

Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission Staff Report on Projects for the Bimonthly Meeting on 12.10.2025

Agenda Topic or Project Name	Purpose, Benefit, Project Deliverables, Contract	Project Time Period	Project Status	Contact
La Crosse County HMP	Hazard Mitigation Plan	June 2025 – December 2026	Contracted with County to complete. Project is moving along. Jack has 8 meetings scheduled with communities to review risks, hazards, vulnerable populations, hazard response capabilities and mitigation project lists. First milestone achieved per contract.	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 all final invoicing completed and encourage Counties to send in any invoices outstanding to WEM for reimbursement.	Jack Zabrowski
Town of Maiden Rock Comp Plan	Town's Comprehensive Plan	2025 - 2026	Town of Maiden Rock met on 10/13 and Ken/Jon presented and the Town has selected us to do their Plan. Held kickoff meeting, presented initial existing conditions and worked on survey. Ken met with them on 12/1, survey is approved and being distributed.	Ken Harwood
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 discussing future of SMRT beyond 2025. They met in September to decide not to include it in County budget, however, it got added back during the final budget approval so they have contacted partners to see if dollars can be contributed for 2026 as others also removed it from their budgets. The MPO is conducting a study to consider a Regional Transportation Authority which might provide alternatives but will not be done until 2026.	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 has been approved by WisDOT. Ongoing efforts are focused on executing the 2025 tasks and maintaining collaboration on MPO transitions and planning updates.	Ken Harwood and Jon Bingol
Monroe County Economic Development Committee	Assisting the Committee as needed	Ongoing	Group has scheduled the 2026 MC EDT Summit for March 30 and 31 at Havenwood Event Center.	Jon Bingol

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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 ED committee is updating the VCEDLF manual. We collect payments and manage loan requests.	Jon Bingol & Sarah Ofte
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. Kia updated data and input from Chair. Still working to finish plan. Good intergovernmental collaboration meeting with the team 9/8. Public hearing was 10/13. Resolution from Planning Commission 11/10 and Town Board Ordinance adoption on 11/17. Plan is completed.	Jon Bingol & Kia Kling
Village of Oakdale Outdoor Rec Plan	Complete Village's 5 year CORP	November 2025 – April 2026	Sent proposed contract to Village to do CORP on 10/1 per their request. In 2026 budget, being approved at 12/15 Village Board meeting.	Kia Kling & 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 this fall both Chambers signed MOU.TBD	Ken Harwood & Jon
Town of Burns Comprehensive Plan	Township asked MRRPC to update their plan.	2024 - 2026	Jack Zabrowski attended the Town of Burns Town Board meeting on Nov. 13 to confirm initiation of the Comp Plan process creation. Jack presented final goals and objectives for Town review and the group will meet next in February, 2026.	Jack Zabrowski
City of Arcadia Comprehensive Plan	City asked MRRPC to update their plan.	2025 - 2026	City selected us to do the Comprehensive Plan scheduled to meet on 6/18. Kickoff meeting Kia and Jon with planning commission/city council 8/6 and on 9/16. Group has been meeting monthly and survey is out with versions in both Spanish and English.	Kia Kling & Jon Bingol
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 December 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. Group continues to work to finalize the Plan and grant got extended to December. Doing County presentations on Final draft 12/2 – 12/10. WCWRPC submitting final plan to USDA before 12/24/25.	Jon Bingol, Kia Kling Jack Zabrowski, and Ken Harwood
City of Galesville	City asked MRRPC to update their plan.	August 2025 – September 2026	We have been selected to do their comprehensive plan. Kickoff meeting on 8/19/25. Survey is completed and results were shared with their Plan Commission. Goals and objectives being updated, next meeting in January.	Jack Zabrowski & Jon Bingol
Town of Garden Valley Comprehensive Plan – Town of Garden Valley	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 and legal action. Town won zoning challenge, will restart Plan soon. TBD	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. Ken and Kia attended July meeting offered to help revise their study waiting for next steps.	Jon Bingol, Kia Kling, Ken Harwood
Jackson County ED committee	Advance and enhance economic development in the county	ongoing	We participate in monthly committee meetings They posted the ED position and are getting applicants. We conducted a community survey and will follow up with an employee survey to get more information on Economic development in the County.	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 applied for second grant. Reviewed engineering estimates for next project and group considered options to reduce the cost of pavilion. We will help them with a community survey to assist in creating a community development plan.	Jon Bingol
LCEDLF Committee	La Crosse County originally created this Committee to build the West Salem Industrial Park and approve loans in the EDA RLF (defed)	1990s - 2025	La Crosse County (LCC) disbanded the LCEDLF Committee and moved funds from Associated Bank to La Crosse County. One remaining loan has updated loan document redirecting payment to La Crosse County.	Jon Bingol & Sarah Ofte
Town of Clayton	Comp Plan	2026	Town of Clayton met on 10/8 to review proposal and approved using MRRPC to do the plan update. They will start in January 2026.	Ken Harwood

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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	Jon is President in 2025. Group to partner with SBDC, Score, WWBIC, 7Rivers, La Crosse County 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 may get grant dollars to assist with it. We plan to kick it off soon. Joined consortium to support LADCO application for WEDC Ignite grant. Still searching for new PT Director, job is posted.	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. Committee reviewed RFQ proposals from two firms and selected one. Working on next steps.	Jon Bingol, Kia Kling, Jack Zabrowski, Ken Harwood
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 JEM 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 at April 9 Bimonthly meeting. 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 3 loan/grants for \$300,000 with \$90,000 of it in grants distributed.	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 met monthly. Plan approved/adopted and is completed.	Ken Harwood
WEDC Disaster Recovery Micro Loan Fund	MRRPC distributed and administered no interest loans to businesses impacted by flooding in 2018	2019 - 2025	All the loans have been paid off and the contract allows MRRPC to determine use of recovered funds and allows us to close out the Fund. Moved dollars to Altra account.	Jon Bingol & Sarah Ofte
HMP preapplication for Buffalo County	5 year HMP process thru WEM/FEMA	12/24 - 2027	Grant program has been cancelled so we will keep County informed and offer to contract directly.	Jack Zabrowski & Jon
Audit firm CLA	Required annual government single audit	December 2025 – April 2026	Meeting with Brock 12/22 to get plan for audit and identify data request and processes. Presented and approved at April 8 bimonthly meeting.	Sarah Ofte & Jon Bingol

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Hazard Mitigation Plans for Jackson	5 year HMP process thru WEM/FEMA	12/24 - 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. Gave them a proposed contract for HMP.	Jack Zabrowski and Jon Bingol
Town of Arcadia	Garbage Study/Project	4/25 – 12/25	Town received an Innovation Grant and wanted us to do the study. Contract approved at 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 with Town and City, identified good savings prospects working on those options. Provided a draft of findings. Finalizing plan with actual savings.	Jon Bingol & Kia Kling
MRRPC Regional Comprehensive Plan Update	10 year Update of Plan	11/24 - 2026	Still gathering data to update Plan before sharing with MRRPC comprehensive plan committee. Kia has updated data and merging it into a new document. Will work to organize the committee and survey for plan has been revised and sent to Commission for review. Plan to gather feedback and convene group in January.	Jon Bingol & Kia Kling
DNR Water Quality Plan	Create a regional water quality plan	10/1/25 – 9/30/26	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. Passed DNR review, EPA approved, waiting on contract.	Jon Bingol & Jack Zabrowski