

Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission Staff Report on Projects for the Bimonthly Meeting on 4.10.2024

Agenda Topic or Project Name	Purpose, Benefit, Project deliverables, and Contract Amount	Project Time Period	Project Status	Contact
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 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 US Highway, and we are waiting for final closeout procedures. We spent less than the \$200,000 grant award, so US Highway allowed us to amend the grant contract to try to spend it. We are trying to get the next year of Placer.ai subscription covered and it are awaiting final approval from US DOT.	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, the final invoice has been paid to MRRPC, and copies of the plan have been delivered along with a large land use map of the township.	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 by resolution. DOA wants it to be an approved Ordinance or Adopted Resolution by MRRPC...it is on the agenda 4/10/24.	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. Trying to complete 4/24.	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
Hazard Mitigation Plan Updates – Monroe, Pierce, and Trempealeau Counties	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. Existing conditions and surveys have been completed for Monroe, Pierce, and Trempealeau Counties. Kickoff meetings have been held in all 3 counties.	Jack Zambrowski Senior Planner 608.785.9396 jack@MRRPC.com

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Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Ho-Chunk Nation	Submitted planning grant applications for the Ho-Chunk Nation. Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plans are prepared to reduce costs and losses from natural disasters for counties and municipalities.	2023-2024	Received information from Ho-Chunk by November 15, 2023. Existing conditions have been completed and more information has been requested.	Jack Zabrowski Senior Planner 608.785.9396 jack@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 it 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 approved and collection of resolutions from municipalities has started.	Jack Zabrowski Senior Planner 608.785.9396 jack@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 La Crosse County. Looking at options for improvement.	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. The 2024 plan is being worked.	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. Project is too small with limited impact so school is considering other options.	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 Economic Development Held conference 3/21-22, 96 registered. Success.	Jon Bingol Executive Director 608.785.9396 jon@MRRPC.com

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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 1 loan 4/4/24.	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 is going well over 200 responses so far.	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. Completed.	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. Surveys are out, using post cards and in person promotion.	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. Outdoor rec plan survey has 532 responses so far. Had public hearing 4/3/24 plan to approve Plan on 4/16.	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. Approved and completed.	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 put out an RFP to find a consultant to help.	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. Survey closed 30 responses. Board to provide more info after updating ordinances and plans end of April.	Jon Bingol Executive Director jon@mrrpc.com
Crawford County Planning for Stewardship Event	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. Around 60 attendees and good conversation and education provided.	Jon Bingol Executive Director jon@mrrpc.com

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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 Executive Director 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 directions from Village. Survey is out and trying to finish the plan 4/24.	Ken Harwood Planner ken@mrrpc.com
Northern Grain Belt Port Statistical Area	Ability to have data on volume of goods shipped through the ports	2023-2024	The team is meeting with stakeholders to look at next steps and how best to improve the organizational structure to go after more funding for local projects.	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. Town committee is reviewing survey and distribution plan.	Jon Bingol Executive Director jon@mrrpc.com
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 have distributed the survey and results are coming in.	Jon Bingol Executive Director jon@mrrpc.com
City of Osseo Outdoor Rec Plan	Fast track Project as they want it done 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 4/24.	Ken Harwood Planner ken@mrrpc.com
Town of Burns Comprehensive Plan	Township asked MRRPC to update their plan.	2024 - 2025	Town Board approved the contract and public participation plan on 3/26/24.	Jon Bingol Exec. Dir.
City of Arcadia Comprehensive Plan	City asked MRRPC to update their plan.	2024-2025	Met with City officials with Mark T from WEDC for the second time and they have asked for a contract and will be working on funding it.	Jon Bingol Exec. Director
City of Galesville Comprehensive Plan	City asked MRRPC to update their plan.	2024-2025	MRRPC approved a contract 2/24 and we are waiting on the City's response.	Jon Bingol Exec. Director