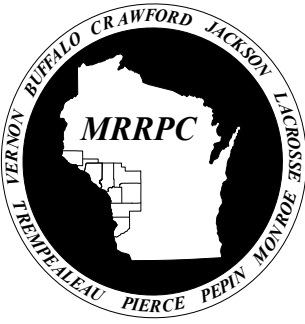




**MISSISSIPPI RIVER
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**
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James Kuhn, Cashton, WI
Chairman
Bill E. Schroeder, Hager City, WI
Vice Chairman
Vicki Burke, Holmen, WI
Secretary & Treasurer
Jon Bingol, La Crosse, WI
Executive Director

MINUTES

MISSISSIPPI RIVER REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (MRRPC) BIMONTHLY MEETING

10:00 a.m., Wednesday, April 8, 2026

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 guests in attendance: Brian Westrate, Representative Derrick Van Orden, Ken Pearson, Economic Development and Tourism Director - Jackson County, Francis Schelfhout, WI DOT, Roxie Anderson, Monroe County Land Conservation Department, Rebecca Giroux, WHEDA, Nicole Baumeister, Crawford County ADRC Director, Brock Geyen CPA, CLA, and John Kruger, Director Coulee Region Business Center. The attendance roster is attached.

Minutes of February 10, 2026, Bimonthly Meeting

Chairman Kuhn asked for a motion on the February 10, 2026, bimonthly meeting minutes. Commissioner McMillen Urell made a motion to approve the February 10, 2026, bimonthly meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schlesselman. Chairman Kuhn asked if there were any questions or comments and hearing none, the minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Secretary Burke reported that on February 1, 2026, the balance in all accounts was \$702,298.98 and on March 31, 2026, the ending balance in all accounts was \$702,024.74. She reported the beginning balance on February 1, 2026, in all Revolving Loan Fund accounts was \$1,060,711.83 and the ending balance in all accounts on March 31, 2026, was \$1,115,703.71. Commissioner Borreson made a motion to approve the treasurer's report as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Anderson. Chairman Kuhn asked if there were any questions or comments, and the Treasurer's Report was unanimously approved.

2025 Annual Audit Presentation by Brock Geyen, CPA, CLA (CliftonLarsonAllen LLP)

Brock Geyen the CPA with CLA presented commissioners with a handout and explained the Single Audit requirements due to the level of Federal expenditures of the commission. He reported that the commission received an unmodified opinion of the financials which is what an organization would want. He reported that there is a lack of segregation of duties which is due to the small number of staff. He said that only 2 clients of the 170 he works with do not get this finding. He asked if there were any questions he could answer.

Decision on 2025 MRRPC Annual Audit

Chairman Kuhn asked if there were any questions about the audit presentation. There were none and he asked for a motion to approve the 2025 audit as presented. Commissioner Schlesselman made a motion to approve the Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission's 2025 annual audit as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Carney and the motion was unanimously approved.

Providing Planning and Economic Development Services to Improve the Environment, Economy and Quality of Life

• Land Use Planning and Zoning Assistance • Transportation Planning • Economic Development Planning • Recreation Planning • Business Lending • Grant Writing • Economic Data Dissemination • Assisting Local Interests in Responding to State, Federal and Private Programs • Advisory Services on Planning and Development Issues • Coordinator for Programs and Activities • Advocate on Issues Affecting the Region

Presentation by John Kruger, Director – Coulee Region Business Center (CRBC)

Mr. Kruger, Director - Coulee Region Business Center gave a presentation about the Coulee Region Business Center (CRBC) and the resources it provides. He reported that the CRBC began in 1986 and has 28,000 sq. ft. to accommodate all types of businesses from general commercial space, private office space, and a commercial kitchen. Besides space to begin a business, he said that businesses can get assistance with marketing and coaching about how to launch a business.

Decision on County Contributions 2027

Mr. Bingol directed the attendees to the screen. He said that the county contributions are based on the real equalized property value with the chart showing the 2024 values and the 2025 values and the county contributions from 2026 and the proposed 2027 county contributions. He reported that the average increase in valuation from 2024 to 2025 was 10 percent. The recommendation of the Executive and Administration Committee was to increase the total county contribution amount by 4 percent.

2027 COUNTY CONTRIBUTION AMOUNTS				
	2024 Real Property Equalized Value	2025 Real Property Equalized Value	2026 Contributions Rate of .00041611001%	2027 Contributions Rate of .0003975901%
Buffalo	1,764,811,100	2,016,921,500	7,344	8,019
Crawford	1,965,030,500	2,209,002,100	8,177	8,783
Jackson	2,412,168,400	2,736,142,600	10,037	10,879
La Crosse	15,912,207,700	17,210,924,900	66,212	68,429
Monroe	5,315,812,600	5,697,778,800	22,120	22,654
Pepin	1,067,565,900	1,184,142,100	4,442	4,708
Pierce	5,842,521,900	6,259,677,800	24,311	24,888
Trempealeau	3,526,476,900	3,835,471,100	14,674	15,249
Vernon	3,557,936,300	3,943,496,600	14,805	15,679
Total	41,364,531,300	45,093,557,500	172,122	179,288

A motion was made by Commissioner Borreson and seconded by Commissioner Cooper to approve the presented 4% increase for the 2027 county contributions totaling \$179,288. The motion carried unanimously.

Decision on Staff Salary Increases 2026

Mr. Bingol reported that the increases in wages were recommended by the Executive and Administration Committee. A motion was made by Commissioner Borreson and seconded by Commissioner Sorge to approve the presented Executive and Administration Committee's 2026 Staff Salary Structure recommendation of a \$6,000 a year increase for the Executive Director, a 4% salary increase for the Senior Office Manager, Senior Planner, and both Planners beginning July 1, 2026. Chairman Kuhn asked if there were any questions or discussion. Chairman Kuhn asked if there were any other questions or discussion and hearing none the motion was unanimously approved.

Decision on Crawford County Comprehensive Plan Contract

Mr. Bingol reported that he had been in discussions with Crawford County and with our work in other townships and our work with the housing taskforce that it would be beneficial to update their comprehensive plan since they are beyond the 10-year mark for a plan update. After discussion a motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Krachey to approve the Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission to enter a contract with Crawford County to update their comprehensive plan. Chairman Kuhn asked if there were any other questions or discussion and hearing none the motion was unanimously approved.

Decision on Village of Oakdale CDBG Grant Administration

Mr. Bingol reported that the Village of Oakdale is pursuing a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to evaluate their water and sewer system which is aging. He said that they have approached the MRRPC to possibly administer the \$50,000 grant. He said that the middle of May is the deadline for the village to apply for the grant. After discussion a motion was made by Commissioner Chown and seconded by Commissioner Gulbranson to approve the Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission to enter a contract with Village of Oakdale to administer a CDBG Grant. Chairman Kuhn asked if there were any other questions or discussion and hearing none the motion was unanimously approved.

MRRPC Comprehensive Plan Update

Mr. Bingol reported that he will send a new link to the MRRPC Comprehensive Plan Survey.

Update on La Crosse County HMP

Mr. Bingol reported that the La Crosse County HMP was progressing. He said that risks and hazards are being assessed in every township, village, and city with public engagement meetings with 4 more meetings to be held. He said that these meetings assist the communities with developing potential projects. He also said that we are working with the GIS team at La Crosse County to create a GIS hub for the county to identify disasters and share information with the citizens.

Monroe County Economic Development & Tourism Conference

Mr. Bingol reported that the Monroe County Economic Development & Tourism Conference was held on March 30-31 at a new venue this year, the Havenwood Event Center in Sparta, WI. He said that there were over 120 registrants and had several different levels of sponsorship with about 80 attending each day. Reach Travel Media assisted and marketed the event for Monroe County, and it was a very successful event.

Update on Transportation Activities

Mr. Harwood reported that he and Mr. Bingol attended the quarterly meeting for the Department of Transportation, Regional Planning Commissions, and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) in the state. He said that he serves as a technical advisor on the MPO board in La Crosse County. He reported that the MPO in La Crosse County is trying to create a regional transit authority and the SMRT Bus would become part of it.

Update on WEDC SBDG Grant

Mr. Bingol reported that the WEDC SBDG Grant of \$250,000 with the \$44,000 match that the commission was awarded has until the end of the year to award all the funds. He said that the business plan and pitch contest portion of the award had 24 entries and 7 of the business plans were selected. He said that the presentations for the pitch contest were being scheduled.

Reports from Commissioners

Commissioner Schlesselman wanted to thank Commissioner McMillen Urell for serving on the commission board as a member of the Buffalo County Board.

Commissioner Seipel wanted to thank the commission staff for their work.

Directors Report

Mr. Bingol reported that the Clean Cities Grant will have its kickoff this month. He said that the 8 counties along the Great River Road will be the study area. The grant will explore all alternative fuels along the Great River Road including electric charging stations, compressed natural gas, and ethanol fuels. He said that we will be developing a survey.

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 Borreson and seconded by Commissioner Krachey. The motion was unanimously approved.

Vicki Burke,
Secretary/ Treasurer

Date

MRRPC Bimonthly Meeting Attendees	
Name	Representing
John Schlesselman	Buffalo County – in person
Mary Anne McMillan Urell	Buffalo County – online
Craig Anderson	Crawford County – in person
Gerald Krachey	Crawford County – in person
Ron Carney	Jackson County – in person
Brad Chown	Jackson County - person
Leonardo Silva	La Crosse County – in person
Vicki Burke	La Crosse County – in person
James Kuhn	Monroe County – in person
Dennis Treu	Monroe County - online
Kim Seipel	Pepin County – in person
Neil Gulbranson	Pierce County – in person
Patrick Sorge	Trempealeau County – in person
Phil Borreson	Trempealeau County – in person
Charles Jacobson	Vernon County – in person
JoAnn Nickelatti	Vernon County - online
Nancy Jaekel	Vernon County – online
Jon Bingol	MRRPC Staff – in person
Sarah Ofte	MRRPC Staff – in person
Ken Harwood	MRRPC Staff – in person
Jack Zabrowski	MRRPC Staff – in person
Kia Kling	MRRPC Staff – in person
Josh Stratman	MRRPC Intern – in person
Ken Pearson	Economic Development and Tourism Director - Jackson County
Rebecca Giroux	WHEDA
Brian Westrate	Representing Representative Derrick Van Orden
Francis Schlefhout	WI DOT
Roxie Anderson	Monroe County Land Conservation
Nicole Beumeister	Crawford County ADRC Director
Brock Geyen	CLA
John Kruger	Director, Coulee Region Business Center