

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

Wednesday, February 22, 2023, 3:30 p.m.
Bettendorf City Hall
Second Floor Board Room
1609 State Street
Bettendorf, Iowa

MEMBERS PRESENT: Breeden – Vice Chair, Adams, Bark, Beck, Brunk, Dawson, Dickson, Dunn, Freeman, Heninger, Lack, Lawrence, Matson, Mendenhall, Mielke, Newton, Rawson, Rayapati, Roethler, Sauer, Schloemer, Sorensen, Thoms, Waldron

MEMBERS ABSENT: Gallagher, Limberg, G. Moore, R. Moore, Ortiz, Parker, Sherwin, Stoermer, Thompson, Wise

OTHERS PRESENT: Trish Burnett, American Red Cross of the Quad Cities and West Central Illinois; Jonathan Ramsdell, Rock Island Arsenal; Kelly Krell, Riverdale City Clerk

STAFF PRESENT: Bulat, Grabowski, McCullough

Vice Chair Breeden called the meeting to order at 3:28 p.m.

1. Approval of the January 25, 2023 Minutes. Mr. Beck moved to approve the minutes of the January 25, 2023 meeting as presented. Mayor Dawson seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
2. Treasurer's Report. Mr. Brunk presented the Treasurer's Report for the month ending January 31, 2023, noting an ending total bank and book balance of \$443,203.12. 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 \$9,002.36, as listed on the following bills listing:

Bills List

Blackhawk Bank & Trust VISA credit card expenses related to:	\$3,234.54
January 12th Henry Co. Tourism Committee Mtg.;	
January 15th Iowa Council of Government Mtg.;	
January 20th CEO/CAO Mtg. (cost reimbursed by participants);	
January 24th Quad Cities Riverfront Council Mtg.;	
1 staff attending 2023 NADO & DDAA Washington Conference;	
1 staff attending 9th Annual Quad Cities Stormwater Conference;	
2 staff attending Esri Midwest User Conference;	
1 staff attending 34th Annual Rural Community & Economic Dev. Conference;	
Foreign interpreter services;	
Recruitment for open Planning positions;	
Software Subscriptions including Photoshop & Creative Cloud Licenses;	
Office Supplies	

Addendum

Rock Island County Treasurer			5,767.82
03/2023	Rent	4,979.25	
03/2023	Internet Access	88.00	
02/2023	Managed Print Services	243.34	
01/2023	Postage	430.53	
01/2023	Cell Phone	26.70	

Mr. Waldron moved approval of the bills totaling \$9,002.36 as presented above. Mr. Brunk seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

- b. Report on Progress on Commission's FY 2022-23 Program Budget as of January 31, 2023. Mr. Waldron explained the Program Budget Status Report was distributed at the meeting. The Commission is 58.3% through the fiscal year with 43.1% expended and within budget.
- c. Contracts/Grants for Consideration. There were no contracts or grants for consideration
4. Commission Committee Assignments for 2023-2024. Vice Chair Breeden presented the list of the 2023-2024 officers and committees distributed in Commission members' packets. Mr. Beck motioned to approve the Commission officers and committee assignments as presented. Ms. Mendenhall seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
5. Consideration of Request to De-Federalize Mercer-Muscatine Revolving Loan Fund Dollars. – Ms. Bulat discussed the potential to request the defederalization of the Mercer-Muscatine Revolving Loan Fund (MMRLF). She noted that Davis-Bacon and National Environmental Protection Agency actions will be continued even with a de-federalized RLF. The advantage is that the bankers in Mercer-Muscatine can determine what interest rates they give to potential borrowers, and Bi-State does not have to do economic development reports to the Economic Development Administration (EDA). Also, approximately every 6 months, EDA can look at money in RLF savings and potentially sequester unused dollars. There is no risk of dollars being taken if MMRLF is de-federalized. All of the bankers and board members of MMRLF have requested approval by Bi-State Regional Commission to de-federalize the program.

Mayor Dawson motioned to approve the Request to De-Federalize Mercer-Muscatine Revolving Loan Fund Dollars, and Ms. Mendenhall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
6. Status of the Bi-State Region Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Progress Report 2023. Ms. Bulat provided a brief update on the status of the *Bi-State Region Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Progress Report 2023* (CEDS). The CEDS is redeveloped every five years and must be completed for the region to receive federal funds from the Economic Development Administration (EDA). The last full update was in 2021, and a progress report is prepared annually. The planning process is a collaborative effort with participation from local governments, economic development organizations, institutions of higher learning, and workforce training organizations. In order to ensure full representation of the region, meetings have been held throughout the Bi-State Region. The CEDS also serves as an umbrella economic development overview with broad goals that support projects from across the region.

Ms. Bulat explained the CEDS progress report includes a summary of economic and demographic data; an analysis on the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats to the region; a review of progress made toward the goals and strategies identified in the 2021 CEDS; and a comprehensive list of economic development projects that have been completed, are underway, and or are planned for the future. The jobs and investments from this list are reported to EDA, and the list may be utilized by legislatures to promote the region and champion projects. A draft of the 2023 CEDS progress report will be brought to the Commission in March to lay on the table and be reviewed for the following month with a final draft brought to the Commission at their April meeting.

7. Red Cross Presentation. Ms. Burnett reported that the American Red Cross of the Quad Cities & West Central Illinois Chapter serves 21 counties, 13 in Illinois, 4 in Iowa and 4 in Missouri. The Chapter headquarters is located in Moline. Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement are humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity, and universality.

She noted the services delivered within the Chapter included:

- Disaster Cycle Services
- Preparedness
- Hands-Only CPR
- The Pillowcase Project
- Prepare with Pedro
- Free smoke alarm installations
- Ready Rating
- Be Red Cross Ready
- Response & Recovery

Related to response and recovery, the Red Cross responds to more home fires than any other disaster. Their goal is to respond to every home fire and provide services based on the needs of those impacted. With disaster responses, volunteers comprise 90% of the Red Cross workforce.

The Red Cross works in collaboration with many partners and agencies to provide disaster assistance and to minimize duplication of services. Red Cross provides 40% of the nation's blood supply.

Sound the Alarm is an event when teams install smoke alarms and share home fire safety information including helping residents create a map of their floorplan and map two exit routes. Sound the Alarm this year will be held on Saturday, March 25, 2023 in the Quad Cities. They will be targeting 3 mobile parks due to recent fires in these types of housing including Clover Leaf Village in Moline, Mississippi Mobile Home Park in East Moline, and Five Seasons in Davenport. Ms. Burnett noted there will be continuing ongoing smoke alarm installations and partnering with local fire departments to do installations.

In closing, Ms. Burnett stated that a Disaster Assessment Exercise will be conducted in the region on April 14 & 15. The exercise is designed to improve how the Red Cross conducts damage assessment (DA) following a disaster to better identify the scope of the disaster.

Focus will be on Preliminary Disaster Assessment (PDA) assessing the quick initial scope of the event and Detailed Disaster Assessment (DDA) individual home disaster assessments. Local partners will be invited to this training will offer information related how to:

- Help identify specific areas within the impacted area that are most in need to focus response efforts
- Work as a team to coordinate and conduct assessment opportunities supervise and report and assessment progress efforts
- Plan for and conduct follow-up assessments when additional details are needed

The Disaster Assessment Exercise will strengthen relationships between the Illinois, Iowa, and Nebraska Red Cross Regions to ensure collaboration during a disaster. The exercise is funded by long-term recovery funds set aside during disaster operations from the Derecho in 2020 that impacted both Iowa and Illinois.

8. Questions or Comments by Commissioners. There were no questions or comments.
9. Other Business. Ms. Bulat pointed out that Mr. Ramsdell brought display boards for the Rock Island Arsenal Browning Museum, the second oldest museum in the U.S. Army. It is being renovated, and the reopening will be in late June or early July. Mr. Ramsdell noted that it will be more hands-on and kid friendly with interactive elements. He also noted that he will coordinate with Ms. Bulat on getting information to the Commission about hard hat tours during the renovation process.

Mayor Matson asked if the Commission meetings going forward will be held at SAL Community Services. Ms. Bulat confirmed that Ms. Mendenhall had offered the SAL offices for hosting the meetings through the end of the year. Ms. Bulat added staff would work to keep meetings less than one hour to accommodate those with evening meetings.

10. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Scott Sauer
Secretary