



Commission in Review

November 2008

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

NEXT COMMISSION MEETING:

Wed., Dec. 17, 2008
3:30 p.m.

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

APA TRAINING SERIES

"Introduction to the Zoning Board of Adjustment"

Wed., Dec. 3, 2008
6-7:30 p.m.

Bi-State Conf. Room
1504 Third Ave., R.I.
Call (309) 793-6302,
Ext. 138 or e-mail at
ppearson@bistateonline.org
to register.

CIR VIA E-MAIL

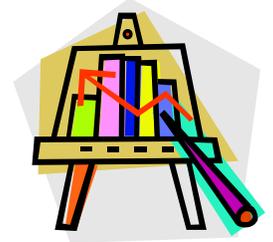
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Mission Statement:

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

Economic Development Activities Underway

Mark Hunt, Senior Planner at Bi-State Regional Commission (BSRC), provided Commissioners with an update on several economic development initiatives underway across the Region. As a federally designated Economic Development District (EDD), Bi-State is provided with annual planning and technical assistance funds, which allows BSRC to provide member governments with grant writing and other economic development related services. Bi-State staff must coordinate annually with local stakeholders to update the Bi-State Region Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).



With EDD designation and an annually updated CEDS, the Bi-State Region meets the initial criteria for project assistance from the federal Economic Development Assistance (EDA). However, to be fully eligible for an EDA project assistance, at least one county in the Region must display qualifying distress as measured through unemployment, per capita income or special circumstance (such as a natural disaster or military base closing).

Recently, the Bi-State Region has become eligible for EDA project assistance due to the economic distress caused by the 2008 floods and the continued loss of jobs at the Rock Island Arsenal. This distress has led to development of four EDA project applications, one of which has been accepted. The four projects/applications are:

1. RiverTech-Business Research and Technology Park, Moline, Illinois. The RiverTech project was accepted by EDA in September 2007. Eligibility was based on the Arsenal job loss. The project includes \$1 million federal investment and \$1 million local match to include cash and in-kind services. The funds are being used for site prep, road construction, and utilities. BSRC prepared the RiverTech application on behalf of the City of Moline.
2. Mercer/Muscatine Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Application. Bi-State prepared and submitted to EDA an application for an economic development RLF to serve Mercer and Muscatine counties, which are the only two counties in the Region without access to an EDA-funded RLF. Eligibility is claimed due to the impact of the 2008 floods on both counties. A response to the application is expected sometime after January 1, 2009.
3. Expansion and Site Prep at Eastern Iowa Industrial Center (EIIC). Bi-State is currently working with the City of Davenport to prepare an application for land acquisition and site prep at the EIIC. Eligibility is claimed based on the impact of the 2008 floods. If accepted the project will add 175 acres to the existing site, build roads and create a rail dock.
4. East Moline. Bi-State, along with East Moline Staff, is working to identify an eligible EDA project within the city. Two possibilities are an expansion of water and sewer utilities at Gateway Industrial Park or an economic development study of the pending annexation action. Both projects would claim eligibility based on the impact of the 2008 floods.

There are two other significant EDA-related projects currently underway. In July 2008, Bi-State received an additional \$15,844 in EDA planning funds to create a regional, web-based, data portal. Funds were available based on unspent EDA planning dollars from FY2008. Bi-State will match the grant with \$15,844 of in-kind costs. A request for proposals is under development to solicit qualified consultants to create the web-based data portal. Bi-State staff will provide the necessary data input.

The final project is a special economic development analysis to complement the forthcoming 2009 CEDS. The analysis is funded by a 2007 Department of Defense, Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA) grant that was awarded following the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) action at the Arsenal. The analysis will provide a detailed county-by-county listing of economic development projects and processes and recommend short-term strategies for achieving projects or making process changes to promote maximum economic benefit to the entire Bi-State Region.

American Planning Association Workshops Offered at Bi-State

Bi-State Regional Commission is hosting a series of audio/visual-conferences sponsored by the American Planning Association (APA). All planning staff, planning and zoning commissions/boards, and board of adjustment members are encouraged to attend as part of Bi-State membership.

All conferences will be held in the Third Floor Conference Room, Rock Island County Office Building, 1504 Third Ave., Rock Island. The public entrance is from Third Avenue.

Upcoming sessions are as follows:

December 3, 2008

Introduction to the Zoning Board of Adjustment – ZBA members will learn to take testimony, assess reports and presentations, and make meetings accessible to all participants. Presenters review the practices that commonly lead to litigation. Segment three focuses on conditional and special uses. [6-7:30 p.m.]

January 21, 2009

Infrastructure, CIP, and Alternative Transportation – Discover how to update the transportation plan to maximize existing assets and create a practical future vision for your community. Integrate highway, corridor, and arterial road priorities with alternative transportation modes including walking, cycling, and transit. Find out how to create a capital improvements program. [3-4:30 p.m.]

February 18, 2009

Informed Decisions: A Guide to Gathering Facts and Evidence – Learn to gather the facts efficiently on site visits, from staff reports, and through testimony. Find out when site visits are legal and advisable as well as how to effectively organize and document site visits. Learn techniques to maximize the efficiency of hearing and recording public testimony. [3-4:30 p.m.]

March 18, 2009

Designing for Water Conservation – Find out how to use local hydrology and knowledge of groundwater resources to protect the environment and private investment.

Incorporate appropriate landscaping regulations to control runoff, minimize water usage, and maximize the effectiveness of water that is used. Cosponsor: American Society of Landscape Architects. [3-4:30 p.m.]

April 15, 2009

Zoning for Transit-Oriented Development – Learn how to create active walkable streets, to regulate the intensity of development to support transit, and to properly integrate transit into the landscape and within surrounding projects. Speakers present illustrated case studies of successful TOD and review the principles that led to their success. [3-4:30 p.m.]

May 13, 2009

Inclusionary Housing – Learn about the successes and pitfalls of inclusionary housing, as well as which approach works best: mandatory or voluntary. Experts discuss the legal mandates and program standards necessary to ensure implementation in your community. Learn how to build support for inclusionary housing from developers, residents, and local officials. [3-4:30 p.m.]

May 27, 2009

Great Plans, Great Communities – In this visually striking introduction to planning, community members and new planning officials learn about the range of planning and how it results in great communities. [3-4:30 p.m.]

June 24, 2009

2009 Planning Law Review – Keep current on Supreme Court, circuit, and state court decisions and legislative changes from the past year. Hear from the experts regarding digital signage, environmental regulation, regulatory takings, and how the comprehensive plan is faring in the courts. [3-4:30 p.m.]

Participants can register by contacting Bi-State prior to the conference date at 1-888-BISTATE (toll free), (309) 793-6302, ext. 138, or via e-mail at ppearson@bistateonline.org.

Participants will receive copies of materials, including presentation handouts. Please arrive by 2:45 p.m. for afternoon sessions and 5:45 p.m. for the evening session.

Happy Holidays From Bi-State!

The staff of Bi-State Regional Commission extend to you and your families our sincere wishes for a very happy holiday and a joyous new year.

We thank you for your continued support of intergovernmental cooperation. It is our hope you will contact us for assistance.

Happy Holidays!

