



Commission in Review

May 2008

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

NEXT COMMISSION MEETING:

Wed., June 25, 2008
3:30 p.m.

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

APA TRAINING SERIES

"Planning Law Review"

Wed., June 25, 2008
3-4:30 p.m.

Bi-State Conf. Room
1504 Third Ave., R.I.
Call (309) 793-6302,
Ext. 138 to register

CIR VIA E-MAIL

Would you like to get
this report via e-mail?
Let us know at
info@bistateonline.org

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.*

Recommended FY 2009 Budget Under Review

Denise Bulat, Executive Director, reviewed the draft FY 2009 Budget, as recommended by the Finance and Personnel Committee, which will lay on the table until consideration by the Commission at its June 25th meeting.

She reported revenues for FY 2009 are projected to be up \$43,000 (2.6%) from the current year, primarily attributable to increased earmarks and use of carry over funds for transportation programs. Membership dues for local governments are proposed to increase 3% overall, although the effect on members dues will not occur until their next budget cycle. This rate of increase is comparable to the level of increase approved in prior years. Even though needs of the organization could justify a greater increase, this represents a reasonable effort to sustain steady growth in the local support base while recognizing fiscal constraints of our members.

A cost of living adjustment of 2% is recommended, as well as continuation of the merit performance review program, which the projected average is 2.5%. In the 42 year history of Bi-State funding, federal/state funding has gone from over 76% to 56% of the total budget. Membership dues now make up 22% of revenues and contractual revenue provides 17%.

Anyone who has questions about the budget or wants a budget document may call Denise Bulat or Donna Moritz at Bi-State (793-6300 or 1-888-247-8284).



Iowa Legislature Announces New Grant

The Iowa Legislature created the Local Government Innovation Commission to stimulate and encourage innovation in local government by providing grant dollars to assist in the implementation of local governance and revenue models.

Application packets should be available in July 2008. Those interested in submitting an application must first submit a Letter of Intent to Apply by September 15. Eligible applicants will then need to submit a full application by November 1.

Eligible applicants are community-wide areas that include a consortium of counties, cities, or townships. State agencies, community colleges, school districts, councils of governments, private business, and not-for-profit agencies also may participate in a project if joined by a county, city, or township.

Eligible government innovation projects will fit one or more of the following categories:

1. Produce cost savings to citizens, in particular reduction of property taxes
2. Create, or induce to create, high-wage, stable employment opportunities for a local government's citizens and more effective leveraging of resources to improve competitive advantage
3. Eliminate duplication of government administration
4. More efficient and effective delivery of services by government, including eliminating duplication of service delivery by more than one unit of government in the same area and modernizing services and service delivery to meet the changing public service needs of the area
5. Create a state/local partnership in one or more areas of service delivery and governance that would increase quality and efficiency on the local level

Please contact Steve Ford at steve.ford@iowa.gov to receive an application packet. Grant award notification will be December 15, 2008.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Update

Mark Hunt, Bi-State Regional Commission Senior Planner, provided Commissioners with a preview of the goals, objectives, and projects proposed for the Region's 2008 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs). Commissioners need to take action on the CEDs at the June 25th Commission meeting, so that the completed document can be sent to EDA by June 30th.

Mr. Hunt's report began with a preview of the goals and objectives proposed for 2008. The number of goals have been reduced from 13 to 10 and the number of objectives was brought down from more than 60 to only four. These reductions and consolidations improve the efficiency of the document and increase the ability of Commission staff to track the Region's progress toward its stated goals.

The economic development projects list proposed for the 2008 CEDs were briefly reviewed. This year, Mr. Hunt in concert with the CEDs Committee worked to identify only the most pressing economic development needs in each local government across the Region. The projects lists were distributed to the Commissioners at the meeting.

An opportunity was provided for public input, and no comments were received. The public may provide any comments to Mr. Hunt directly in writing to 1504 3rd Ave., PO Box 3368, Rock Island, IL 61204, or via e-mail to mhunt@bistateonline.org. Public comments should be provided no later than June 25th.

Rock Island Arsenal Update

Tim Frye of Rock Island Arsenal Development Group (RIADG) reported to the Commission about recent activities regarding Rock Island Arsenal (RIA). RIADG is a separate marketing group that has a facility use contract giving it exclusive rights to market underused facilities. RIADG also develops and oversees renovation projects and performs landlord functions for subleases.

Funding comes from the Arsenal Support Program Initiative (ASPI) that encourages commercial firms to utilize and invest in the facilities, thereby reducing product and ownership costs for the three federal arsenals. This helps to maintain and modernize infrastructure and makes use of existing skills. Mr. Frye reported that under the program, there is in excess of 75,000 square feet of space now under lease to 20 ASPI tenants with a total of 375 employees. Annual revenue to RIA is in excess of \$700,000.

With an estimated loss of about 1,000 jobs resulting from the most recent federal government Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) decision, the Rock Island Arsenal Task Force was formed to identify ways to bolster RIA against future losses. Liz Murray Tallman of the Quad City Development Group (QCDG), who now staffs the task force, gave the following report.

Following a trip to Red Stone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama, there are now over 80 participants on the task force. They are now assigned to action teams for implementing the strategic plan. Those teams and their duties are:

- Community Awareness Team – Develop coordinated communication from RIA; assisted with the recent Military Appreciation Week
- Support & Expand Installation Tenants and Commands – Work with tenant organizations to identify opportunities for expansion, such as titanium processing, and communicate these to federal funding resources
- Workforce Development Team – Collaborate with the QC Chamber Federation for a workforce strategic plan and coordinate assistance to dislocated RIA workers through the services of the I-FORCES office at RIA
- Federal Campus Initiative – Promote a plan to expand RIA tenants and new off-site federal field offices in a federal campus concept
- Infrastructure Team – Identify needs that will support RIA growth (water, sewer, highway, rail, air facilities and services)
- BRAC Preparedness Team – Take on the original task force role of monitoring and responding to BRAC decisions; prepare a presentation to market the community to incoming military and civilian personnel with the First Army

Commission Approves Affirmative Action Plan

The Affirmative Action Plan, which is prepared annually, was presented by Carol Connors, Equal Opportunity Administrator for Bi-State. This document provides information on employment practices during FY 2007 and an Action Oriented Program for FY 2009. Employment practices were analyzed in relation to hires, promotions, terminations, compensation and benefits, and workforce utilization. While no underutilization was declared for FY 2007, Bi-State's efforts will continue to be directed towards recruiting more minority applicants for our applicant pool.

The Action Oriented Program for FY 2009 provides for continued support of equal opportunity and affirmative action, and continued aggressive recruitment of protected status applicants when positions are open.

Reports\Commission in Review\2008\Review 2008-5 sg