

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

Wednesday, July 26, 2023, 3:30 p.m.  
SAL Community Services  
3800 Avenue of the Cities, Suite 108  
Moline, IL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Breeden – Vice Chair, Bark, Adams, Beck, Brunk, Dawson, Freeman, Gallagher, Heninger, Lack, Lawrence, Maxwell, Mendenhall, Mielke, Newton, O’Brien, Ortiz, Paustian, Rayapati, Roethler, Sauer, Schloemer, Sorensen, Stoermer, Thompson, Thoms

MEMBERS ABSENT: Callaway-Thompson, Dunn, Limberg, Matson, G. Moore, R. Moore, Parker, Wise

OTHERS PRESENT: John Gering, Iowa Department of Natural Resources; Kelly Krell, Riverdale City Clerk

STAFF PRESENT: Grabowski, Bulat, Kalakuntla, McCullough

Chair Breeden called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m.

1. Approval of the June 28, 2023 Minutes. Mr. Maxwell moved to approve the minutes of the June 28, 2023 meeting as presented. Mr. Mielke seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
2. Treasurer’s Report. Mr. Maxwell presented the Treasurer’s Report for the month ending June 30, 2023, noting an ending total bank and book balance of \$453,055.10. Mr. Maxwell 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. Mayor Thoms presented the bills totaling \$12,932.18, as listed on the following bills listing:

*Bills List*

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| Blackhawk Bank & Trust VISA credit card expenses related to:            | \$ 4,357.60 |
| May 30 <sup>th</sup> Henry County Tourism Meeting;                      |             |
| June 2nd MAC Mgrs. & Admins. Mtg. (cost reimbursed by participants);    |             |
| June 7th Iowa Intergovernmental Mtg. (cost reimbursed by participants); |             |
| June 9th IACOG Retreat;   |             |
| June 16th CEO/CAO Mtg. (cost reimbursed by participants);               |             |
| June 21st Cornbelt Ports Mtg.   |             |
| 1 staff attending 2023 GMS Accounting Financial Management Summit;      |             |
| 1 staff attending 2023 NADO Summer Board Meeting;                       |             |
| 2 staff attending August 2023 Midwest Comm. Dev. Institute Sessions;    |             |
| Software Subscriptions including Photoshop & Creative Cloud Licenses;   |             |
| Office Supplies   |             |
| Thomas A. Skorepa, P.C., Attorney At Law – June 2023 Fees               | 2,730.00    |

Addendum

|                              |                        |          |          |
|------------------------------|------------------------|----------|----------|
| Rock Island County Treasurer |                        |          | 5,874.58 |
| 08/2023                      | Rent                   | 4,979.25 |          |
| 08/2023                      | Internet Access        | 88.00    |          |
| 07/2023                      | Managed Print Services | 243.34   |          |
| 06/2023                      | Printing               | 76.00    |          |
| 06/2023                      | Postage                | 369.01   |          |
| 06/2023                      | Cell Phone             | 118.98   |          |

Mayor Thoms moved approval of the bills totaling \$12,962.18 as presented above. Mr. Ortiz seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

- b. Report on Progress on Commission’s FY 2022-23 Program Budget as of June 30, 2023. Ms. Bulat explained the Program Budget Status Report was distributed at the meeting. The Commission is 100% through the fiscal year with 71.9% expended and within budget.
- c. Contracts/Grants for Consideration. Ms. Bulat presented the following contract/grant for consideration
  - Grant with Illinois Department of Natural Resources for the Northwest Illinois Scenario Planning – Action Plan Development. The grant is for \$12,500 and will run from July 17, 2023 to May 31, 2024.
  - Contract with Muscatine County for a comprehensive plan update. The contract is for \$25,222 and will run from August 1, 2023 to November 30, 2024

Mayor Thoms moved approval of the contract and grant as presented above. Mr. Beck seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

- 4. Impacts of Canadian Wildfires on Regional Air Quality. Mr. Gering provided a presentation on the impacts of the Canadian wildfires on air quality in Iowa and the United States. Smoke from the wildfires in Canada has impacted Iowa beginning on May 18, and has continued to influence air quality conditions causing high readings of ozone and particulates (PM2.5). The smoke is lofted high into the air by the heat produced, and can be transported by winds far from its origin. Weather conditions may cause the smoke to come down to the surface or remain aloft. Humans and air monitors are impacted if the smoke drops down to the surface.

Since May 18, smoke from wildfires in Canada, in conjunction with weather patterns, contributed to 124 ozone exceedances and 22 PM 2.5 exceedances of the National Air Quality Standards. He noted PM2.5 monitor data has only been collected through May due to a lag related to the process of collecting data, and all Illinois data for both pollutants are not included in the numbers he reported, so the number of exceedances will increase. June and July were the worst months for impacts.

Mr. Gering explained that Particulate Matter 2.5 (PM2.5) is microscopic solids or liquid droplets of pollution that are so small (smaller than a red blood cell) they bypass the body’s normal protections and may lodge in the lungs. PM2.5 is generated by all types of combustion: motor vehicles, power plants, wood burning, and some industrial processes. Most fine particle pollution is formed when organic compounds, nitrogen oxides, ammonia, and sulfur dioxide react in the atmosphere to form secondary PM2.5. Ozone is a pollutant that is formed in the atmosphere over time from emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) and Nitrogen Oxides (NOx). VOCs are compounds that evaporate easily into air.

VOC emissions come from things such as industrial use of solvents and degreasing agents, evaporation of gasoline, and products such as paints and cleaning products. NOx is emitted from cars, trucks, power plants, and various industrial sources, usually when some type of fuel is burned. When VOC and NOx emissions are combined on warm, sunny, non-breezy days, ozone may be formed.

PM2.5 and Ozone impacts humans in sensitive groups of people with heart or lung disease, older adults, children and teenagers, and outdoor workers. Health impacts can include asthma attacks, heart attacks, difficulty breathing, and lung damage.

Mr. Gering said if an area had air quality measurements of one or more of the six National Ambient Air Quality Standards for three or more years, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) staff review data to determine if the area should be considered in nonattainment. Nonattainment is based on a review of air quality measurements and emissions information, computer air modeling results that provide insight to the dispersion of air pollution, and weather patterns.

Exceptional events are unusual or naturally occurring events that can affect air quality, but are not reasonably controllable by air agencies. Valid data can be excluded from comparison attainment status for air quality standards under certain circumstances. For Iowa, exclusions require concurrence from EPA Region 7 Headquarters in Kansas City (Region 5 in Illinois). If EPA concurs with the exclusion, they will only concur regarding those values that “make or break” an attainment decision. Therefore, if a value for an area will not have a bearing on attainment vs. non-attainment, EPA will not even evaluate the exclusion request. Iowa DNR and many other states impacted by the Canadian wildfires are in dialogue with EPA regarding procedures for making the exceptional events exclusion request less cumbersome in regard to the Canadian wildfires.

5. Questions or Comments by Commissioners. There were no questions or comments by Commissioners.
6. Other Business. Ms. McCullough reminded the Commissioners about the upcoming workshops for the Mississippi River Plastics Pollution local action plan.
7. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard “Quijas” Brunk  
Secretary