

Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission Staff Report on Projects for the Bimonthly Meeting on 8.13.2025

Agenda Topic or Project Name	Purpose, Benefit, Project Deliverables, Contract	Project Time Period	Project Status	Contact
La Crosse Couty HMP	Hazard Mitigation Plan	June 2025 – December 2026	Finalizing contract with County to complete without FEMA BRIC Grant which has been ended by executive order.	Jack Zabrowski and Jon Bingol
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.	2023-2025	Most County Plans are finalized. Still working to try to get resolutions from all Towns in Trempealeau County.	Jack Zabrowski
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.	2023-2025	The Nation department approved the HMP and the Tribal leadership approved the Plan as of 6/4. Official resolution was adopted and has been included in the plan document to finalize this Plan.	Jon Bingol & Jack Zabrowski
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	Funding for operations has been supported by a Bremer Foundation grant, and discussions on long-term sustainability and electric bus initiatives are underway. The focus remains on developing a financial sustainability plan and addressing operational challenges, such as staffing and funding shortfalls, in collaboration with local governments. More work to do this year to maintain the service. La Crosse County will not lead SMRT beyond 2025. They are meeting in September to decide on future involvement. The MPO is conducting a study to consider a Regional Transportation Authority which might provide alternatives	Ken Harwood
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	The 2026 Work Plan will need to be completed and approved, with the DOT Work Plan submitted in November so we will need to do our approval at the October meeting. Ongoing efforts are focused on executing the 2025 tasks and maintaining collaboration on MPO transitions and planning updates. Ken and Jon attended quarterly DOT, MPO and RPC in Madison on 4/22 and 7/22 and had our mid-year review with DOT on May 14 and 8/6 they like our progress on the work plan. Ken and Jon to attend annual DOT meeting in Kenosha on 9/28-30.	Ken Harwood and Jon Bingol
Monroe County Economic Development Committee	Assisting the Committee as needed	Ongoing	Group will contribute to match of \$4,000 for SBDG and they are finalizing an agreement to that effect in August.	Jon Bingol
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 collect payments and manage loan requests.	Jon Bingol & Sarah Ofte

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Town of Utica Comprehensive Plan Update	The township asked to have MRRPC update their Comprehensive Plan.	2023 - 2025	MRRPC Board approved the contract on 4/12/23. The Town had meeting with Jon on 7/8/24 and 11/11/24 to review survey results, existing conditions and discuss possible zoning ordinances as well as how to administer the process. Kia updated data and input from Chair. Still working to finish plan. Meeting on 8/11 with the team.	Jon Bingol & Kia Kling
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 – 2025	Counties are working on preparing to apply for additional grants in August. Vernon County has the highest percentage of fiber to the home in the State. 4 County group hired a consultant to help and are developing a Plan. All other counties are working on their BB plans. BEAD letters of support and applications for this round of grants are due in late February. Waiting to hear if any projects have been approved. All BEAD efforts may be stalled or ended due to executive order. Program has been closed by PSC.	Jon Bingol
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...slowly. Consultants have been focusing on Winona area as we questioned some of their processes. Our group met to discuss plans to move forward and establish next steps for La Crosse and PDC ports 8/7.	Ken Harwood
Town of Burns Comprehensive Plan	Township asked MRRPC to update their plan.	2024 - 2025	Jack Zabrowski attended the Town of Burns Town Board meeting on Nov. 13 to confirm initiation of the Comp Plan process creation. MRRPC staff has distributed the survey. Still in process.	Jack Zabrowski
City of Arcadia Comprehensive Plan	City asked MRRPC to update their plan.	2025 - 2026	City selected us to do the Comp Plan scheduled to meet on 6/18. Kickoff meeting Kia and Jon with planning commission 8/6	Kia Kling & Jon Bingol
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 just got final edits from Committee and they plan to have public hearing on Saturday 6/21 with Ken to facilitate meeting. Town reviewing final draft and need to set public hearing	Ken Harwood
Pierce County EDC	Develop strong partnership and connection with EDO.	ongoing	Working to build stronger connections. We have been meeting and plan to work with WEDC to look at creating a Façade Improvement Plan for several communities. They may want help administering the fund if it is created. Several BCF prospects identified	Jon Bingol

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USDA RPN 8 county outdoor rec project	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.	To be done in August 2025...	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 received a grant of \$70,000 and the official start date is planned for 8/12. The contract is for \$20,000 and started on our 4 county existing conditions and survey questions/methodology and distribution approach. Worked with WCWRPC to develop survey to citizens for project to release in December. Team started existing conditions for our 4 counties from previous/recent County ORPs we did. We are doing a survey of businesses for the project. Community outreach meetings held in all 8 counties, ours are: Pepin 4/3, Buffalo 4/8, Trempealeau 4/9 and Jackson 4/14. Group continues to work to finalize the Plan and grant got extended to December. Will do County presentations on Final draft in September	Jon Bingol, Kia Kling Jack Zabrowski, and Ken Harwood
City of Galesville	City asked MRRPC to update their plan.	2025?	MRRPC approved a contract 2/24 and we are waiting and has been selected to do their comp plan. Kickoff meeting on 8/19.	Jack Zabrowski & Jon Bingol
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. Ken meeting with committee 12/3. Ken working with them on goals for the plan. Plan was put on hold due to issues with a metallic mining operation looking at a site in the Town.	Ken Harwood
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, group asked us to update what was presented. They last met on April 9, I sent them the Osseo Housing Study to show options of things to add to their plan. Ken and Kia attended July meeting offered to help revise their study	Jon Bingol, Kia Kling, Ken Harwood
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. Attended 2 nd strategy meeting on 11/4 and committee meeting in December. Missed January meeting but will help as needed, They are looking for ways to fund an ED position.	Jon Bingol
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. Awarded first \$25,000 grant and selected firm for engineering met them 11/11 for kickoff. Reviewing engineering estimates, may consider options to reduce the cost.	Jon Bingol

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CRBC New Direction	CRBC Board recently adopted a new Strategic Plan to focus on more impactful businesses for incubation and acceleration	ongoing	We will need to hire again as well as develop an implementation plan to advance the strategic direction. Jon to be President in 2025. Group to partner with SBDC, score, WWBIC, seven rivers, others to host a resource center onsite to promote business development and have “office hours” at the facility. Team has created space for resource center and dedicated space for Wi Sys Venture Home program and will get grant dollars assist with it. We plan to kick it off in or by mid-September. Also, starting search for new PT Director.	Jon Bingol
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 \$80,000 grant. Held meeting of local committee to assist in the process and RFQ for engineering/consultant for study was sent to DOT approved contractor list on 5/27. We have had 2 request for more info already, deadline to respond is 6/23. Had no response, calling firms to provide proposals.	Jon Bingol, Kia Kling, Jack Zabrowski, Ken Harwood
La Crosse County Outdoor Rec Plan	Complete a CORP for County	October 2024 – April 2025	\$4,000 to do their Plan. Started Plan in November. Had several meetings and survey is out and plan is progressing well. Survey is closed and summarized. Held community meeting. Final Plan to go to County Board 8/11.	Ken Harwood & Jack Zabrowski
Mississippi River Parkway Commission (MRPC)	Organization established to promote and advance the Great River Road, Mississippi River Trail and regional marketing & tourism	ongoing	We attend their Board meetings and provide technical assistance where and when we can. Ken also serves on the marketing committee and is assisting them with a WI Dept of Tourism GEM grant. This is an important group for our region.	Ken Harwood & Jon Bingol
WEDC SBD Grant	Apply for WEDC SBD grant for \$250,000 for the 9-county region	October 2024 – December 2026	We have been selected...contract approval April 9 bimonthly. Establishing parameters and informing partners of the program. Raised \$44,000 match from Vernon County \$10,000, La Crosse County \$30,000 and Monroe County \$4,000. Approved 2 loan/grants so far another scheduled for review on 8/8.	Jon Bingol
Town of Scott Comp Plan	Update Town's Comprehensive Plan	December 2024 – January 2026	Town approved contract in December and had kickoff meeting 1/27. Simon/Ken (in person) and Jon(virtually) went through process, existing conditions, survey and expectations. Group will meet monthly. Survey completed and summarized. Ken is working with the group to review final draft.	Ken Harwood
City of Durand Proposal for Comp Plan, Outdoor Rec Plan and Zoning Assistance	Submitted proposal to update the City's Comp and Outdoor Rec Plans as well as update Zoning	3/25 - ?	Still waiting on next steps. Spoke to City Administrator and they will be discussing this later in August, they may solicit another bid.	Jon Bingol

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HMP preapplication for Buffalo County	5 year HMP process thru WEM/FEMA	12/24 - 2027	Submitted preapplication and working with County EM and WEM. Grant program has been cancelled so we will keep County informed and offer to do the HMP directly if needed. New FEMA grants NOFO released 8/5, we will review to see if anything fits.	Jack Zabrowski
New Audit firm CLA	Required annual government single audit	December 2024 – April 2025	Met with Brock to get plan for audit and identify data request and processes. Presented and approved at April 9 bimonthly meeting. Working with CLA to add MDA section and post on fac.gov.	Sarah Ofte & Jon Bingol
Hazard Mitigation Plans for Jackson	5 year HMP process thru WEM/FEMA	11/24 - 2026	With BRIC grant through FEMA ended. County EM says he will try to complete it on his own. We offered to help them if or as needed. We will keep in contact with them should they need our services.	Jack Zabrowski and Jon Bingol
Ho-Chunk Nation Comprehensive Community Evaluation	Submitted proposal to their RFP on a very extensive research project.	3/25 - ?	Waiting for a response.	Jon Bingol
Town of Arcadia	Garbage Study/Project	4/25 -	Town received an Innovation Grant and want us to do the study. Contract to be approved April 9 bimonthly. Kia has been doing research and analyzing the data the Town shared with us. We will be establishing a local committee to look for savings...goal of project is at least 10%. Met once with Town and City, identified good savings prospects working on those options.	Jon Bingol & Kia Kling
MRRPC Regional Comprehensive Plan Update	10 year Update of Plan	11/24 – 12/25	Still gathering data to update Plan before sharing with MRRPC comp plan committee. Kia is updating data and merging it into a new document. Will work to organize the committee and redo survey for plan in August	Jon Bingol & Kia Kling
DNR Water Quality Plan	Create a regional water quality plan	4/25 - ?	The other 8 RPCs work with DNR on water issues. We are exploring how we can get involved. Spoke with DNR and are working on a proposal to have them fund a Regional Water Quality Study. Submitted a project proposal on 8/1.	Jon Bingol & Jack Zabrowski