

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

Wednesday, April 24, 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, Beck, Brunk, Davis, Dawson, Dunn, Freeman, Gallagher, Heninger, Lack, Limberg, Matson, Maxwell, McNeil, Mendenhall, Mielke, Newton, Rayapati, Schloemer, Sorensen, Stoermer, Thoms, Volkert

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bark, Callaway-Thompson, Mather, G. Moore, R. Moore, Parker, Paustian, Roethler, Thompson

OTHERS PRESENT: Andy Barnes, Chief of Locks and Dams; Colonel Daniel Mitchell, Garrison Commander, Rock Island Arsenal

STAFF PRESENT: Bulat, Grabowski, McCullough

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

1. Approval of the March 27, 2024 Minutes. Mr. Beck motioned to approve the minutes of the March 27, 2024 meeting as presented. Mayor Limberg seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
2. Treasurer’s Report. Mr. Maxwell presented the Treasurer’s Report for the month ending March 31, 2024, noting an ending total bank and book balance of \$337,919.73. 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 \$19,834.85, as listed on the following bills listing:

Bills List

Rock Island County Treasurer		*5,153.04
05/2024	Rent	4,979.25
05/2024	Internet Access	88.00
03/2024	White Paper	14.00
03/2024	MUNICES Print Job	56.79
03/2024	MUNICES Print Job	15.00

Addendum

Kaskaskia Engineering Group, Professional Services 2/15/2024 to 3/31/2024		13,833.25
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***CORRECTION:**

Rock Island County Treasurer, on Bills List, shown as \$5,153.04; additional invoices added in the amount of 848.56 (Managed Print Services and Postage) for a total of \$6,001.60		6,001.60
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Mayor Thoms moved approval of the bills totaling \$19,834.85 as presented above. Mayor Matson seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

- b. Report on Progress on Commission’s FY 2023-24 Program Budget as of March 31, 2024. Mayor Thoms explained the Program Budget Status Report was distributed in Commission members’ packets. The Commission is 75% through the fiscal year with 40% expended and within budget.
- c. Contracts/Grants for Consideration. Ms. Bulat presented the following contract for consideration.
 - Contract with Alfred Benesh & Company for the Andalusia Road-Indian Bluff Road Corridor Study in the amount of \$199,985. The contract runs from May 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

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

4. Consideration of Adoption of the *Bi-State Region Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Progress Report 2024*. Ms. Bulat presented the final draft of the *Bi-State Region Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Progress Report 2024*, that had been distributed to Commissioners at the March 27, 2024 meeting for review and provided to the public on the Bi-State website. Minor comments were received through the 30-day review regarding economic development related projects as noted in the projects list. Revisions were made to the list of Expansions and Dislocations, Recreational Amenities, and Festivals and Events. Also local economic development staff and partners provided updates for the Analysis of the Regional Economy and the Progress Toward Goals.

Ms. Bulat mentioned that an electronic copy of the document would be made available either on e-mail or the FTP site, as well as posted on Bi-State’s website.

Mr. Maxwell moved to approve a resolution to adopt the 2024 CEDS PR, and to submit the report to the Economic Development Administration. Mr. Beck seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

5. Mississippi River Project. Mr. Barnes provided a report on the Mississippi River Lock and Dams. He noted the mission area has a navigation focus related to lock operations, maintenance and dredging, and efficiency of the inland waterway for transport of bulk commodities. One 15-barge tow is the equivalent of 216 rail cars and 1,050 semi-tractor trailers. This delivers a 24 to 1 benefit to cost for the lock and dam system. Fourteen employees staff each lock and dam 24 hours a day. In addition, there are mobile maintenance crews conducting major repairs on the system and maintenance of the channel. Dredging may be conducted in-house or under contract and requires environmental clearances.

In 1930, the Rivers and Harbors Act was signed into effect that authorized the existing 6-foot channel be modified so as to provide a channel depth of 9 feet at low water with widths suitable for long-haul common-carrier service. The final survey report submitted to Congress in 1931 called for the construction of 24 new locks and dams below Hastings, MN and the incorporation of 3 existing structures into the project (Locks and Dams 1, 2, and 19).

He provided three years of the most recent tonnages moved through the Lock and Dams and noted recent declines in tonnages were due to low river levels in the St. Louis area preventing barge movement beyond that point in 2023. Mr. Barnes also presented a list of Rock Island District funding trends with the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act augmenting appropriated dollars since FY 2022. In spite of these additional dollars, the system still has a back log of repair needs due to its age. The system was built in the 1930s with an anticipated 50-year life span. He noted two mooring cells being constructed above and below Lock and Dam 14 and rail replacement planned for Lock and Dam 16.

6. Questions or Comments by Commissioners. There were no questions or comments.
7. Other Business. There was no other business.
8. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Richard “Quijas” Brunk
Secretary