard Mitigation Grant programs.			
10f	Scenic Mississippi Regional Transit (SMRT) bus serving Crawford, Vernon, Monroe, and La Crosse counties	<p>Develop a fixed route public transportation service for Crawford, La Crosse, Monroe and Vernon Counties. Bus transportation will service commuters, elderly, disabled, medical appointments, and personal travel.</p> <p>Projected operating costs for 2019 are approximately \$420,000. Funding comes from a federal DOT grant, local governments, corporate donations, Bremer Foundation Grants and the fare box.</p>	Service Began on December 3, 2012 - present	<p>The SMRT Bus has been operating for over six years serving La Crosse, Vernon, Crawford, and Monroe Counties. In 2017 ridership decreased by about 6%. In 2018 ridership rebounded on the SMRT system and increased by 9% over 2017 ridership. Ridership so far in 2019 has decreased approximately 10% over 2018 ridership numbers. Weather issues in January caused the service to cancel around a week of service which impacted overall ridership numbers.</p> <p>On July 19, 2019 The SMRT Bus system through La Crosse County as the applicant was awarded a \$492,570 in federal funds to acquire 2 battery electric cutaway buses and associated infrastructure equipment to serve the SMRT system. Been approved for the purchase on one electric bus and is requesting eligibility for approval of a second vehicle in 2020. SMRT routes are being analyzed by the WISDOT electric bus contractor to determine if electric buses are capable of serving its route distances and terrain. MRRPC staff assisted La Crosse County with the electric bus application and the successful Bremer Foundation grant to help cover operating costs..</p> <p>On May 13, 2019, the SMRT Bus system added a mid-day route between La Crosse-Tomah. The additional route will provide more flexibility for riders to use the bus for medical appointments, school, and daily activities. Providing three runs a day fro La Crosse to Tomah and points in between.</p>	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com
10g	La Crosse County Outdoor recreation plan	As part of receiving annual county contributions, the MRRPC updates and maintains county outdoor recreation plans. The MRRPC is currently working with La Crosse County on updating the county's outdoor recreation plan.	November 2018 – June 2019	<p>MRRPC staff met several times with La Crosse County staff over the last nine months and gathered background information (recreation budget, projects, data, etc.) that assisted in updating the outdoor recreation plan.</p> <p>The final draft of the Outdoor Recreation Plan was provided to La Crosse County in March and was posted on the La Crosse County website. In March/April La Crosse County towns, and cities/villages were asked to review the plan and provide information on their municipality's future outdoor recreation projects. Information</p>	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com

				from local units of government was received and incorporated into the planning document. The Outdoor Recreation Plan was approved by the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors in May and the finalized document has been posted on the La Crosse County and MRRPC website.	
10h	City of Mondovi Comprehensive Plan	Assist Mondovi in having an up-to- date Comprehensive Plan that meets Wisconsin Statutes. Total contract is for \$12,000.	June 2018 – July 2019	<p>MRRPC staff facilitated a public open house meeting in February 2019 to provide the opportunity for residents to provide input on the draft updated Comprehensive plan. Comments received and plan modifications were made and in April staff completed a public hearing draft of the updated comprehensive plan. A public hearing on the updated comprehensive was held on April 30, 2019 in the City of Mondovi. A few modifications pertaining to future annexations and planning maps were requested.</p> <p>Staff has made plan modifications and forwarded the final updated comprehensive plan to the City of Mondovi. It is anticipated the final plan will be approved by the City Council in June or July.</p>	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com
10i	Report on the Wisconsin Department of Administration's proposed Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Close Grant program involving terminating all CDBG Revolving Loan Funds across the state. Then allowing communities to apply for a guaranteed CDBG grant for the amount of RLF funds returned. GF	Due to compliance issues and over \$50 million sitting in bank accounts across the state the WI DOA is proposing to terminate the CDBG RLFs in all communities and counties. As an incentive for RLF communities and counties to participate it will allow counties and communities to apply for a CDBG grant in an amount that is equal to the amount of CDBG funds that are returned. This CDBG grant is guaranteed to be funded. Grants may be for road, water sewer, other public facilities, housing, planning, job training services and centers, food pantries, senior centers, services to the homeless, and public safety, child care, health services: substance abuse services-counseling and treatment (opioid treatment), fair housing counseling, education programs, energy conservation, services for senior citizens, and other	This program was rolled out by WI DOA in February 2019. Communities and counties have two years to return the funds and apply for CDBG grant for the amount of RLF funds that they returned to the State.	The Wisconsin Department of Administration received approval from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development roll out this program. DOA has sponsored meetings and webinars on this program and attended meetings in various counties to explain this program. Communities and counties will have two years to determine and apply for projects that are CDBG eligible and provide service to a population that is at least 51% Low and moderate income and/or a blighted project. Counties in the region that will need to address this program are: Pierce, Pepin, Buffalo, Jackson, La Crosse, Monroe and Vernon Counties. Cities and Villages in the region that will need to address this are Tomah, Sparta, Kendall, Hillsboro and Osseo.	<p>Greg Flogstad Director 608.785.9396 greg@mrrpc.com</p> <p>David Pawlisch, Bureau Director, Community Development, WI Dept of Administration 608.2617538</p>

		similar projects approved by DOA. Projects must also benefit a population area that is at least 51% Low and moderate Income.			
10j	Status on Pepin County 2019 Contributions	The Greg Flogstad, Director received an E-mail from the Pepin County Administrative Coordinator on January 8, stating that did not include MRRPC contributions in their 2019 budget..	Today's Meeting	Greg Flogstad asked and was granted time on the County Board's February 20 th Meeting Agenda. He gave a presentation on the past and current activities of the MRRPC and asked the county to reconsider. At the end of his presentation and a question and answer period. The County Board Chair stated they would not be making a decision at that meeting. On July 8th MRRPC Staff-Peter Fletcher and Dave Bonifas met with the Pepin County Land Conservation and Planning Committee about MRRPC services. Greg Flogstad received an E-mail from the County Administrative Coordinator after this meeting Greg Flogstad received an E-mail from the Administrative Coordinator that stated " We will taking a Budget Modification to the County Board at their August meeting so we can amend the 2019 Budget and get the 2019 fees paid."	Greg Flogstad Director 608.785.9396 greg@mrrpc.com
11	Old Business				
12	New Business				
13	Adjourn				