

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

Wednesday, November 16, 2022, 3:30 p.m.  
Bettendorf City Hall  
Second Floor Board Room  
1609 State Street  
Bettendorf, Iowa

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Gallagher – Chair, Beck, Breeden, Brunk, Dawson, Deppe, Heninger, Lack, Lawrence, Maxwell, Mielke, Parker, Rayapati, Schloemer, Stoermer, Thoms, Waldron

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Bark, Dunn, Freeman, Kendall, Kinzer, Limberg, Mather, Matson, Mendenhall, G. Moore, R. Moore, Newton, Ortiz, Roethler, Sauer, Sherwin, Thompson, Wise

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Robert Sinkler and Dr. Anshu Singh, Corn Belt Ports; Kelly Krell, City of Riverdale Clerk; Rachael Anderson, Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce

**STAFF PRESENT:** Bulat, Grabowski, McCullough, Newcomb

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

1. Approval of the October 26, 2022 Minutes. Mr. Maxwell moved to approve the minutes of the October 26, 2022 meeting as presented. Mr. Stoermer seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
2. Treasurer's Report. Mr. Brunk presented the Treasurer's Report for the month ending October 31, 2022, noting an ending total bank and book balance of \$550,721.24. Mr. Brunk moved the report be accepted as written and mailed. Mr. Beck seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
3. Finance and Personnel Committee.
  - a. Bills. Mr. Waldron presented the bills totaling \$14,120.94, as listed on the following bills listing:

**Bills List**

Blackhawk Bank & Trust VISA credit card expenses related to:	\$3,662.29
October 7 <sup>th</sup> MAC Mgrs. & Admins. Mtg. (cost reimbursed by participants);	
October 7th NW Illinois Water Study Meeting;	
October 19th Rail Merger – Cities & Towns Initiative Meeting;	
October 21st CEO/CAO Mtg. (cost reimbursed by participants);	
1 staff attending 2022 NADO Annual Training Conference;	
1 staff attending Upper Mississippi River Conference/River Action, Inc.;	
1 staff attending 5-2-1-0 Healthy Choices Count! Summit 2022!;	
Recruitment for open Planning positions;	
Software Subscriptions including Envato Elements Party Ltd., FastSpring, and Photoshop & Creative Cloud Licenses; Office Supplies	
Grants Managements Systems, Inc. – Annual License & Warranty, Service & Support/Maintenance, 2023 – Payroll & Accounts Payable Systems	4,630.50

Rock Island County Treasurer			5,828.15
12/2022	Rent	4,979.25	
12/2022	Internet Access	88.00	
11/2022	Managed Print Services	239.77	
10/2022	Printing	76.00	
10/2022	Postage	418.84	
10/2022	Cell Phone	26.29	

Addendum

There were no additional bills.

Mr. Waldron moved approval of the bills totaling \$14,120.94 as presented above. Mr. Beck seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

- b. Report on Progress on Commission's FY 2022-23 Program Budget as of October 31, 2022. Mr. Waldron explained the Program Budget Status Report was distributed at the meeting. The Commission is 25.0% through the fiscal year with 19.2% expended and within budget.
  - c. Contracts/Grants for Consideration. There were no contracts or grants for consideration.
4. Update on Cost of Living Index Data Collection and MSA Comparison. Mr. Newcomb reported that Bi-State Regional Commission partners with the Council for Community and Economic Research (C2ER) to complete the Cost of Living Index (COLI). One to two Bi-State staff locally price approximately 60 specified items several times (Q1-Q3) each year and submit these prices to C2ER. C2ER compiles this data from local partners in metro/micropolitan areas throughout the country to publish the COLI, to which partners then have free access. Local governments and development organizations use the COLI to advocate for and market their communities' quality of life and benchmark to other areas. The COLI is routinely cited by national media outlets.

Items are divided into six weighted categories: health care, utilities, food, transportation, housing, and miscellaneous goods and services. Items and category weights are selected based on expenditure patterns for professional and managerial households. The categories together create a composite score. Areas are indexed to the national average, with the national average being 100. The Davenport-Moline-Rock Island Metropolitan Statistical Area (Henry, Mercer, Rock Island, and Scott Counties) had a composite score of 89.3 in 2022 Q3 (cost of living was 89.3% of the national average), which is typical for the area. Bi-State has inquired about adding the Muscatine Micropolitan Statistical Area to the index, but it does not currently meet the population requirements.

The COLI is a representation of how an area compares to the national average at a specific point in time. The index does not measure inflation (price change over time) because the participating areas and included items may change from quarter-to-quarter. Inflation data is available through the Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index.

Beginning in 2023, C2ER will use alternative data sources for several items, adding greater consistency to the national index and reducing the number of items priced by local partners by 60%. Bi-State uses COLI data in planning documents, such as the CEDS and for other technical assistance to member governments. Member governments may contact Bi-State for updated COLI data for our area and other areas for comparison.

5. Regional Port Effort. Mr. Sinkler provided an update on the Corn Belt Ports Initiative. Goals set for the Corn Belt Ports include gaining stature in the national ranking with all individually ranked in the

top 50 U.S. on freight tonnage and top 10 inland ports, continued media and government relations including being named to the top 50 power ports list, strengthening linkage to the Louisiana ports, and securing funding for capital projects.

Mr. Sinkler noted due to the passage of the infrastructure act, eight construction projects were being implemented on the upper Mississippi, including a mooring cell at Lock 14. Additionally, nine ecosystem restoration projects have been approved. Future measures of success that translate into jobs include:

- Increasing Port Region tonnage (economic value of goods)
- Bringing in additional partners (federal, state, and non-profit organizations) investment measured in dollars
- Creating new and/or expanding existing waterborne commerce and river-related companies, businesses, and industries (including ecotourism)
- Increasing and/or improving an aquatic habitat that is measured in acres or river mile connectivity
- Reducing Green House Gas (GHG) emissions (measured in tons) by moving more freight to the waterways

Mayor Thoms shared information on the effort to create a port district through the Rock Island Regional Port District Act. He noted there has been interest in the region to create a port to emphasize the importance of the Upper Mississippi River for transportation and economic development. A port somewhere in the region has been discussed for many years. Earlier this calendar year, some port districts received funding for development efforts from the Illinois Department of Transportation through Rebuild Illinois using Illinois state port capital funds. Because there are no designated port districts in the region, the region would not be able to compete for the funds. However, Rock Island owns a public terminal that they lease, which is in need for further development, along with two marinas. Since funding is anticipated to be programmed over state fiscal years 2022-2025, the region discussed forming a port district in Rock Island with the ability to be expanded to other municipalities, and to move it forward as soon as practical to be able to vie for this funding. The region was interested in simplifying the board structure to reduce the need to create another governance layer; therefore, the intention is to use existing elected bodies for decision making. In addition, future municipalities in Rock Island County that join the port district would have the same decision-making authorities within their respective jurisdictions.

Ms. McCullough provided a brief update on the Upper Mississippi River Ports mapping project.

6. Questions or Comments by Commissioners. Mr. Beck asked where the Commission meetings will be held next year. Ms. Bulat responded that she would look into a new location, possibly on the Illinois side again. The topic will be revisited at the next meeting.
7. Other Business. Ms. Bulat noted that the December meeting will be held one week earlier due to the Christmas holiday.
8. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Scott Sauer  
Secretary