

Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission Staff Report on Projects for the Bimonthly Meeting on 2.14.2024

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 \$35,000 unspent due to lower labor expenses and an inability to adjust the budget categories in the grant. Submitted final report to close this project. We did receive \$364,659.28 from 7/1/2020 through 6/30/2023. Project Completed.	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
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 December 15, 2023. Staff had submitted final report and then had to make edits per WisDOT and reengage SRF to update their parts. Ken submitted the corrected final plan to WisDOT who has submitted it to USHighway and we are waiting for final closeout procedures.	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 2023	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. Still no response. Jon to attend their meeting soon.	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 is working with County to finish plan by end of 2023. Had 228 responses to the survey. Held the public hearing on the Plan on November 16. Presenting final plan to Planning and zoning committee 12/18. County Board approved plan January 15, 2024. Just received resolution to complete final copy of plan for official distribution.	Jon Bingol Executive Director 608.785.9396 jon@MRRPC.com
V. West Salem Outdoor Recreation Plan Update Requests	V. West Salem	April 2023 – December 2023	Staff have shared the initial findings and inventory as well as conducted survey for the Villag. Ken meeting with West Salem to finalize Plan in February, over 300 survey responses received.	Ken Harwood Planner 608.785.9396 ken@MRRPC.com
V. Ellsworth Outdoor Recreation Plan Update	Outdoor Recreation Plan	April 2023- December 2023	Ellsworth committee will discuss Plan in October/November and schedule a meeting after that. Gave updated survey for review, no response yet.	Jon Bingol Executive Director 608.785.9396 jon@mrrpc.com

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Hazard Mitigation Planning Grant Application Approved by WEM/FEMA	Submitted planning grant applications for Monroe, Pierce, and Trempealeau Counties and the Ho-Chunk Nation. Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plans are prepared to reduce costs and losses from natural disasters for counties and municipalities.	2023-2024	FEMA sent out approvals for Pierce and Trempealeau Counties 10/3/23. Received information from Monroe and Ho-Chunk by November 15, 2023. Working to get projects started and contracts with each County and Tribe. Initial meetings have been set and work on each plan has started.	Andrew M./Jack Z. Planner 608.785.9396 andrew@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 and is being reviewed by WEM. Final public meeting for Crawford County was held 9/28/23 making final additions and will submit to WEM by 10/16. Vernon County Plan has been approved, County adopted resolution and Township resolutions are being collected; Crawford County plan was updated based on WEM recommendations and we are waiting for final approval.	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. We may need to assist in the management of SMRT as they have annual shortfalls and limited staff support. Ideas for improvement have surfaced from LaCrosse County.	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	Completed a 2024 Transit Plan by mid-November for the Region. Completed and Board approved via email, 2024 DOT Work Plan which was submitted 11/29/23. Staff is working with DOT on work plans and upcoming MPO transitions in LAPC. Teams have met and will continue supporting each other and keep open lines of communication.	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. Consultant has been selected. No new information.	Ken Harwood Planner 608.785.9396 ken@MRRPC.com

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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. MRRPC will be partnering with Monroe County to host an Economic Development & Tourism Summit March 21-22, 2024, in Tomah, planning is underway and registration is open.	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. Committee approved 2 loans and both closed in December.	Jon Bingol Executive Director 608.785.9396 jon@MRRPC.com
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 Full County Board approved the contract, and it was signed on 9/25/23. They have formed a committee and Jack is reviewing existing conditions and survey with them.	Jack Zabrowski Senior Planner 608.785.9396 jack@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 directions from Buffalo County. They last indicated they may do an Economic Development Strategy too or instead of, TBD	Jon Bingol Executive Director 608.785.9396 jon@MRRPC.com
Town of Bangor Comprehensive Plan Update	The township asked to have MRRPC update their Comprehensive Plan. Contract amount \$9,500	2023 - 2024	Ken and Andrew have been completing the Plan. They plan to have final meeting to adopt the plan on February 19, 2024.	Ken Harwood Planner 608.785.9396 ken@MRRPC.com
Town of Utica Comprehensive Plan Update	The township asked to have MRRPC update their Comprehensive Plan. Proposed \$12,000	2023 - 2024	MRRPC Board approved the contract in April. Ken is working with them on finalizing their survey. Jon met with their committee and they are finalizing survey and distribution plan. Existing conditions have been shared as well.	Jon Bingol Executive Director 608.785.9396 jon@MRRPC.com
City of Black River Falls Comp Plan and Outdoor Rec Plan	The 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. Outdoor rec plan survey has 532 responses so far.	Andrew Miller Planner 608.785.9396 andrew@MRRPC.com
Vernon County Economic Development Strategy	County has approved MRRPC to update their ED Strategy around 2 targeted areas.	2023	Requesting MRRPC Board approval at the 6/14/23 meeting. County approved \$10,000 for MRRPC. The final plan and strategies (a blending of the two plans) has been approved by the committee and goes to the full Board on 2/15/24.	Jon Bingol Executive Director 608.785.9396 jon@MRRPC.com
Pepin, Pierce, Buffalo, Trempealeau and Vernon Counties Broadband Plan	Counties have received PSC grants 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 in the state. Attended UW Ext. session in Tomah, working to get County Plans moving. Vernon County has the highest percent of fiber to the home in the State. Counties to meet on Plans...TBD.	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	Sent draft survey and initial draft of existing conditions for planning committee to review 12/4/23. Slow survey response at 28 so far. Board to provide more info and meet to finalize plan.	Jon Bingol Exec. Dir. jon@mrrpc.com

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Crawford County Planning for Stewardship Event on 2/25/24 at Seneca School	Our part will be on Township Comprehensive Planning Process	12/23 to 2/25/24	Flyer is out and Jon will be one of the speakers on Sunday 2/25/24.	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 Merrillan Outdoor Recreation Plan and Comprehensive Plan	Village asked if MRRPC can help with their update.	2023-2024	Determining data needs and waiting for directions from Village. Met on 12/12/23. Andrew incorporated their ideas and will meet with group to finalize survey and distribution plan.	Andrew Miller Planner andrew@mrrpc.com
Northern Grain Belt Port Statistical Area	Ability to have data on volume of goods shipped through the ports	2023-2024	Team is creating a viable entity for the Ports and Plan hosted an Annual Meeting in La Crosse at the Radisson hosted by Brennan on October 5, 2023. Looking for next steps in Port development. TBD	Ken Harwood Planner 608.785.9396 Ken@MRRPC.com
Town of Greenfield Comprehensive Plan	Township asked MRRPC to update their Plan and delivered the signed contract and first check to the office on 10/3/23	2023-2024	Existing conditions completed; draft of survey completed. Sent both to Township contact.	Jon Bingol Executive Director
Town of River Falls Comprehensive Plan	Township asked MRRPC to update their plan.	2023-2024	Sent initial draft of existing conditions and draft of the survey to be discussed on 12/8. They are discussing content and adding questions for survey.	Jon Bingol Executive Director
City of Osseo Outdoor Rec Plan	Fast track Project as they want it down by early April	2024	We quickly got out survey and existing conditions and they had 250 survey responses. Ken and Jon meeting to finalize plan 2/22.	Ken Harwood Planner ken@mrrpc.com