

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

Wednesday, March 27, 2024, 3:30 p.m.
Rock Island County Office Building
1504 Third Avenue, Third Floor County Board Room
Rock Island, IL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Breeden – Chair, Adams, Bark, Beck, Brunk, Callaway-Thompson, Davis, Dawson, Dunn, Freeman, Gallagher, Heninger, Lack, Limberg, Maxwell, McNeil, Mielke, Newton, Paustian, Rayapati, Sorensen, Thompson, Thoms, Volkert

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mather, Matson, Mendenhall, G. Moore, R. Moore, Parker, Roethler, Schloemer, Stoermer

OTHERS PRESENT: Matt Wilson, National Weather Service Senior Service Hydrologist; Kelly Krell, Riverdale City Clerk

STAFF PRESENT: Bulat, Grabowski, McCullough, Newcomb

Chair Breeden called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m.

1. Approval of the February 28, 2024 Minutes. Mayor Limberg motioned to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2024 meeting as presented. Mayor Dawson seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
2. Treasurer’s Report. Mr. Maxwell presented the Treasurer’s Report for the month ending February 29, 2024, noting an ending total bank and book balance of \$397,332.05. Mr. Beck moved the report be accepted as written and mailed. Mayor Bark seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
3. Finance and Personnel Committee.
 - a. Bills. Mayor Thoms presented the bills totaling \$31,969.42, as listed on the following bills listing:

Bills List

Blackhawk Bank & Trust VISA credit card expenses related to:	\$ 3,679.06
1 staff attending MidAmerica GIS Consortium	
2 staff attending RTAC Spring Conference	
1 staff attending virtual IMRA 2024 Employment Law Update	
I staff attending ICOG Legislative Meeting	
Iowa Intergovernmental Meeting (costs to be reimbursed by participants)	
Managers and Administrators Meeting (costs to be reimbursed by participants)	
Chief Elected and Administrators Meeting (costs to be reimbursed by participants)	
Adobe Creative Cloud subscription; Ninite Pro subscription;	
Automobile Maintenance; Web Hosting	
CPCS, professional services for the Bi-State Regional Commission Freight Plan	14,590.43
January 2024	7,917.93
February 2024	6,672.50
ESRI, ArcGIS Annual Subscription and Maintenance	7,970.00

Rock Island County Treasurer		5,729.93
03/2024	Rent	4,979.25
03/2024	Internet Access	88.00
03/2024	Colored/White Paper	72.42
03/2024	Managed Print Services	243.34
02/2024	Postage	346.92

Mr. Maxwell moved approval of the bills totaling \$47,810.82 as presented above. Mr. Beck seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

- b. Report on Progress on Commission’s FY 2023-24 Program Budget as of February 29, 2024. Mayor Thoms explained the Program Budget Status Report was distributed in Commission members’ packets. The Commission is 66.7% through the fiscal year with 35.9% expended and within budget.
 - c. Contracts/Grants for Consideration. There were no contracts or grants for consideration.
4. Amendments to Bi-State Regional Commission Articles of Agreement and By-Laws. Ms. Bulat noted the Articles of Agreement and By-Laws had been distributed along with an explanation of key changes. No comments or concerns were received, and she requested their consideration for approval. Mr. Brunk moved approval of the amendments to the Bi-State Regional Commission Articles of Agreement and By-Laws as distributed. Mayor Gallagher seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
5. Update on the Bi-State Region Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Progress Report 2024. Ms. Bulat presented a draft of the *Bi-State Region Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Progress Report 2024*, 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 assess 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 41.2. The cost of living is lower than the national average and compares favorably to regional counterparts; it is also 88.2, which is lower than the U.S. average of 100.0. The draft annual 2023 unemployment rate is 4.3%. The draft Gross Regional Product is \$21.60 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 recovering.

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, and 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. The Bi-State staff are continuing to collect input from members and partners on the draft.

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

6. National Weather Service (NWS) – Spring Flood, Drought, and Climate Outlook. Mr. Wilson provided a presentation on the spring flood, drought, and climate outlook. It was noted that ice jam flooding occurred at the beginning of February with a sudden rise of temperatures after a two-week cold snap and over 20 inches of snowfall with impacts in western Illinois along larger creeks and the Rock River. Factors considered in accessing the chances of spring flooding include: seasonal temperatures and precipitation, snow cover and liquid water equivalent, frozen ground, soil moisture, streamflow, and weather forecasts/climate outlooks. The spring flood risk is below normal for the Mississippi River and other local rivers due to decreased threats of flooding from the factors considered. The flooding threat is highest for points along the Lower Rock River, Wapsipinicon River, and La Moine River, where only minor flooding is expected. The occurrence of above average spring rainfall amounts will be needed to increase the river flood threat level.

Drought in eastern Iowa is expected to persist, but may end locally in Illinois. This past winter was one of the warmest on record, and temperatures in April, May, and June are expected to trend above normal with precipitation amounts having equal chances to be above or below normal.

The most recent National Climate Assessment for the Midwest indicates warmer temperatures and wetter conditions overall. Warmer temperatures result in issues with mid-winter warmups with late-winter or early spring cold snaps and last freeze dates occurring earlier, impacting pest life cycles. Warmer summer temperatures can exacerbate drought and flood conditions. Warmer temperatures in winter are also causing more rain and fewer snowfall events with snowpacks not lasting to late winter. Fewer regular precipitation events, but larger when they occur, can cause short flooding during droughts and provide less effective rainfall, even if precipitation amounts stay the same or slightly increase.

7. Questions or Comments by Commissioners. Mr. Heninger commented that he very much enjoyed a presentation that was held at the Arsenal and requested that Bi-State send a letter of appreciation. Mayor Thoms thanked Mr. Brunk for the use of the newly renovated Rock Island County Board Room. He said that the room was very well done, and he also expressed his thanks for the Rock Island City Council being able to use the space.
8. Other Business. There was no other business.
9. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard “Quijas” Brunk
Secretary