

Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission Staff Report on Projects for the Bimonthly Meeting on 10.9.2024

Agenda Topic or Project Name	Purpose, Benefit, Project deliverables, and Contract Amount	Project Time Period	Project Status	Contact
V. Ellsworth Outdoor Recreation Plan Update	Outdoor Recreation Plan	April 2023-December 2024	Ellsworth committee will discuss Plan in October/November and schedule a meeting after that. Survey closed 6/7/24. Ken is working with Village on inventory list and goals. Ken toured the Village amenities on 8/5/24 and is meeting with the Village committee on 8/12 to review assets, goals, objectives and projects. Ken working with them to get it completed.	Ken Harwood ken@mrrpc.com
Hazard Mitigation Plan Updates – Monroe, Pierce, and Trempealeau Counties	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.	2023-2024	Kickoff meetings have been held and surveys have been distributed for Monroe, Pierce, and Trempealeau Counties. Final Draft HMP for submission: Pierce County is nearly complete, Trempealeau 3/4 and Monroe is 2/3. Staff are gathering more input on the Plans and additional projects to include in drafts. Team continues meeting with Counties to keep plans moving and engage communities during the process.	Jack Zabrowski & Simon Fichter 608.785.9396 jack@MRRPC.com simon@MRRPC.com
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. Six public outreach events took place in June and July in Wausau, Black River Falls, Tomah, La Crosse, Wittenberg, and New Lisbon to gather public input on hazard risks and needed mitigation projects. Existing conditions and data for plan is complete. Met with Nation leadership to identify goals and projects 7/29/24, and shared draft of plan. Simon to present to Exec Directors and Departments in August. Simon submitted Draft to WEM waiting for their review.	Simon Fichter & Jack Zabrowski Planner 608.785.9396 simon@MRRPC.com
Hazard Mitigation Plan Updates – Crawford and Vernon County	Update the Crawford and Vernon County Hazard Mitigation Plans. Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plans are prepared to reduce costs and losses from natural disasters for counties and municipalities	2022-2024	Vernon County Plan has been approved, County adopted resolution and Township resolutions are being completed; Crawford County plan was approved and collection of resolutions from municipalities has started, and Jack and Simon are attending Town, Village and City meetings to get local resolutions for each plan, almost completed.	Jack Zabrowski & Simon Fichter 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 2024. 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

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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. Midyear DOT/MPO meeting in Madison on 8/15 and Annual meeting in Wausau 9/9-12. Need to approve 2025 work plan at October bimonthly meeting.	Ken Harwood Planner 608.785.9396 ken@MRRPC.com
Monroe County Economic Development Committee	Assisting the Committee as needed	Ongoing	Committee has some new members and a new Chair and changing priorities for ED and Tourism. We will help as we are allowed. They contracted with River Travel Media to run the EDT event next April.	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 ED committee is updating the VCEDLF manual. We are collecting payments and sorting out loans. Committee approved one loan in August. Had a closing in September and another in October.	Jon Bingol & Sarah O Executive Director 608.785.9396 jon@MRRPC.com
Vernon County Comprehensive Plan	County asked to have MRRPC update their Comprehensive Plan.	2023 - 2024	The survey is complete 644 responses, Issues, Opportunities, and Goals have been approved by the Vernon County Plan Commission. Objectives will be completed at the next Plan Commission meeting. Public feedback will be gathered at outreach events in Hillsboro, Westby, Wheatland, Readstown in August and September. Meetings went committee moving forward with land use plans and are researching Farmland Preservation option. Looking to do Public Hearing in January 2025. Jon & Simon to present on 10/24 at VC Towns Association meeting.	Jack Zabrowski Senior Planner 608.785.9396 jack@MRRPC.com
Town of Utica Comprehensive Plan Update	The township asked to have MRRPC update their Comprehensive Plan.	2023 - 2024	MRRPC Board approved the contract on 4/12/23. The Town had meeting with Jon on 7/8/24 to review survey results, existing conditions and discuss possible zoning ordinances as well as how to administer the process. On hold for more committee input.	Jon B and Simon F
City of Black River Falls Comp Plan	The city has asked MRRPC to update their Comprehensive Plan.	2023 - 2024	The city held a meeting 7/24/24 to review existing conditions and create survey questions. Plan to distribute survey in August/September. Had 114 responses. Held Stakeholder meeting in September. Met with committee to discuss goals and objective on 10/2.	Simon F and Jon B
Pepin, Pierce, Buffalo, Trempealeau, Monroe, La Crosse and Vernon Counties Broadband Plan (Crawford in group with Prosperity SW redo)	Counties have received PSC grants for Broadband planning of \$18,300 each.	2023 – 2024	Counties are working on preparing to apply for additional grants in August. Vernon County has the highest percent of fiber to the home in the State. 4 County group hired a consultant to help and are developing a Plan. All other counties working their BB plans.	Jon Bingol Executive Director 608.785.9396 jon@MRRPC.com

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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.	2023-2024	Sent draft survey and initial draft of existing conditions for planning committee to review 12/4/23. Survey closed 30 responses. Jon reviewed survey results and existing conditions with their planning committee in May. Board to provide more info after updating ordinances and will regroup in November.	Jon B
Village of Coon Valley Comp Plan	Village asked if MRRPC can help with their update.	2023-2024	Determining data needs and waiting for direction from the Village. TBD.	Jon Bingol Executive Director 608.785.93
Village of Merrillan Outdoor Recreation Plan	Village asked if MRRPC can help with their update.	2023-2024	Determining data needs and waiting for directions from Village. Survey is complete. Village pushed out timeline to get more data on sites and finalize goals for Outdoor rec plan. Ken to meet with Village to complete Plan.	Ken H
Northern Grain Belt Port Statistical Area	Ability to have data on volume of goods shipped through the ports	Ongoing	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. Still moving forward.	Ken H
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 met with Jack on 8/5 to review survey results, existing conditions and develop goals and objectives. Plan to set Public Hearing soon and will finalize land use maps 10/6.	Jack Z
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 12/8/23. They had distributed the survey, and it closed on 6/7/24. Ken met to discuss goals and objectives 6/4/24 and 6/10/24. Held public hearing in August. Finalizing plan soon.	Ken Harwood Planner 608.785.9396 Ken@MRRPC.com
Town of Burns Comprehensive Plan	Township asked MRRPC to update their plan.	2024 - 2025	The Town Board approved the contract and public participation plan on 3/26/24. Town zoning admin passed unexpectedly so the Town is making adjustments. Team is working on existing conditions and suggested survey. Has been on hold due to Board changes.	Jack Z
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...TBD	Jon B
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 meeting on 6/11/24. Closed survey, working with Town on goals and objectives.	Ken H
Pierce County EDC	Jon invited to next planning meeting on 8/19	ongoing	EDC Director is retiring. Group may be looking at revising or developing a strategic plan or strategy. They hired a new Director trying to schedule a meeting with them.	Jon Bingol Exec. Director
USDA RPN 8 county outdoor rec project	County group received National Park Foundation grant for technical assistance,	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. We	Jon B and Simon F and Ken H

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	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.		received the grant \$70,000 and the official start date is planned for 8/12. Contract is for \$20,000 and started on our 4 county existing conditions and survey questions/methodology and distribution approach.	
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...TBD	Jon Bingol Exec. Director
Town of Garden Valley Comprehensive Plan	Town asked MRRPC to update the plan. Group is working on land use information.	2024-2025	The survey is nearing the end and Town input results from written responses. Updated existing conditions. Sent Survey summary and updates. Waiting for committee response and goal selection.	Ken H and Simon F
City of Osseo Housing Study	Identify current condition and future needs for development	July 2024 – October 2024	Created initial existing conditions and community information. Met with City officials and determined additional data requests. Conducting employer/employee survey. Goal to conclude in November.	Jon B and Ken H
City of BRF Shared Ride Taxi Feasibility Study	Identify current conditions and trends, available options, recommended options for the City.	September 2024 – December 2024	Met with City administration to gather data and current conditions. Developing study and researching possible options. Presented Draft Study to City Council 10/1. City to plan Public Hearing asap.	Ken H & Jon B
Arcadia CDBG	Assist the City with administration of CDBG	September 2024 to December 2025	The City has received a \$1 million grant for major water/sewer and street repair. They need assistance administering the grant...we are reviewing scope of work. Jon attended mandatory admin training in September and responded to City's RFP...TBD	Sarah O and Jon B
Crawford County Housing Task Force	Developing actionable strategies to improve housing in the county	ongoing	The County reviewed recently completed Housing Study done by SWWRPC and are determining steps to utilize the data to advance housing options in the county. Toured available site for development in September.	Jon B
Jackson County ED committee	Advance and enhance economic development in the county	ongoing	Participated in a strategic planning session lead by Seven Rivers Alliance on 8/5. Will assist where able.	Jon B
Gays Mills Thrive Project WEDC ORP	Gays Mills is developing plans to build a community pavilion and applying for planning \$s thru WEDC	April 2024 - 2026	The team reviewed updated RFPs for initial planning work and selected engineering firm. Goal to apply for first \$25,000 grant soon.	Jon B
CRBC New Direction	CRBC Board recently adopted a new Strategic Plan to focus on more impactful businesses for incubation and acceleration	ongoing	With new Strategic direction, CRBC is developing new programs and criteria for admission thru graduation. Expanded budget and fundraising is next. The Interim Exec Director is leaving in October will need to hire again as well as develop an implementation plan to advance the strategic direction.	Jon B
BRF planning grant for Connector Trail	City awarded a DOT TAP grant to connect bike path and identify river crossing and early	September 2024 – October 2025	BRF bike ped Study to explore the expansion of an existing 4-mile paved recreational trail to connect with other areas of the City and the County. Plan will require engineering to develop river crossing. MRRPC fee TBD of the \$85,000 grant.	Jon B/Simon F/Ken H
La Crosse County Outdoor Rec Plan	Complete a CORP for County	October 2024 – April 2025	\$4,000 to do their Plan.	Ken H/Jack Z

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WEDC SBD Grant	Apply for WEDC SBD grant for \$250,000 for the 9-county region	October 2024 – December 2025	Met with a broad group of partners to determine a plan to apply for this grant as a region. Application due on 10/17	Jon B
Crawford County Land and Water Resource Mgmt Plan 2026-2031	Assist Crawford County in completing their 5 year Plan	October 2024 - February 2026	Discussing with Dave Troester how we can assist them in this	Jon B