

Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission Staff Report on Projects for the Bimonthly Meeting on 10.14.2026

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 County EM committee to finalize the Plan and after that it should go to the County Board for approval. We have not heard about BRIC funding for LCC.	Jack Zabrowski and Jon Bingol
Hazard Mitigation Plan Updates – Jackson	Hazard Mitigation Plan	June 2025 – December 2027	Gave proposal to Jackson County, just received award letter from WEM/FEMA and they want us to complete the HMP. Contract per BRIC Grant to be presented on 10/14 and they will discuss on 10/15 in JC.	Jon Bingol Jack Zabrowski
Town of Maiden Rock Comp Plan	Town's comp plan	2025 - 2026	Town of Maiden Rock Planning Commission met in May with Ken, and set goals and other sections of the plan. Getting closer, set dates for public hearing soon.	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 came from a federal DOT grant, local governments, corporate donations, Bremer Foundation Grants, and the fare box but was insufficient.	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. Participating counties and groups do not seem favorable on making needed investment to share the cost of SMRT. The MPO study of forming a Regional Transportation Authority is completed. A group is looking at alternatives for regional transport efforts. The County leaders are keeping us posted as it is planned to end service at the end of this year.	Ken Harwood/Jon B
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 2027 Plan is approved. Also, the Title VI Plan needs to be updated in December. Annual meeting was in September in Oshkosh.	Ken Harwood and Jon Bingol
Monroe County Economic Development Committee	Assisting the Committee as needed	Ongoing	Committee has been restructured and better defined with 5 County Supervisors and 5 Advisory members. We are now considered a partner rather than an Advisory member. The leadership did ask us to continue participating and helping where we can.	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 priorities this month with the new committee members. We collect payments and manage loan requests. Helped judge elevate grant.	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). Norwalk leadership met with the team in April and is considering project options. Group approved doing UW Ext Design WI and having us update their comp plan. Application for grant goes to County board on 8/26. Waiting on grant approval at WEDC to start.	All MRRPC Staff will be involved

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Village of Oakdale Outdoor Rec Plan	Complete Village's 5 year CORP	November 2025 – December 2026	Village CORP was approved at 12/15 Village Board meeting. Kia has plan mostly completed and met with Village on 10/5.	Kia Kling
Northern Grain Belt Port Statistical Area	Ability to have data on volume of goods shipped through the ports	Ongoing	La Crosse City/County Joint Harbor Commission, City of PDC, both Chambers of Commerce (LC and PDC) and us have signed the MOU. LC Chamber is taking a larger role and will be the lead organization created Bylaws. Ken H will be our rep on the new organization.	Ken Harwood & Jon
Town of Burns Comprehensive Plan	Township asked MRRPC to update their plan.	2024 - 2026	Jack presented final goals and objectives and the plan is nearing completion. Public meeting to be scheduled following approval.	Jack Zabrowski
City of Arcadia Comprehensive Plan	City asked MRRPC to update their plan.	2025 - 2026	Group has been meeting monthly and is working on goals and remaining elements. Jack and Kia are working on Future Land use info and compliance with Act 173. Kia encouraging the intergovernmental collaboration meeting and finalize goals/projects.	Kia Kling
Pierce County EDC	Develop strong partnership and connection with EDO.	ongoing	Working to build stronger connections. Group contributed \$2k to Pitch Contest and the Director also participated as a judge. She is also now on the BCF Board and promotes the RLF.	Jon Bingol
City of Galesville	City asked MRRPC to update their plan.	8/2025 – 9/26	Goals and objectives updated, plan going well. Updating housing projections to comply with new Act 173 law, specifying densities and housing units over next 20 years in 5-year increments and future land use. Sent final draft encouraging the intergov collab meeting.	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. Ken making requested updates. Town needs to make decisions before we can move forward to complete the plan.	Ken Harwood
Crawford County Housing Task Force	Developing actionable strategies to improve housing in the county	ongoing	The group is considering various ideas to move the effort forward. The new DDI Director is willing to help us too. Crawford County did get \$500,000 for incentives to recruit people to the county from out of state via WEDC.	Jon Bingol and Ken Harwood
Jackson County ED committee	Advance and enhance economic development in the county	ongoing	We participate in monthly committee meetings. JC Economic Development & Tourism Director – Ken Pearson, he started on 1/26/26. Group moving forward. We continue to help where able.	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. Group is wrapping up second grant and did get updated (reduced scope) on the Community Shelter. Should wrap up soon.	Jon Bingol

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Town of Clayton	Comp Plan	2026	Town of Clayton working on the comp plan update. Ken is meeting with them regularly and they are advancing the plan.	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 2026. 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. 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 two sessions, one on September 29 and other on November 11. New Director applied for WEDC SBTA grant on 10/2	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. Contracted with Jewell for engineering. Jewell prepared/presented preliminary alternatives for Trail expansion. Working on costs for each selected option. Jewell working on Final Draft of alternatives with cost estimates.	Jon Bingol, Kia Kling, 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. Jon to present to them on 8/14. Next meeting in Nov.	Ken Harwood & Jon Bingol
WEDC SBD Grant	Apply for WEDC SBD grant for \$250,000 for the 9-county region	October 2024 – December 2026	Raised \$44,000 match from Vernon County \$10,000, La Crosse County \$30,000 (committed waiting to close) and Monroe County \$4,000. Approved 8 loan/grants for \$533,000 with grants of \$151,000 WEDC and \$40,000 from match distributed. Business Plan/Pitch contest distributed \$21,000 to 8 companies. \$81,000 of \$250,000 left, \$4,000 (MC) left of \$44,000 match. Working on a MC loan to utilize match and grant.	Jon Bingol
Audit firm CLA	Required annual government single audit	December 2026 – April 2027	Presented and approved at April 8 bimonthly meeting. Need Brock to add “Schedule of State Awards” to fulfill WEDC requirement for grant...instead CLA did SOE – Schedule of Expenses for WEDC per statute for \$1600. Jon uploaded it to fac.gov in August.	Sarah Ofte & Jon Bingol
New Audit Firm?	Reviewing Proposal	2026 Audit	To be completed by August MRRPC meeting 8/11	Jon B
Jackson County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan	Complete ORP for County	1/26 – 6/30/26	Working with County Parks Department and Chamber to update their Outdoor Rec Plan. Working on the Plan.	Kia Kling & Ken H

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Clean Cities Grant	Contracted by Clean Cities to do Community Engagement and Mapping of Great River Road EV/CNG fueling sites	2/26 – 6/27	This is a Dept of Energy Grant dispersed through the American Lung Assoc. to Clean Cities and \$30,000 contract. Work started, surveys approved distributed Freight Survey in August and Community Survey in September. Inventory of alternative fuel sites in the Great River Road corridor is progressing. Public meeting will be scheduled for late Oct or early Nov. Goal 500 contacts.	MRRPC Team
Regional Industrial Site Assessment	Partnering with 7RiversAlliance and utilities	2026 - 2027	There is a need to develop an inventory of available sites for development in all 9 counties as well as assess readiness and identify recommendations where needed. 7RA submitting request for WEDC for Capacity Building Grant and requested contribution for counties and utility companies. Waiting for funding.	Jon Bingol & Ken Harwood
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 apply for this EDA grant. We need MRRPC Board resolution/approval at 2/11/26 meeting. Submitted on 2/20 waiting for approval. Supposedly approved and Sarah submitted first two quarters for reimbursement.	Sarah 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 discuss new approach with Commission. TBD	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. Started on project. Data has been requested to Ben Koch WI DNR Regional Engineer for CMAR for wastewater treatment plants in the region. Submitting QAPP in October.	Jon Bingol, Kia Kling & Jack Zabrowski
Crawford County Comprehensive Plan	Update the plan	2026 - 2027	County kickoff with Land Use and Soil & Water committees 8/11. Update under way.	Kia and Ken
Trempealeau County Outdoor Rec Plan	Update Plan by April 2027	2026 - 2027	Working on details with County Parks. Jon presented it to County Board committee in September. Waiting for direction to start.	Jon
Trempealeau County Comp Plans for Townships	Update Town Plans	2026 - 2028	Met County staff in September to develop timeline, costs, etc...he was to meet with Admin, but she is leaving end of Oct.	Jon
Opportunity Zones 2.0	Nominate approved census tracts in the Region for Governor selection	7/31/26	All available sites did submit applications for the Governor's selection via WEDC. This program is run through US Treasury and attracts investment by providing incentives to reduce capital gains for investors. No news yet.	Jon
Town of Jefferson Monroe County Comp Plan	Update Town comp plan	2026 - 2027	Town approved and we are underway. Magnus updated maps, committee is reviewing survey questions and old plan.	Ken H
Placer.ai Reports	Delivered reports to	ongoing	Working with Explore La Crosse, City of La Crosse and City of Onalaska on custom reports. Received payments from all three.	Jon

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Crawford County Farmland Preservation Plan	Update Plan subcontractor in DTCAP grant	Match Comp Plan Timing in 2027	Working with Dave T to get started.	Jack Z and Jon B
Osseo Comp Plan	Update Plan Phase 1 Phase 2	Phase 2 done 2027	Completed Phase 1 so City got immediate update to establish ETZ and land use maps. Phase 2 full update underway.	Kia K and Ken H
Osseo Strategic Plan	5–10-year Community Plan	Dec 2026	3 phased approach, completed phase 1 in July, meeting to schedule Phase 2 community visioning in October	Jon B plus MRRPC Team
Osseo Lake Martha Plan	Update Lake Plan	September 2027	Still working on project scope	Jon B and Kia K
TUMMA Admin	Admin/Exec Director for TUMMA	September 2026 started and ongoing	Getting historical info and establishing handoff of contracts and reporting. Goal to grow membership, programs and value proposition.	Jon B and MRRPC Team
CEDS Update	5-year EDA/EDD requirement	Due 1/2027	Starting process now taking new approach goal to have Plan for 12/9/26 Commission meeting	Jon B and MRRPC Team
RLFs: CMV, BCF& CAREs Act	Provide Gap financing appropriately across the Region	ongoing	Working with ED partners, financial institutions and communities to assist businesses through GAP financing to assist as needed.	Jon B and Sarah O