

Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission Staff Report on Projects for the Bimonthly Meeting on 8.9.2023

Agenda Topic or Project Name	Purpose, Benefit, Project deliverables, and Contract Amount	Project Time Period	Project Status	Contact
EDA CARES Act MRRPC Supplemental Funding	MRRPC received a \$400,000 grant to assist the region with recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The award timeframe is July 1 st , 2020 through June 30 th , 2022. Contract was extended to June 30 th , 2023	July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2023	Submitted final draw and may leave over \$30,000 unspent due to lower labor expenses and an inability to adjust the budget categories in the grant.	Jon Bingol Executive Director 608.785.9396 jon@MRRPC.com
EDA CARES Act Supplemental Funding – SMRT Bus Marketing Plan	A portion of the CARES Supplemental funding will be used to develop a marketing plan to increase ridership, enhance signage, and identify growth opportunities.	Start date: March 2021	No new updates for this quarter.	Ken Harwood Planner 608.785.9396 ken@MRRPC.com
EDA CARES Act Supplemental Funding – Location-based Data Project	A portion of the CARES Supplemental funding will be used to purchase data and travel pattern analysis to support community businesses, capture tourist opportunities, and support local planning and economic development efforts.	Start date: January 2021	No new updates for this quarter.	Ken Harwood Planner 608.785.9396 ken@MRRPC.com
MRRPC Build Grant	MRRPC submitted a planning grant proposal to USDOT in May 2020 to develop a “Freight Strategy” for its Counties. Notification of award was in September 2020. The study includes developing background information on freight transportation in the region, generating freight growth projects and system performance for major commodities in the region, and creating content to incorporate into County and local comprehensive plans	Anticipated start date: January 15, 2022	The goal is to identify potential projects and priorities in all nine counties to improve Freight movement. Extended planned completion date to November 15, 2023. Staff is finalizing survey and will publish it later this month and follow up with personal interviews where needed based on response rates and information collected.	Ken Harwood Planner 608.785.9396 ken@MRRPC.com
T. Farmington Comprehensive Plan Update	In March 2021, the Town of Farmington signed a contract with MRRPC to update its Comprehensive Plan.	March 2021 – December 2021	The Plan was adopted but we are still waiting on the final plan and their final payment. We also have made large maps for them.	Jon Bingol Executive Director 608.785.9396 jon@MRRPC.com
Jackson County Comprehensive Plan Update	In August 2022, Jackson County signed a contract with the MRRPC to update its Comprehensive Plan.	August 2022 – December 2023	MRRPC Staff presented County with Existing conditions report. MRRPC staff is working with County to update survey and distribute survey this month.	Jamie Schoen Planner 608.785.9396 jamie@MRRPC.com
Outdoor Recreation Plan Update Requests	V. West Salem; V. Ellsworth	April 2023 – December 2023	Staff have shared the initial findings and inventory as well as possible survey questions with the Village staff. Met with West Salem to update Plan, survey to go out in September. Ellsworth committee will discuss Plan in August and schedule a meeting after that.	Jon Bingol Exec. Director 608.785.9396 jon@MRRPC.com

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Hazard Mitigation Planning Grant Applications	Submitted planning grant applications for Monroe, Pierce, and Trempealeau Counties. Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plans are prepared to reduce costs and losses from natural disasters for counties and municipalities. Ho-Chunk may be added to the list as well because they submitted a grant application naming MRRPC as author.	2022-2023	MRRPC staff is working on a grant application for Pierce and Trempealeau County to receive a planning grant for \$60,000. MRRPC is working in collaboration with Monroe County staff to submit a planning grant application to WEM. The work on these plans would begin late 2023 through 2025. The grant applications have all been submitted to WEM and FEMA as of Jan. 23 rd . FEMA will send out approvals this summer for these grants.	Abbey Nicewander Senior Planner 608.785.9396 abbey@MRRPC.com
Hazard Mitigation Plan Updates – Crawford and Vernon County	Update the Crawford and Vernon County Hazard Mitigation Plans. A grant application was submitted to WEM in the amount of \$59,987.60 and \$59,749.20 respectively. Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plans are prepared to reduce costs and losses from natural disasters for counties and municipalities	2022-2024	Vernon County held a stake holder meeting on 5/31/23. They have made some adjustments and are nearing completion. Final public meeting should be in August.	Abbey Nicewander Senior Planner 608.785.9396 abbey@MRRPC.com
Scenic Mississippi Regional Transit (SMRT) bus serving Crawford, Vernon, Monroe, and La Crosse counties	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. Funding comes from a federal DOT grant, local governments, corporate donations, Bremer Foundation Grants, and the fare box.	Service Began on December 3, 2012 - present	MRRPC staff assisted La Crosse County with the electric bus application and the successful Bremer Foundation grant to help cover operating costs. MRRPC has also assisted in electrification. SMRT is further discussing electric bus purchase and sustainable revenue streams beyond 2021. RPC staff has met with local municipalities to discuss sustainable funding for the next 5-7 years and strategic planning. No new updates for this period.	Ken Harwood Planner 608.785.9396 ken@MRRPC.com
DOT Contract Work Plan	WisDOT is beginning to update two long-range plans: Connect 2050 (the Long-Range State Transportation Plan), and the Wisconsin Rail Plan 2050. In addition, the LAPC is in the process of updating the MPO Plan, Beyond Coulee Vision 2040.	Ongoing through 2023	We will also be completing a 2024 Transit Plan by mid-December for the Region. Staff is working with DOT on work plans and upcoming MPO transitions in LAPC.	Ken Harwood Planner 608.785.9396 ken@MRRPC.com
West Salem TAP Grant Application	Traffic analysis and Safe Routes to School Program	2023	RFP has had 7 responses and they are determining finalists and asked Ken to assist the selection committee.	Ken Harwood Planner 608.785.9396 ken@MRRPC.com
Monroe County Economic Development Committee	Assisting the Committee with Strategic Planning	Ongoing	Committee has developed subcommittees to work on County economic development priorities. County is developing an overall Strategic Plan with an Economic component.	Jon Bingol Executive Director 608.785.9396 jon@MRRPC.com
Vernon County Economic Development Committee RLF	County EDC approved a new loan manual and MRRPC to administer the fund. Will be paid for actual costs time and materials.	Ongoing	MRRPC to administer the RLF and completed a new RLF loan manual. We are collecting payments and sorting out loans. Have had 3 inquiries but no new applicants yet.	Jon Bingol Executive Director 608.785.9396 jon@MRRPC.com

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Vernon County Comprehensive Plan	County asked to have MRRPC update their Comprehensive Plan. Proposed \$35,000	2023 - 2024	MRRPC Board approved the contract in April. Vernon County General Government Committee approved it and it goes to their Finance Committee next, then to Full County Board.	Jon Bingol Executive Director 608.785.9396 jon@MRRPC.com
Buffalo County Comprehensive Plan Update	County asked to have MRRPC update their Comprehensive Plan. Proposed \$35,000	2023 - 2024	MRRPC Board approved the contract in April. Waiting for direction from Buffalo County.	Jon Bingol Executive Director 608.785.9396 jon@MRRPC.com
Town of Bangor Comprehensive Plan Update	Township asked to have MRRPC update their Comprehensive Plan. Contract amount \$9,500	2023 - 2024	Re-Sent Town initial survey and are working on first draft of existing conditions. They are formalizing their planning committee this month.	Jamie Schoen Planner 608.785.9396 jamie@MRRPC.com
Town of Utica Comprehensive Plan Update	Township asked to have MRRPC update their Comprehensive Plan. Proposed \$12,000	2023 - 2024	MRRPC Board approved the contract in April. Waiting for Town direction.	Jon Bingol Executive Director 608.785.9396 jon@MRRPC.com
City of Black River Falls Comp Plan and Outdoor Rec Plan	City has asked MRRPC to update their Comprehensive Plan and their Outdoor Recreation Plan. Proposed \$16,000 & \$1,000	2023 - 2024	Requesting MRRPC Board approval for contracts at 6/14/23 meeting, City approved contracts. Sent first draft of Outdoor Rec Plan for review. Creating existing conditions for Comp Plan.	Jamie Schoen Executive Director 608.785.9396 jamie@MRRPC.com
Vernon County Economic Development Strategy	County has approved MRRPC to Partner with Place Dynamics to update their ED Strategy	2023	Requesting MRRPC Board approval at the 6/14/23 meeting. County approved \$10,000 for MRRPC. Sent out survey 8/2. Developing POIs for Placer.ai and starting data collection.	Jon Bingol Executive Director 608.785.9396 jon@MRRPC.com
Pepin, Pierce, Buffalo, Trempealeau and Vernon Counties Broadband Plan	Counties have received PSC grant for Broadband planning and may use MRRPC to assist with their Plan. Vernon asked MRRPC for help proposed \$10,337	2023 – 2024	Counties are working on Weiser Survey for PSC, hoping to get data in September. Pepin County has the highest completion rate so far.	Jon Bingol Executive Director 608.785.9396 jon@MRRPC.com
Village of Oakdale Comprehensive Plan	Village asked if MRRPC can help with their update as they have a “Lean Plan” but it needs more data.	2023	Determining data needs and waiting for direction from Village.	Jon Bingol Exec. Dir. jon@mrrpc.com
Village of Coon Valley Comprehensive Plan	Village asked if MRRPC can help with their update.	2023-2024	Determining data needs and waiting for direction from Village.	Jon Bingol Exec. Dir. jon@mrrpc.com
Village of Merrilan Outdoor Recreation Plan and Comprehensive Plan	Village asked if MRRPC can help with their update.	2023-2024	Determining data needs and waiting for direction from Village.	Jon Bingol Exec. Dir. jon@mrrpc.com
Northern Grain Belt Port Statistical Area	Ability to have data on volume of goods shipped through the ports officially collected.	2023 - 2024	Team is creating a viable entity for the Ports and Plan to host an Annual Meeting in La Crosse at Brennan's on October 5, 2023.	Ken Harwood Planner 608.785.9396 ken@MRRPC.com