

Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission Staff Report on Projects for the Bimonthly Meeting on 2.11.2026

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 more 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 – Jackson and Buffalo Counties	Hazard Mitigation Plan	June 2025 – December 2027	Gave proposal to Jackson County, no responses yet. Buffalo County is going to update their plan in-house; I offered assistance if they want or need any.	Jon Bingol
Town of Maiden Rock Comp Plan	Town's comp plan	2025 - 2026	Town of Maiden Rock Planning Commission met on 2/3 with Ken, reviewed survey results and worked on goals and other sections of the plan.	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	La Crosse County met in December to decide to include it in County budget, they have contacted partners to see if \$s 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 mid-late 2026. The County leaders are keeping us posted as the project progresses.	Ken Harwood/ Jon Bingol
DOT Contract Work Plan	WisDOT is beginning to update the State Freight Plan. 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 2026 tasks and maintaining collaboration on MPO transitions and planning updates. WisDOT is moving up deadlines for the 2027 Plan and we may need to approve it in August. Also, the Title VI Plan needs to be updated by December.	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
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
Monroe County WEDC Thrive Rural recipient	Community Development project in Norwalk	February 2026 – December 2027	This second cohort of WEDC Thrive Rural grants just kicked off on 2/3/26. Jon has been included on the leadership team (like the Gays Mills project). Monroe County kickoff is 2/12/26.	Jon Bingol

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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, was approved at 12/15 Village Board meeting. Work is being done on the Plan.	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. Efforts have paused with leadership changes.	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 or March 2026.	Jack Zabrowski
City of Arcadia Comprehensive Plan	City asked MRRPC to update their plan.	2025 - 2026	City selected us to do the Comp Plan. Group has been meeting monthly and survey is out with versions in both Spanish and English. Sent another electronic blitz in January with help of schools. Team working on goals and elements.	Kia Kling
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. Group is contributing \$2k to Pitch Contest.	Jon Bingol
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 January 2026	WCWRPC submitting final plan to USDA.	Jon Bingol, Kia Kling Jack Zabrowski, and Ken Harwood
City of Galesville	City asked MRRPC to update their plan.	8/2025 – 9/26	We have been selected to do their comp 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
Town of Garden Valley Comprehensive Plan	Town asked MRRPC to update the plan. Group is working on land use information.	2024-2026	Ken working with them on goals for the plan. Plan was put on hold due to issues with a metallic mining operation and legal questions. Town won zoning challenge, will restart Plan soon. TBD	Ken Harwood

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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 and improve plan but group has slowed down on this effort. Jon attended January meeting and will continue offering assistance.	Jon Bingol and Ken Harwood
Jackson County ED committee	Advance and enhance economic development in the county	ongoing	We participate in monthly committee meetings. We conducted a community survey and will follow up with an employee survey Ken presented information to group in January. County hired an Economic Development & Tourism Director – Ken Pearson, he started on 1/26/26	Jon Bingol, Ken Harwood & Kia Kling
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 second \$25,000 grant. We will help them with a community survey to assist in creating a community development plan meeting on 2/11/26.	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 LCC. County Board created an Economic Development Committee to continue their efforts.	Jon Bingol & Sarah Ofte
Town of Clayton	Comp Plan	2026	Town of Clayton to met on 10/8 to review proposal and approved using MRRPC to do the plan update. They will start in February or March 2026. Some key committee members were out of the area.	Ken Harwood
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, Seven Rivers, 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 but did not have interest in first cohort. Joined consortium to support LADCO application for WEDC Ignite grant, they did not get big grant but did get \$10,000 to do some entrepreneurial training in the area. Selected new PT Director will start soon.	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 – December 2026	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 is a subcontractor of the City and the \$80,000 grant. Committee reviewed RFQ proposals from two firms and selected one. Contracted with Jewell for engineering. 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

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WEDC SBDC 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 4 loan/grants for \$320,000 with \$95,000 of it in grants distributed. Business Plan contest deadline to submit is 2/13/26 at noon.	Jon Bingol
Audit firm CLA	Required annual government single audit	December 2026 – April 2027	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
Town of Arcadia	Garbage Study/Project	4/25 – 12/25	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 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
Jackson County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan	Complete ORP for County	1/26 – 4/30/26	Working with County Parks Department to update their Outdoor Rec Plan. Work has begun on the Plan.	Kia Kling & Ken H
Clean Cities Grant	Contracted by Clean Cities to do Community Engagement and Mapping of Great River Road EV/CNG fueling sites	2/26 – 12/26	Told Clean Cities I wanted to present it to MRRPC Board for discussion. This is a Dept of Energy Grant dispersed through the American Lung Assoc. to Clean Cities and \$30,000 contracted to us should we agree.	Jon Bingol
EDA RLF Update 5-year Plan	EDA requirement to update Cares Act RLF Plan	Due 1/30/26	We updated the RLF Plan and have preliminary approval but need a resolution from the MRRPC Board at 2/11/26 meeting to complete the process.	Sara Ofte and Jon Bingol
3-year EDA Project Planning Grant	Apply for EDA Project Planning Grant for 4/1/26 - 3/31/29	Due 2/20/26	We are in the process of applying for this EDA grant. We need MRRPC Board resolution/approval at 2/11/26 meeting.	Sara Ofte and Jon Bingol
MRRPC Regional Comprehensive Plan Update	10 year Update of Plan	11/24 - 2026	Still gathering data to update Plan before sharing with MRRPC comp 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 update progress at February meeting.	Jon Bingol & Kia Kling
DNR Water Quality Plan	Create a regional water quality plan	10/1/25 – 9/30/26	EPA approved MRRPC Regional Water Quality Study \$50,000 grant and they extended deadline to March 2027 due to approval delay. Contract signed.	Jon Bingol & Jack Zabrowski