

**MINUTES OF THE
BI-STATE REGIONAL COMMISSION**

Wednesday, July 26, 2017, 3:30 p.m.
Scott County Administrative Center
600 West Fourth Street
Davenport, IA

MEMBERS PRESENT: Earnhardt – Chair, Acri, Beck, Broderson, Callaway-Thompson, Carroll-Duda, Freeman, Gallagher, Geenen, Gordon, Gradert, Heninger, Howard, Kiser, Klipsch, Lack, Maranda, Mendenhall, Newton-Butt, O’Boyle, Sorensen, Stoermer, Terry, Thoms, Tompkins, Waldron

MEMBERS ABSENT: Brown, Knobbe, Lawrence, Looney, Moore, Schloemer, Sherwin, Tank

OTHERS: Dave Gobin, City of Muscatine; Nicole Gleason, Bruce Berger, and Brandon Wright, City of Davenport

STAFF PRESENT: Bruce, Bulat, Grabowski, Miller, Moritz

Chair Earnhardt called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

1. Approval of the June 28, 2017 Minutes. Chair Earnhardt asked Commissioners to review the adjusted minutes provided at the meeting. Mr. Howard moved to approve the adjusted minutes of the June 28, 2017 meeting as presented. Mr. Geenen seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
2. Treasurer’s Report. Mayor O’Boyle presented the Treasurer’s Report for the month ending June 30, 2017, noting an ending total bank and book balance of \$810,695.68. Mayor O’Boyle moved the report be accepted as written and mailed. Mr. Stoermer seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
3. Finance and Personnel Committee.
 - a. Bills. Mayor O’Boyle presented the bills totaling \$79,570.35, as listed on the following bills listing:

Bills List

Bohnsack & Frommelt LLP, progress billing for year-end audit 6/30/17	\$ 4,000.00
Center for Community GIS, Quad City Trails Phase 3 Website Enhancements (5/1/17 – 6/30/17)	3,890.00
Thomas A. Skorepa, P.C., Administrator Hearing Officer June 2017 services (cost reimbursed by MUNICES)	2,870.00

Addendum

Blackhawk Bank & Trust, VISA charge card expenses related 1 staff attending the National Regional Transportation Conference; Northwest Municipal League Golf Tournament and dinner (costs reimbursed by participants); 1 staff attending the Quad Cities Chamber Annual Meeting; 1 staff attending the Cube Cargo Training; Managers & Administrators Committee meeting (costs reimbursed by participants); Illinois Intergov meeting; 1 staff attending the 2017 National Association of Development Organizations Summer Board of Directors Meeting; office supplies	4,166.93
The Development Consortium, Support Services for QC EZone Designation Application (cost reimbursed by participating communities)	3,750.00
Far Reach, Project Strategy, Data Gathering and Report software	4,293.31
City of Rock Island, Municipal Code Enforcement System proceeds	30,197.53
Rock Island County Treasurer	6,402.58
08/2017 Rent	\$4,832.58
08/2017 Internet Access	88.00
07/2017 Managed Print Services	323.72
06/2017 Postage	1,069.44
06/2017 Cell Phone*	88.84
*(Partial costs reimbursed by HCEDP)	
The Roosevelt Group LLC, June 2017 legislative technical service and Professional Media Services (cost reimbursed by participating member governments)	20,000.00

Mayor O’Boyle moved approval of the bills totaling \$79,570.35 as presented above. Mr. Stoermer seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

b. Report on Progress on Commission’s FY 2016-17 Program Budget as of June 30, 2017.

Mayor O’Boyle explained the Program Budget Status Report was mailed in members' packets. The Commission is 100.0% through the fiscal year with 86.5% expended and within budget.

c. Contracts/Grants for Consideration. Ms. Bulat presented the following contract and grant for consideration

- Contract with RK Dixon for Technology Assessment for Rural Communities of Scott County. The contract is for up to \$30,000.00 and will run from July 26, 2017 to June 30, 2018.
- Grant from Iowa Department of Public Health for Complete Streets Project. The grant is for \$9,500.00 and will run from June 30, 2017 to June 29, 2018.

Mayor Klipsch moved approval of the contract and grant as presented above, and Mr. Gordon seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Freight Planning Update. Ms. Bulat reported that in 1989, a barge terminal study was done for the Quad Cities metropolitan area. It determined that containers on barge was not feasible at the time; the best location was a site to become a casino, and private ownership was recommended. In ensuing years, the metro and regional long range plans have included freight as an important transportation component in the region, and staff have assisted with grant applications for transload facilities, switch yard studies, rail spurs, and grade separations. In 2014-15, funding was secured to complete the Bi-State Freight Plan to add to the region's understanding of freight transportation, identify system gaps or barriers for moving goods, and determine projects to enhance the region's freight and logistics capabilities.

Ms. Bulat said freight improvement recommendations included the I-74 bridge replacement; I-80 widening for highway capacity improvements; and the addition of port facilities, such as the completion of the transload facility in Davenport, as well as Port of Muscatine currently under consideration. It also included expanding and attracting more air cargo at the Quad City International Airport, improving the locks and dams, and improving area railroad bridges to meet 286K weight compliance requirements. The study also provided a tool to better utilize the national freight commodity data and allow for it to be shown more graphically.

Ms. Bulat added that implementation of the regional freight plan has included working with local jurisdictions on their freight related project and establishing an on-going freight stakeholders group to further enhance the region's economic and logistics opportunities related to moving commodities efficiently. This also includes growing staff capacity in freight planning and data analysis.

Mr. Gobin outlined the purpose and need for the Port of Muscatine feasibility study, including truck driver shortages, no intermodal container facilities north of St. Louis, and need for greater use of the U.S. inland waterways. Parameters of the study were a need for highway, rail, and water transportation modes; a port with transloading and container freight capabilities; a single facility for local shippers to reach a global market; and to grow the regional economy.

Mr. Gobin reported The Iowa Department of Transportation identified \$2.6 million in funds for a pilot freight grant program, Linking Iowa's Freight System (LIFTS). The program purpose was to improve multimodal freight transportation to meet changing demands for shipping products. The City of Muscatine secured \$80,000 of LIFTS funding and \$20,000 in public/private partner matching funds to conduct a feasibility study for their port idea. The project concept included developing a 100-300 contiguous acre industrial site, making sure the port is privately owned and has road, rail, and river access. The study looked at the site and whether there was local business support. The study concluded there was sufficient local community support, local business support for freight movement, and favorable economic benefits for the area. A phased approach was recommended with a market analysis needed, and will be funded by local industry in the coming months. The city has also submitted a request to be designated for the U.S. marine highway program to be eligible for future funding. The initial project costs are anticipated to be \$25-40 million under the governance of a Port Commission.

Mr. Wright and Mr. Berger overviewed the city's transload facility. The original project was funded through an Economic Development Administration grant, and the operation of the transload facility is currently contracted. An aerial map was distributed showing three areas of the project where expansion is needed. They include interchange track at the newly sited Sterilite facility, a transload rail spur at the southwest end of the rail line, and another transload interchange track located in Eldridge. The city is pursuing EDA funds to support the expansion anticipated to cost \$3-4 million.

5. Questions or Comments by Commissioners. Mayor Klipsch noted that Ms. Tompkins is replacing Jeffrey Justin as the City of Davenport’s representative to the Commission.
6. Other Business. Ms. Bulat informed Commissioners of the Sound the Alarm event facilitated by the Red Cross and local fire departments to install fire alarms into homes in high risk neighborhoods. There are 700 fire alarms available to be installed free of charge to households that register during the September telethon. The event will be held September 23 through October 15.
7. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kathy Carroll-Duda

Secretary