

Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission Staff Report on Projects for the Bimonthly Meeting on 6.12.2024

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. Final approval granted by State and Federal DOTs, invoices submitted and Placer.ai renewed. Grant should be officially closed after all payments are recorded.	Ken Harwood Planner 608.785.9396 ken@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. Resolutuioin submitted to DOA and final copies delivered to Jackson County.	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. Completed and Public hearing held 5/7/24 and Board approved the Plan. Copies of final plan have been delivered.	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. Survey closes 6/7/24, Ken working with Village on inventory list and goals.	Jon Bingol & Ken H. 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	Kickoff meetings have been held and surveys have been distributed for Monroe, Pierce, and Trempealeau Counties. Pierce County is roughly 2/3 complete, Trempealeau ½ and Monroe is 1/2. Staff is waiting for survey results to draft the next portion of the plans. Team is meeting with Counties to keep plans moving	Jack Zabrowski & Simon F. 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	Kick-off meeting completed. Four public outreach events will take place in June and July in Wausau, Black River Falls, Tomah, La Crosse to gather feedback in Hazard and needed mitigation projects. Simon and Jack attending Tribal Region meetings week of 6/10 and following up as needed to get higher response rates.	Simon Fitcher & Jack Z Planner 608.785.9396 simon@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. Project may be too small for TAP.	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 new committee members in April and Team decided to hold conference again in 2025. Jon to meet with new committee chair in June/July.	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 1 loan 4/4/24 business declined it, another loan approved in May.	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	Survey is complete 644 responses, Issues, Opportunities, and Goals have been approved by the Vernon County Plan Commission. Objectives will be completed at next Plan Commission meeting. Public feedback will be gathered at outreach events in Hillsboro, Westby, DeSoto, Readstown in July and August. Jack has next meeting with committee 6/12/24.	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. Final Plans delivered to Town Board.	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. Committee closing survey 6/7. Reviewing responses and developing goals in June.	Jon Bingol & Simon F 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. Completed and final plans delivered to City.	Ken Harwood Planner 608.785.9396 ken@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 Oakdale	Village asked if MRRPC can help with their update as they have a "Lean Plan" but it needs more data.	2023-2024	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 in June/July.	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. Village pushed out timeline to get more data on sites and finalize goals.	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. Working with La Crosse Area Port Authority to determine structure options and proposed linkage to NGBP.	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.	Jack Z Senior Planner 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 had distributed the survey and it closed on 6/7. Ken met to discuss goals and objectives 6/4.	Ken H and Jon B Planner ken@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. Completed and final plans delivered to City.	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. Town zoning admin passed unexpectedly so Town is making adjustments. Team is working on existing conditions and suggested survey.	Jack Z Sr. Planner
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. New elected officials in April, starting over with new group...	Jon Bingol Exec. Director
Town of Martell Comprehensive Plan	Town approved MRRPC to do the plan 5/14/24	2024-2025	Met with Town Planning Committee and the Town Board for contract. Ken starting on Survey and Team on existing conditions.	Ken H Planner
Pierce County EDC	Jon invited to a planning meeting on 6/26/24.	ongoing	EDC Director is retiring. Group may be looking at revising or developing a strategic plan or strategy.	Jon Bingol Exec. Director
USDA RPN	County group received National Park Foundation grant for technical assistance, waiting to hear on USDA Opportunity grant by end of June. Team moving forward to develop a regional outdoor rec plan and strategy to create destinations.	ongoing	Partnering with WCWRPC and other area counties and organizations to make this plan a reality. USDA rep Sarah S. to speak at MRRPC August meeting.	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

