

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

Wednesday, October 25, 2023, 3:30 p.m.
SAL Community Services
3800 Avenue of the Cities, Suite 108
Moline, IL

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bark, Breeden, Callaway-Thompson, Dawson, Dunn, Limberg, Matson, G. Moore, R. Moore, Parker, Rayapati, Sauer, Wise

OTHERS PRESENT: Kinsey Nielsen, Nahant Marsh; Jonathan Ramsdell, Rock Island Arsenal

STAFF PRESENT: Bulat, Connors, Henderson, McCullough

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

1. Approval of the September 27, 2023 Minutes. Mr. Adams moved to approve the minutes of the September 27, 2023 meeting as presented. Mr. Beck seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
2. Treasurer’s Report. Mr. Maxwell presented the Treasurer’s Report for the month ending September 30, 2023, noting an ending total bank and book balance of \$498,635.93. Mr. Maxwell 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 Thoms presented the bills totaling \$32,623.38, as listed on the following bills listing:

Bills List

Blackhawk Bank & Trust VISA credit card expenses related to:	\$5,534.36
2 staff attending National Summit on Rural Road Safety; Office Supplies;	
Quad City Riverfront Council meeting (costs to be reimbursed by participants);	
1 staff attending the Iowa Traffic Incident Management Conference; ITE	
Membership; Iowa Intergov Meeting (costs to be reimbursed by participants);	
Managers and Administrators Meeting (costs to be reimbursed by participants);	
Adobe Creative Cloud subscription; automobile maintenance; 1 staff attending	
ILCSWMA’s 30 th Annual Conference; 2 staff attending IPTA 2023 Fall	
Conference; web hosting	
CPCS Transcom, Inc. – professional services related to the Bi-State Regional	11,517.19
Commission Freight Plan	
Rock Island County Treasurer	5,776.83
11/2023	Rent 4,979.25
11/2023	Internet Access 88.00
10/2023	Managed Print Services 243.34

09/2023	Printing	68.22	
09/2023	Postage	398.02	
Thomas A. Skorepa, P.C., Attorney At Law – September 2023 Fees			2,695.00
<u>Addendum</u>			
Dan Corbin, Inc., 2024 Aerial RFP and Consulting Services			7,100.00

Mr. Beck moved approval of the bills totaling \$32,623.38 as presented above. Mr. Maxwell seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

- b. Report on Progress on Commission’s FY 2023-24 Program Budget as of September 30, 2023. Mayor Thoms explained the Program Budget Status Report was distributed in Commission members’ packets. The Commission is 25.0% through the fiscal year with 24.0% expended and within budget.
4. Nahant Marsh Conservation and Educational Activities. Kinsey Nielsen, Natural Resource Manager of Nahant Marsh Education Center provided a report to the Commission. She stated the mission of Nahant Marsh Education Center is to protect, enhance, and restore the marsh through education, research, and conservation. Their vision is to foster wonder, appreciation, and stewardship of the natural world. They have partnerships with organizations such as Western Illinois University, St. Ambrose, the City of Davenport, the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, the U.S. Corps of Engineers, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Nature Center was established in 2000 and in 2023 served 23,000 people with their educational services such as field trips, monthly homeschool program, Toddler Tales, outreach and enrichment activities, and day camps. Adult and family classes include Breakfast Nature Club, Nature Hour, beekeeping, Wild Edible Workshops, monthly guided hikes, Wild Woodworking, and bird hikes. Over 1,100 diverse species have been identified at the Marsh.

She noted that during low flow the Marsh retains and absorbs two billion gallons of water which is equivalent to 3,000 Olympic-sized swimming pools. During flood event it has detained up to one trillion gallons of Mississippi River flood water the equivalent of 1.5 million Olympic-sized swimming pools. The Marsh is located along the Mississippi River and Interstate 280 west of Rocking Ham Road in Davenport and today is comprised of 382 acres including two current wetland mitigation banks and a stream mitigation bank is due to begin construction. Proposals for an additional mitigation bank on newly acquired property is being planned. Wetland mitigation projects must be in Iowa and approximately in a watershed from Keokuk to Clinton. They have both emergent wetland acres (a transitional area between permanently wet and dry environments) and forested wetland acres. The emergent acres sell for \$52,000 credit/acre and the forested for \$70,000 credit/acre. Entities like the Iowa Department of Transportation purchase the credits when a project is impacting a wetland and they must mitigate the impacts. Nahant is also expanding their education center and their trail system over the next two years.
5. Articles of Agreement/By-Laws Upcoming Revisions. Ms. Bulat reported on the upcoming effort to revise by-laws and articles of agreement noting the changes would allow for a document that would not require as many changes over time.

6. Questions or Comments by Commissioners. There were no questions or comments by Commissioners.
7. Other Business. Ms. McCullough received a brief update from the Illinois Department of Transportation on passenger rail service. The DOT continues to work with the Iowa Interstate Railroad, Amtrak and the Federal Railroad Administration to detail the scope of work and phases for the completion of the connection between the BNSF and Iowa Interstate Railroad at Wyanet and the rail to the Quad Cities. Once the scope of work and phases are agreed upon, ILDOT will plan to move forward with the preliminary engineering.
8. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Richard Quijas", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Richard “Quijas” Brunk
Secretary