



**MISSISSIPPI RIVER
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**
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James Kuhn, Cashton, WI
Chairman
Bill E. Schroeder, Hager City, WI
Vice Chairman
Vicki Burke, Holmen, WI
Secretary & Treasurer
Jon Bingol, La Crosse, WI
Executive Director

MINUTES
MISSISSIPPI RIVER REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (MRRPC)
BIMONTHLY MEETING

10:00 a.m., Wednesday, October 8, 2025

Altra Federal Credit Union Operations Building, 1700 Oak Forest Drive, Onalaska, WI 54650

Call to Order at 10:00 am

Chairman Kuhn called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and asked for the roll call. A quorum was present. There were several guests in attendance: Mary Mallory Representing Representative Derrick Van Orden, Scott Bolstad Representing Senator Ron Johnson, Bob Gollnik, Executive Director La Crosse County MPO, and Mark Tallman, Regional Economic Development Director, WEDC. The attendance roster is attached.

Minutes of August 13, 2025, Bimonthly Meeting

Chairman Kuhn asked for a motion on the August 13, 2025, bimonthly meeting minutes. Commissioner Schroeder made a motion to approve the August 13, 2025, bimonthly meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McMillen Urell. Chairman Kuhn asked if there were any questions or comments and hearing none, the minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Secretary Burke was absent. Jon Bingol reported that on August 1, 2025, the balance in all accounts was \$449,660.57 and on September 30, 2025, the ending balance in all accounts was \$424,884.42. He reported the beginning balance on August 1, 2025, in all Revolving Loan Fund accounts was \$1,622,799.17 and the ending balance in all accounts on September 30, 2025, was \$1,440,935.48. Mr. Bingol reported that the funds for the WEDC SBDG grant were added to the revolving loan fund financial report. Commissioner McMillen Urell made a motion to approve the treasurer's report as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Twidt. Chairman Kuhn asked if there were any questions or comments, and the Treasurer's Report was unanimously approved.

Presentation by Darrin Wasniewski – AARP Senior Associate State Director Community Outreach

Mr. Wasniewski was unable to present due to a family emergency.

Presentation on 2026 WisDOT Work Program

Mr. Harwood presented the WisDOT Work Program for 2026. He discussed the six different elements and the goals and objectives to be addressed in 2026. He reported that the Work Program has been reviewed by WisDOT and now is being presented to the commission board for approval. He said that once it has been approved by our commission board it will be sent to the federal U.S. Department of Transportation for final approval. The federal deadline was set in November.

Decision on Resolution 10082025-1 approving WisDOT Work Program

Mr. Bingol presented the resolution which outlined the WisDOT Work Program grant award amount of \$72,302.80 with 80 percent of the funds (\$57,842.24) from the federal government and 10 percent from the state (\$7,230.28) and a 10 percent match from the commission (\$7,230.28). The grant amount remained the same as 2025. A motion was made by Commissioner Brandt and seconded by Commissioner Borreson to approve Resolution 10082025-1 to approve the 2026 WisDOT Work Program, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Decision on Contract for the Town of Clayton Comprehensive Plan

Mr. Bingol presented a contract for the Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission to complete a comprehensive plan for the Town of Clayton. After discussion a motion was made by Commissioner Seipel and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to approve the contract between the Town of Clayton and the Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission to complete a comprehensive plan, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Decision on Contract for the Town of Maiden Rock Comprehensive Plan

Mr. Bingol presented a contract for the Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission to complete a comprehensive plan for the Town of Maiden Rock. After discussion a motion was made by Commissioner Purdy and seconded by Commissioner Brandt to approve the contract between the Town of Maiden Rock and the Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission to complete a comprehensive plan, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Decision on Contract for the Village of Oakdale Outdoor Recreation Plan

Mr. Bingol presented a contract for the Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission to complete an outdoor recreation plan for the Village of Oakdale. After discussion a motion was made by Commissioner McMillen Urell and seconded by Commissioner Gulbranson to approve the contract between the Village of Oakdale and the Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission to complete an outdoor recreation plan, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Update on HMPs---La Crosse and Jackson Counties (this year); Buffalo County (preapp); Monroe, Pierce, Trempealeau Counties (waiting review); Ho-Chunk Nation, Crawford, and Vernon Counties (completed)

Mr. Bingol reported that La Crosse County Hazard Mitigation Plan is progressing and is about a third of the way completed. He said that each municipality needs to participate in the process and surveys and regional workshops are being planned for community engagement to create goals for each municipality. He said that Jackson County has decided to complete their Hazardous Mitigation Plan revision on their own, but Mr. Bingol said that we will assist them if they need additional help. He said that the other plans are completed.

Update on 8 County USDA RPN and RBDG

Mr. Bingol reported that the eight-county plan was set to be completed by the end of July, however, USDA extended the grant to December 31, so WCWRPC pushed out finalizing the draft report. All the information that has been collected from the surveys and the public engagement meetings was incorporated into the plan and now the group is homing in on all the trails, community events, hunting and fishing and other outdoor activities as well as water activities and kayaking. He said to watch for information about the final public hearings for the plan to be set for December.

Update on Transportation Activities

Mr. Harwood reported that he and Mr. Bingol attended the Annual WisDOT Transportation Conference which includes MPOs, RPCs, and WisDOT personnel. He reported that some of the topics covered included the plans for redevelopment of the Old Chrysler Plant, Innovation Centers, biotech jobs of the future, data centers, commuting to work, bike and pedestrian trails, rails to trails programs, and the overarching goal of connecting all state trails.

Update on MRRPC Comprehensive Plan

Mr. Bingol reported that Ms. Kling was working on finishing the data collection portion of the comprehensive plan when the government shut down caused our data sources to become unavailable, slowing the process. He said that the survey is progressing with the original survey of 50 questions being reduced to 20 questions and including some open-ended or big idea questions. He said the committee will be pulled together after we get feedback from the new survey.

Update on WEDC SBDG Grant

Mr. Bingol reported that the Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission has been promoting the WEDC SBDG Grant and included brochures for the Grant Program and the Business Plan Competition. He said that the WEDC SBDG Grant will help businesses finance projects by giving them downpayment assistance with a grant while using financing from a financial institution and one of our revolving loan funds for gap financing. He said that there is also a business plan competition deadline is February 13, 2026.

Update on Wisconsin Workforce Development Board

Mr. Bingol reported that he is transitioning off the board and a new interim director candidate and treasurer are being selected. He said that the board also has an accountant that is assisting them with the financial reporting.

Reports from Commissioners

Commissioner McMillan Urell reported that Buffalo County had a successful grand opening for the Flyway Trail. Commissioner Sorge asked about comprehensive plans for the townships in Trempealeau County. Mr. Bingol responded that he is working with the County Administrator to complete all the plans in two years. Commissioner Borreson asked about the difference between an outdoor recreation plan versus a comprehensive plan. Mr. Bingol responded that comprehensive plans are required by statute and outdoor recreation plans are created with guidelines from the DNR and are not mandatory through statute but enhance the community’s ability to apply for grants to improve their facilities.

No Old Business nor any New Business.

Adjourn at 11:45 am

Chairman Kuhn asked if there was any other new business. Hearing none, a motion was made to adjourn by Commissioner Twidt and seconded by Commissioner Schroeder. The motion was unanimously approved.

Vicki Burke,
Secretary/ Treasurer

Date

| MRRPC Bimonthly Meeting Attendees | |
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| Name | Representing |
| John Schlesselman | Buffalo County – in person |
| Mary Anne McMillan Urell | Buffalo County – in person |
| Del Twidt | Buffalo County – in person |
| Craig Anderson | Crawford County – online |
| Gerald Krachey | Crawford County – in person |
| Brad Chown | Jackson County – in person |
| Tom Cooper | Jackson County – online |
| Leonardo Silva | La Crosse County – online |
| James Kuhn | Monroe County – in person |
| Dennis Treu | Monroe County – in person |
| Kim Seipel | Pepin County – in person |
| Neil Gulbranson | Pierce County – in person |
| Bill Schroeder | Pierce County – in person |
| Richard Purdy | Pierce County – in person |
| Patrick Sorge | Trempealeau County – in person |
| Phil Borreson | Trempealeau County – in person |
| George Brandt | Trempealeau County – in person |
| Charles Jacobson | Vernon County – in person |
| JoAnn Nickelatti | Vernon County - online |
| Nancy Jaekel | Vernon County – in person |
| Jon Bingol | MRRPC Staff – in person |
| Sarah Ofte | MRRPC Staff – in person |
| Kia Kling | MRRPC Staff – in person |
| Mary Mallory | Representing Representative Derrick Van Orden |
| Scott Bolstad | Representing Senator Ron Johnson |
| Bob Gollnik | Executive Director – La Crosse Area MPO |
| Mark Tallman | Regional Economic Development Director - WEDC |