

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

Wednesday, July 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, Bark, Brunk, Callaway-Thompson, Davis, Dunn, Freeman, Gallagher, Heninger, Lack, Limberg, Matson, Maxwell, Mendenhall, Mielke, Rawson, Rayapati, Sorensen, Stoermer, Volkert

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dawson, Mather, McNeil, G. Moore, R. Moore, Newton, Parker, Roethler, Schloemer, Thompson, Thoms

OTHERS PRESENT: Ashleigh Davis, Quad Cities International Airport; Don Wrenn, Rock Island Arsenal

STAFF PRESENT: Bulat, Grabowski, McCullough, Newcomb

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

1. Approval of the June 26, 2024 Minutes. Mr. Beck motioned to approve the minutes of the June 26, 2024 meeting as presented. Mr. Stoermer seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
2. Treasurer’s Report. Mr. Maxwell presented the Treasurer’s Report for the month ending June 30, 2024, noting an ending total bank and book balance of \$249,372.15. 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 Limberg presented the bills totaling \$62,163.34, as listed on the following bills listing:

Bills List

Benesch, Professional Services, 6/10/2024 to 7/7/2024	\$25,713.71	
Rock Island County Treasurer	*5,191.43	
08/2024	Rent	4,841.75
08/2024	Internet Access	88.00
06/2024	Paper	193.07
06/2024	Print Job	68.61

Addendum

Kaskaskia Engineering Group, Professional Services 6/1/2024 to 6/30/2024	24,755.25	
Iowa Association of Councils of Governments	5,916.02	
07/2024	FY2025 Membership Dues	4,300.00
06/2024	Staff Training	1,616.02

*CORRECTION:

Rock Island County Treasurer, on Bills List, shown as \$5,191.43; 5,778.36
additional invoices added in the amount of 586.93 (Managed Print
Services and Postage) for a total of \$5,778.36

Mayor Limberg moved approval of the bills totaling \$62,163.34 as presented above. Mr. Brunk seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

- b. Report on Progress on Commission’s FY 2023-24 Program Budget as of June 30, 2024.
Mayor Limberg explained the Program Budget Status Report was distributed at the meeting. The Commission is 100% through the fiscal year with 95% expended and within budget.
 - c. Contracts/Grants for Consideration. There were no contracts/grant for consideration.
4. Update from the Bi-State Data Center and IMPLAN – An Economic Impact Analysis Tool.
Mr. Newcomb explained that the Bi-State Data Center utilizes a variety of tools and sources, both public and paid, to fulfill data needs in support of member governments. Public tools and sources are available through the U.S. Census Bureau, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Bureau of Labor Statistics, as well as other federal and state agencies. Paid proprietary tools and sources available to the Bi-State Data Center include ArcGIS/Esri, Data Axle, IMPLAN, JobsEQ, Tableau, and Woods & Poole.

Common examples of how data is used include the creation of regional and community planning documents, support in project funding applications, community factsheets, and other requests in support of member governments. In creating these more finished products, data is often visualized into charts, graphs, maps, and tables to assist the user in best understanding it. The best methods for visualizing data change depending on context and over time depending on general tastes and preferences. With more data available than ever before, it is important for Data Center staff to consider what data to depict and how best to visualize it to make it most legible and useful to those using it. The specificity of available data is usually defined by its lowest level of availability within a geographical hierarchy. For example, some data is available with counties as the lowest level of availability, while other data is available at lower levels of geography such as places (cities/villages) or Census Tracts. Some tools used by the Data Center also allow for defining custom areas.

Mr. Newcomb provided examples of some data tools available. The Post-Secondary Employment Outcomes (PSEO) explorer visualizes data of graduates from instructional programs at public college and universities in both Illinois and Iowa including industry destination, geographic destination, degree level, cohort, and years-postgrad. The LEHD Origin-Destination Employment Statistics (LODES) OnTheMap tool visualizes where people live and work at a very specific level of geography (Census Blocks). LODES can be useful in looking at commuting patterns and the availability of nearly two decades of data can be useful in seeing changing patterns in where people live and work.

Mr. Newcomb explained IMPLAN, an economic impact analysis tool, and its uses. IMPLAN models how a dollar injected into one sector of the local/regional economy is spent and re-spent in other sectors as “economic multiplier” effects. The model takes into account different industry sectors as well as government (taxes/subsidies) and households (income/spending). The impact analysis is based on defined “events” causing a change (such as an increase or reduction in jobs), these are the direct effects. Indirect effects are business to business purchases in the supply chain that stem from the initial industry input purchases. Induced effects stem from household spending of labor income from employees with the

supply chain. The quality and specificity of an IMPLAN analysis depends on the quality and specificity of the information input into the direct effect events (ex. jobs in manufacturing versus jobs in a specific type of manufacturing). IMPLAN is a widely accepted and utilized model with a long history. Following Mr. Newcomb's explanation of IMPLAN, Mayor Rayapati requested an impact analysis of the John Deere layoffs.

5. Status of Quad Cities International Airport Activities. Ms. Davis reported recent highlights of Quad Cities International Airport (QCIA) activities including participating in the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Program and record-breaking attendance at Girls in Aviation Day. As a service update, she reported on the implementation of service to Charlotte in 2023, with twice daily service through American. Charlotte is among the busiest airports in the world and offers connections to Florida, the Caribbean, Mexico, the eastern seaboard, and transatlantic flights, with London being the most popular international destination last year. It is the 5th most connected airport for domestic services. She also noted increased frequencies for Phoenix/Mesa service through Allegiant. Traffic is up for the year at the airport with strong demand, and the airport is providing competitive operations and aggressive incentives offered for new service with conditions based on frequency, location, etc.

An industry update indicated there were 420 fewer 50-seat aircraft in 2023 compared to 2019. For example, Delta Air Lines retired all 50-seat aircraft from their fleet. The pilot shortage is ongoing, and an air traffic controller shortage is also emerging. Demand is still constraining major hubs, which causes fewer resources, traffic limitations, and gate constraints.

Ms. Davis explained how more flights are attracted. She noted that it is always the airline's decision, and aside from airline resources, a region's economics are one of the biggest factors. The factors considered are growing population, new businesses entering the market, increased business travel, and growth in inbound tourism. The airport gathers data that is not accessible to airline planners, such as where are businesses expanding, who owns second homes out of state, and why people travel (family, vacation, etc.).

QCIA is implementing Project GATEWAY, a \$40-60 million project funded through FAA grants, airport capital, and debt service with no airline rates and fees be increased. The project includes baggage screening and handling improvements with a unified baggage make-up location and centralized baggage screening behind the ticket counters. Curbside and pre-security terminal renovations include a curbside canopy. Restrooms will be renovated to exceed ADA requirements with family/companion care restrooms, and mother's rooms. Other project amenities consist of a public conference room and meeting space and an indoor/outdoor observation garden and patio.

Ms. Davis ended her presentation by providing information on the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding, which includes \$5 billion for U.S. airports over 5 years. The QCIA receives airport entitlement and discretionary funds (AIP funds through FAA) and receives approximately \$2.9 million each year for 5 years as part of BIL. There is also an Airport Terminals Program that is competitive funds under BIL with \$100 million available to airports of QCIA's size. The QCIA broke ground on April 4 to construct a central baggage make-up building with TSA screening equipment with an anticipated completion date of May 2025. The passenger impact will be minimal, but passengers will drop bags at a temporary new location. The cost of the project is \$18.1 million with \$13 million in grants.

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 4:19 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