



Commission in Review

February 2008

Serving local governments in Muscatine and Scott Counties, Iowa;
Henry, Mercer, and Rock Island Counties, Illinois.

NEXT COMMISSION MEETING:

Wed., March 26, 2008
3:30 p.m.

Scott Co. Admin Bldg.
6th Floor Conf. Room
600 West 4th Street
Davenport, Iowa

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The January 2008 Public
Officials Directory is now
available in hard copy
and electronically.

To receive a copy of the
POD, contact Sarah
Grabowski at
(309) 793-6302, Ext. 136
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Mission Statement:

To serve as a forum
for intergovernmental
cooperation and
delivery of regional
programs and to
assist member local
governments in
planning and project
development.

New Committee Assignments for 2008-2009

New assignments to the Executive and Finance and Personnel Committees for the 2008-2009 term were approved at the Bi-State Commission meeting held February 27, 2008. Committee members names and affiliations are as follows:

Executive Committee

Don Welvaert - Chair
Mayor, City of Moline

Mike Freemire - Vice-Chair
Mayor, City of Bettendorf

Larry Minard - Secretary
Member, Scott County Board of
Supervisors

Pat Ripperger - Treasurer
Member, Henry County Board

Paul Barnes, Mayor of Blue Grass
Iowa Small Communities Rep.

Jim Bohnsack, Chair, Rock Island
County Board

Tom Furlong, Chair, Muscatine County
Board

Bill Gluba, Mayor, City of Davenport
Tom Harris, Chair, Mercer County Board

Nathaniel Lawrence, Minority Rep.

Mark Schwiebert, Mayor, City of Rock
Island

Finance and Personnel Committee

John Malvik - Chair
Member, Rock Island County Board

Chuck Austin, Alderman, City of Rock
Island

Esther Dean, Member, Muscatine
County Board

Chris Gallin, Member, Scott County
Board

Cheryl Goodwin, Human Services Rep.

Jo Anne Hillman, Member, Henry
County Board

Danny McDaniel, Mayor of Colona
Illinois Small Communities Rep.

Gene Meeker, Alderman, City of
Davenport

Liz Sherwin, Minority Representative

Enhancement Grant Round and Illinois Green Streets

A grant round has been announced for the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) and a new Illinois Green Streets Program. The deadline is May 5, 2008 at 4:30 p.m. for both programs. Applications may be submitted online at www.dot.il.gov/opp/itep.html; grant guidance may be obtained at that website also. Matching funds are 80/20 for both programs. No application workshops will be held.

The Governor's new Illinois Green Streets Initiative is part of the Replanting the Prairie State Initiative to further reduce greenhouse emissions in the state. Although funded through the ITEP program, applications for the Illinois Green Streets Initiative will utilize a separate application unique to that program. Funds for this program can only be used for planting of trees or prairie grasses.

As in the past, ITEP provides funding for community based projects that expand travel choices and enhance the transportation experience by improving the cultural, historic, aesthetic and environmental aspects of our transportation infrastructure.

“It All Adds Up to Cleaner Air” Status Report

The mission of the Quad Cities Air Quality Task Force is to support good standing for air quality in the Quad Cities Area through voluntary air emission reduction efforts and cooperative sharing of experience and knowledge. The Task Force provided comments on the suggested lowering of the ozone standard and are monitoring activities on fine particulate pollution.

Currently, the Quad Cities Area is 80% of the 8-hour standard for ground level ozone, commonly known as smog. Over the last few years, reductions in the number of unhealthy air days from smog has been realized through local emission reduction efforts, national emission regulations and favorable weather conditions.

In contrast, the area is 91% of the fine particulates standard for years 2004-2006, which is a relatively new pollutant being monitored under the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). Fine particulate pollution results from the combustion process via vehicles, power plants, industrial processes, forest fires, and even wood-burning stoves and fireplaces. Both ozone and fine particulate have been linked to health problems, such as asthma, chronic bronchitis and decreased lung function. This is an especially important issue for sensitive populations - young children, older adults, outdoor workers, and those who already have respiratory problems.

Recently, the Quad Cities Air Quality Task Force learned more about the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) process for designating areas for non-attainment of the fine particulate standard. Based on initial evaluations by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, consideration is being given to designating Scott and Muscatine Counties for non-attainment of the fine particulate standard. By the end of April 2008, state recommendations will be made to the USEPA who will review and re-evaluate the state data and make a final recommendation. Final designations will occur in December 2008.

Whatever the outcome of the designation process, voluntary emission reductions measures can “add up” to cleaner air today. Commissioners are encouraged to purchase of cleaner fleet vehicles and fuel, accelerate replacement of small spark engines that now have emission controls, limit engine idling, take transit or bicycles on short trips, walk instead of driving, and use greener products with less evaporative fumes.

For more information or a presentation on air quality and emission reduction opportunities, contact Gena McCullough at (309)793-6302, Ext. 146 or by e-mail at gmccullough@bistateonline.org.

Wind Energy in Henry County

Tom Nicholson, Commissioner and Henry County Board Chairman, reported on wind energy projects in Henry County. He summarized some general facts regarding wind turbines and wind energy. The height of a two megawatt wind turbine from the ground to the top of the rotor is equal to a 30-story building, and 600 households could run on the energy from one of these turbines. North Dakota has the greatest potential wind resource for the turbines in the U.S., but Texas has the most wind power installed. He noted that Iowa has the third most wind power installed in the country. Wind power accounts for only two-tenths of one percent of the U.S. energy supply, but the U.S. goal is for 20% of the country’s power to one day be provided through wind energy. It is not surprising that coal supplies the majority of the energy in the U.S.

A wind study is very important to determine the viability of a wind turbine project. A wind study should be conducted over at least one year, and the average wind speed needed is 13 miles per hour. Henry County conducted a study, and the average speed was 17 miles per hour. Other factors that weigh into the competitive

Get Fit. Save Money. Be a Hero.

Get moving with healthy travel alternatives

- **Fact:** Walking and in-line skating are great exercise, can save you \$, and prolong the life of your vehicle (and YOU)! They also help reduce traffic congestion, pollution, (and cellulite)!!

Have fun! Ride your bike

- **Fact:** Vehicles create **more than 25%** of air pollution nationwide. Bike to work, to run errands, etc. And remember, biking is not just for recreation: it can fill LOTS of travel needs more pleasantly!

Take mass transit, share a ride, or carpool

- **Fact:** Car ownership costs about **56¢ per mile** (ownership & maintenance): that's an average of over **\$5,000** per year!

Leave home without it

- **Fact:** Leaving your car at home **just 2 days a week** will reduce your contribution to greenhouse gas emissions by about **1600 lbs. year.**

Trip chain more often

- **Fact:** When you first start a car after it's been sitting for more than an hour, it pollutes up to five times more than when the engine's warm.

Care for your car

- **Fact:** Up to **two billion gallons of fuel per year would be saved** if everyone's tires were always properly inflated - how's that for simple?

Get fuel when it's cool

- **Fact:** Refueling during cooler periods of the day can prevent gas fumes from heating up and creating ground-level ozone.

Stop at the click

- **Fact:** Topping off your tank releases gas fumes into the air and **cancels the benefits** of the pump's anti-pollution devices

Remember,

It all adds up to cleaner air

For more information and helpful links visit:
www.qctransit.com

U.S. Department of Transportation Bi-State EPA

Wind (From Page 2)

advantage of establishing a wind energy center are the existence of electrical transmission lines, the availability of land, and willing land owners and local governments. Three different companies are looking at establishing wind centers in Henry County and would use 57,000 acres. This would involve the construction of 571 wind turbines that could supply energy to 250,000 homes.

The factors used to determine the cost of wind-generated electricity are the size of the wind farm, the wind speed at the site, and the cost of installing the turbines. If the wind turbines are constructed, the County will receive nearly \$4 million in building permits, approximately \$7,000 per turbine. The annual real estate taxes that would be generated for the turbines would be \$7.5 million. Schools would benefit from the increased tax base, and each megawatt of wind power generally results in 2.5 full-time jobs in addition to hundreds of construction jobs. Farmers providing acreages for the turbines will yield approximately \$7,500 annually for each 1-1.5 mega watt turbine on their land for approximately 40 years.

Mr. Nicholson noted that there are no turbines of this scale in as yet in Henry County. He also mentioned the tax credit for wind energy in the federal economic stimulus package failed. While this would help promote the consideration of wind energy projects, viable projects will likely continue to move forward.

Bridge Restrictions as of February 19, 2008

In its continuing coordination efforts since 1981, Bi-State Regional Commission has contacted annually the authorities responsible for repairs and construction on the Mississippi and Rock River bridges in the Quad City Metropolitan Area. The following restrictions will take place as of February 19, 2008:

Mississippi River (Iowa/Illinois) Bridge Location	Restriction	Timeline
I-74 Mississippi River (Iowa/Illinois)	Quad City Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) and Dynamic Message Sign (DMS) projects. Non-peak night- time lane closure and a few days of non-peak daytime lane closures, short duration.	DMS: January - August 2008 ITS: June 2008
	Bridge washing. Nighttime lane closures.	Spring 2008
	Annual Bridge Maintenance and Inspection Activities. Intermittent non-peak daytime lane closures.	Summer 2008
	Iowa’s Annual Pavement Patching/Maintenance Projects. Nighttime lane closures.	Summer 2008
I-80 Mississippi River (Iowa/Illinois)	Bridge washing one week. Intermittent non-peak hour lane closures.	Summer 2008
	Iowa’s Annual Pavement Patching/Maintenance Projects. Nighttime lane closures.	Summer 2008
I-280 Mississippi River (Iowa/Illinois)	Bridge washing one week. Intermittent non-peak hour lane closures.	Summer 2008
	Iowa’s Annual Pavement Patching/Maintenance Projects. Nighttime lane closures.	Summer 2008
U.S. 67 Centennial Bridge Mississippi River (Iowa/Illinois)	Bridge washing one week. Intermittent non-peak hour lane closures.	Summer 2008

Bridges (From Page 3)

Mississippi River (Iowa/Illinois) Bridge Location	Restriction	Timeline
Government Bridge Mississippi River (Rock Island Arsenal)	Swing span gives right-of-way to river barge traffic. Expect periodic vehicular, bicycle, and pedestrian delays. Commercial river traffic asked to voluntarily delay locking through between 5:30 - 7:00 a.m. and 2:45 - 4:15 p.m.	Summer 2008
Government Bridge Mississippi River (Rock Island Arsenal)	Bridge Washing: Remove accumulated foreign material/wash entire bridge. Power flush bridge deck drains (Quarterly)	January, April, July, October 2008
Moline Viaduct and Mississippi River (Rock Island Arsenal)	Clean and seal paved surfaces. Intermittent non-peak hour lane closures.	September 2008
	Bridge Washing: Remove accumulated foreign material/wash entire bridge. Power flush bridge deck drains (Quarterly)	January, April, July, October 2008
Rock Island Viaduct (Rock Island Arsenal)	American Discovery Trail - sidewalk on Ft. Armstrong Avenue widening (to be announced). Restrictions will be announced prior to construction. Intermittent lane closures.	Spring 2008
	Bridge Washing: Remove accumulated foreign material/wash entire bridge. Power flush bridge deck drains (Quarterly)	January, April, July, October 2008
	Clean and seal paved surfaces. Intermittent non-peak hour lane closures.	September 2008
I-74 (Rock River - Illinois)	Bridge washing one week. Intermittent non-peak hour lane closures.	Summer 2008
U.S. 67 (Rock River - Illinois)	Bridge washing one week. Intermittent non-peak hour lane closures.	Summer 2008
27th Street Moline (Rock River - Illinois)	Bridge washing one week. Intermittent non-peak hour lane closures.	Summer 2008

Residents can consider transit options by contacting Bettendorf Transit at (563) 344-4085, Davenport CitiBus at (563) 888-2151 or MetroLINK at (309) 788-3360 or visiting www.gctransit.com. Unforeseen emergency situations or weather may occur to revise the above information.

For Information Contact: Gena McCullough, Bi-State Regional Commission, Phone: (309) 793-6302, Ext. 146 or e-mail at gmccullough@bistateonline.org.

Upcoming Planning Conference Opportunities

The next two American Planning Association (APA) audio/visual-conferences are as follows. Register by calling Bi-State at 1-888-BISTATE (toll free), (309) 793-6302, ext. 138, or via e-mail at ppearson@bistateonline.org.

March 19, 2008

Confronting Nimbys - Third Floor Conference Room,
Rock Island County Office Building; 3-4:30 p.m.

April 16, 2008

Introduction to the Zoning Board of Adjustment - Rock
Island Public Library; 6-8 p.m.

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