

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

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Breeden – Chair, Bark, Beck, Brunk, Freeman, Gallagher, Heninger, Lack, Lawrence, Limberg, Maxwell, Mendenhall, Mielke, Newton, Ortiz, Paustian, Schmidt, Sorensen, Thompson, Thoms

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Adams, Dawson, Dunn, Matson, G. Moore, R. Moore, Parker, Roethler, Sauer, Schloemer, Stoermer, Waldron, Wise

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Matt Wilson, Senior Service Hydrologist, National Weather Service Quad Cities; Jonathan Ramsdell, Rock Island Arsenal; Sarah Jones, Corps of Engineers; Anthony Heddlesten, Riverdale City Mayor/Corps of Engineers; Kelly Krell, Riverdale City Clerk

**STAFF PRESENT:** Bulat, Grabowski

Chair Breeden called the meeting to order at 3:34 p.m. Ms. Mendenhall opened the meeting by thanking everyone for coming to the SAL Community Services main offices in Moline.

1. Approval of the February 22, 2023 Minutes. Mr. Mielke moved to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2023 meeting as presented. Mr. Beck seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
2. Treasurer’s Report. Mr. Brunk presented the Treasurer’s Report for the month ending February 28, 2023, noting an ending total bank and book balance of \$411,832.19. 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. Ms. Mendenhall presented the bills totaling \$18,361.19, as listed on the following bills listing:

**Bills List**

Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc., (esri), ArcGIS Network Analyst Desktop Concurrent Use License; and Primary and Secondary Maintenance March 31, 2023 to March 30, 2024	\$7,290.00
Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission: Online interactive map and database for Upper Midwest Regional Ports; staff time for meetings and sending initial letter to participate to local ports – July & November 2022; January 2023	3,069.71

Rock Island County Treasurer			5,971.48
04/2023	Rent	4,979.25	
04/2023	Internet Access	88.00	
03/2023	Managed Print Services	243.34	
02/2023	Printing	302.50	
02/2023	Postage	331.69	
02/2023	Cell Phone	26.70	

Addendum

Ted J. Hamer, Municipal Court Hearing Officer – February 24, 2023 to March 16, 2023 Fees 2,030.00

Mr. Beck moved approval of the bills totaling \$18,361.19 as presented above. Mayor Thoms seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

- b. Report on Progress on Commission’s FY 2022-23 Program Budget as of February 28, 2023. Ms. Mendenhall explained the Program Budget Status Report was distributed at the meeting. The Commission is 66.7% through the fiscal year with 49.4% expended and within budget.
- c. Contracts/Grants for Consideration. Ms. Bulat presented the following contracts and grants for consideration
  - City of Muscatine Community Development Block Grant Downtown Revitalization (CDBG-DTR) for grant administration for facade improvements of 11 commercial buildings. Grant is for \$30,000.00 for the period of 3/1/23-2/28/26.
  - City of Muscatine Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Comprehensive Neighborhood Revitalization Grant for improvements in the Mulberry neighborhood. Grant is for \$62,000.00 for the period of 3/16/23-3/15/27.
  - Contract with City of Bettendorf for an update to the Park and Recreation Master plan. Contract is for \$18,871.00 for the period of 8/1/23-1/31/25.
  - Contract with Henry County for technical assistance regarding a RISE grant for up to \$10,000 for the period of 4/1/23-12/31/23.

Mr. Brunk moved approval of the contracts and grants as presented above. Ms. Mendenhall seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

- 4. Bi-State Region Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Progress Report 2023 Draft Presentation. – Ms. Bulat presented a draft of the *Bi-State Region Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Progress Report 2023*, highlighting economic trends in the Quad Cities. Besides the Bi-State Regions Goals and Strategies that were presented previously, components of the CEDS include a detailed demographic overview of the people, economy, and place of the Bi-State Region; a description of the strengths, challenges, opportunities, and threats; and a list of performance measures to access the progress toward the region’s goals.

In the summary of regional data and demographics, Ms. Bulat noted most data lags and is based on the five-year American Community Survey averages that were just released. There is a projected steady slow population growth aligning to the recently completed long range transportation plan population projections. Median Age for the region increased from 39.2 to

41.0. The cost of living is lower than the national average and compares favorably to regional counterparts; it is also 90.3, which is lower than the U.S. average of 100.0. The draft annual 2022 unemployment rate is 4.0%, the same as in 2019. There has been a slight increase in Gross Regional Product from the previous year of \$19.46 to \$20.30 billion. Major industries in the region include defense, food processing, machinery, metals, food services, and specialty contractors. Industries hit hardest by the pandemic were travel, entertainment, personal services, and transportation and are being monitored.

Strengths and opportunities in the Bi-State Region include access to multiple modes of transportation; the Rock Island Arsenal and its global reach; numerous economic tools such as tax credits, enterprise zones, RLFs; a trained educated labor force; multiple economic development partners; multiple health service institutions; multi-season outdoor recreation opportunities; e-commerce/EV deployment/renewable energy; and major redevelopment activities throughout the region.

The themes related to threats include protecting the Rock Island Arsenal from job losses; the need for improvements and completion of numerous infrastructure projects; changes in state and federal taxing structures; the need for diverse/workforce housing throughout the region; workforce attraction and retention; the need for large scale, site ready industrial parks; flooding impacts and extreme weather; funding for commercial district/downtown revitalization; business succession planning; and increasing commodity costs. The economic development projects listed in the plan were collected from partners and member governments and are used to report progress toward goals.

Ms. Bulat noted that the CEDS will lay on the table until the April 26, 2023 meeting when it is considered for approval to be submitted to EDA.

5. Spring Flood Outlook. Mr. Wilson provided a presentation on the spring flood outlook. He stated the spring flood risk is well above normal for the Mississippi and near normal, but increasing for tributary rivers in the NWS Quad Cities Hydrologic Service Area. The flooding threat is above average for all points along the Mississippi River, and near to above average on the Iowa, Cedar, Des Moines, Wapsipinicon, Rock, La Moine, Pecatonica, and Fox Rivers. The rate of snowmelt, additional snowfall, and heavy spring rains will be the main factors in the severity of the spring flooding.

Factors to consider for spring flooding include:

- Seasonal Temperatures/Precipitation
- Snow Cover (Snowpack)/Liquid Water Equivalent
- Frozen Ground
- Soil Moisture
- Streamflows
- Weather Forecasts/Climate Outlooks

He noted streamflows are normal through much of the area, with a few watersheds observing above normal streamflows, and temperatures are expected to hover around freezing, which can inhibit further ice development on the rivers at this time, especially with high running water. The weather leading up to and during the snowmelt period is the biggest factor.

Factors that increase chances of severe flooding are a colder than normal March that creates a greater chance that snowpack remains later into March and April, and a snowpack will be

present if/when a warm up and/or heavy rainfall event(s) occur this spring. Every major river basin upstream has well above normal snowpack present, and any additional precipitation between now and the end of snowmelt will affect the flood chances accordingly.

Factors that decrease chances for severe flooding are little to no additional precipitation during the sensitive snowmelt period with a slow and steady snowmelt. The emphasis is on steady; too slow of a melt will keep a snowpack. Also, no rapid warm up and/or heavy rainfall event near the end of March and normal precipitation after the snow melts will allow rivers to fall back to normal flows.

The April outlook is for temperatures to trend near normal and precipitation amounts to trend near to above normal. The seasonal outlook is for temperatures to trend towards normal and precipitation amounts to trend higher than average.

Mr. Wilson noted that there is a 75% chance or high probability for flooding at locations along the Mississippi River that are almost certain to reach at least moderate flood stage. While the flood risk is well above normal for the Mississippi River, there isn't a high certainty of other locations reaching flood stage. He responded to questions related to current drought threats and improved river levels for transportation. He mentioned both had improved somewhat from the fall.

6. Questions or Comments by Commissioners. There were no questions or comments.
7. Other Business. Ms. Bulat thanked everyone for coming to the meeting at the new site at SAL Community Services. She also thanked Ms. Mendenhall for offering the site for Bi-State to use through the end of the year.
8. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard "Quijas" Brunk  
Secretary