

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

Wednesday, November 20, 2024, 3:30 p.m.
Rock Island County Office Building
1504 Third Avenue, Third Floor County Board Room
Rock Island, IL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Brad Bark – Vice Chair; David Adams; Ken Beck; Richard “Quijas” Brunk; Kimberly Callaway-Thompson; Michael Davis; Duane Dawson; Robert Gallagher; Ralph Heninger; Jerry Lack; Michael Limberg; John Maxwell; Marcy Mendenhall; Drue Mielke; Sangeetha Rayapati; Eileen Roethler; Jeff Sorensen; Rich Volkert

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kippy Breeden; Rick Dunn; Reggie Freeman; Nathan Mather; Mike Matson; Dan McNeil; Gary Moore; Randy Moore; Jazmin Newton; Dylan Parker; Ross Paustian; Rick Schloemer; William Stoermer; Mike Thoms; James Thompson

OTHERS PRESENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Denise Bulat, Sarah Grabowski, Gena McCullough

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

1. Approval of the October 23, 2024 Minutes. Mr. Beck motioned to approve the minutes of the October 23, 2024 meeting as presented. Ms. Mendenhall seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
2. Treasurer’s Report. Mr. Maxwell presented the Treasurer’s Report for the month ending October 31, 2024, noting an ending total bank and book balance of \$442,104.16. Mr. Maxwell moved the report be accepted as written and mailed. Ms. Mendenhall seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
3. Finance and Personnel Committee.
 - a. Bills. Mayor Limberg presented the bills totaling \$57,043.07, as listed on the following bills listing:

Bills List

Blackhawk Bank & Trust VISA credit card expenses related to:	\$6,999.16
4 staff attending 39th IL DOT Annual Fall Planning Conference	
2 staff attending 2024 NADO Annual Training Conference	
2 staff attending GMS Fall Regional Training Event	
2 staff attending 2024 DCEO CDBG Workshops	
1 staff attending IL Traffic Engineering and Safety Conference	
1 staff attending ILCSWMA 2024 Conference	
Managers and Administrators Meeting (costs to be reimbursed by participants)	
Iowa Intergov Meeting (costs to be reimbursed by participants)	
Chief Elected and Administrators Meeting (costs to be reimbursed by participants)	
Joomlatools Subscription Renewal, Adobe Creative Cloud Subscription	
Envato Software Renewal, 2 Civic Leadership Academies Webinars, RICWMA meeting	

GMS, Annual Licenses and Support Services, 10/31/2024			6,586.75
Rock Island County Treasurer			5,404.18
12/2024	Rent	4,841.75	
12/2024	Internet Access	88.00	
10/2024	Paper	72.42	
10/2024	Postage	402.01	

Addendum

Kaskaskia Engineering Group			\$38,052.98
09/2024	Professional Services	11,975.99	
10/2024	Professional Services	26,076.99	

Mayor Limberg moved approval of the bills totaling \$57,043.07 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 October 31, 2024. Mayor Limberg explained the Program Budget Status Report was distributed at the meeting. The Commission is 30% through the fiscal year with 30% expended and within budget.
- c. Contracts/Grants for Consideration. Ms. Bulat presented the following contracts for consideration.
 - Contract with Platinum Information Services, Inc. for an agreement for a one-year extension of services. There is a 7% increase in costs due to a new security software update.

Ms. Mendenhall motioned to approve the contract extension with Platinum Information Services, Inc. for one additional year. Mr. Maxwell seconded, and the motion was approved.

- Contract with Moran Economic Development Preparation of QC Enterprise Zone Grant Applications for \$29,500. This contract is held on behalf of East Moline, Milan, Moline, Rock Island, Silvis, and Rock Island County, Illinois – Includes MOA/IGA with jurisdictions to fund contract based on population distribution

 Contract also includes River Edge Redevelopment Zone Designation Materials for \$5,500 + \$150/hour. This is held on behalf of East Moline and Moline, and includes MOA/IGA with jurisdictions to fund contract based on 50/50 split.

Mr. Beck motioned to approve the contract with Moran and River Edge, and Mr. Davis seconded. The motion was approved with the exception of Mayor Rayapati who opposed.

- 4. Status of Transportation Planning and Economic Development Administration (EDA) Activities. Ms. McCullough reported that transportation planning activities were shared for regional, metropolitan and Region 9 planning geographies. A map illustrated these areas and highlighted the transportation assets in the Bi-State Region, including 191 miles of interstation, 1,188 bridges, 346 active rail miles, among other river, air, transit and trail assets.

Status of passenger rail from Chicago to Quad Cities was reported. Signed preliminary engineering plans agreeing to improvements between Illinois Department of Transportation, Iowa Interstate Railroad, BNSF Railway and Amtrak were effective as of September 30, 2024. The Federal Railroad Administration is currently reviewing these plans. Illinois DOT

must work with FRA to complete a service development plan prior to advancing National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and environmental clearance activities in the Corridor Identification and Development Program (CID) required for final design and construction. Timelines will be determined in the CID process. A grant extension for the procurement of rails cars was requested by ILDOT to FRA through June 30, 2026, and IAIS secured \$29+ million to replace 4 bridges on its system, 2 of which are in the QC-Chicago corridor.

Ms. McCullough noted participation in reauthorization discussions on the next transportation bill set to expire in 2026. Through the National Association of Development Organization's (NADO) regional transportation group, RPO America Council, a legislative transportation agenda is under develop seeking to support small-medium sized MPOs and rural areas. Other regional updates included completion of the 2024 Bi-State Region Freight Addendum which updated assets information and commodity flow data. The 2025 Quad Cities-Kewanee-Muscatine Traffic Safety Action plan is underway, including crash data analysis, stakeholder input and goal-setting to an aspirational goal of zero deaths and serious injuries due to vehicular crashes. As an example of the 7,200 collisions per year in the study areas, 1.5% involve vulnerable users such as pedestrians and bicyclists but this segment represents 28% of fatal and serious injury crashes. The plan will outline strategies to reduce death and incapacitating injuries, and provide a framework and project recommendations to seek funding opportunities.

Moving to the Quad Cities MPO and Region 9 areas, both have Long Range Transportation Plans to be finalized and approved by early 2026. Each Policy Committee will recommend final approval of the respective plans to the Commission. Timelines, emphasis areas and plan elements were shared at the meeting. Both transportation planning areas underwent cyclical planning reviews and are meeting federal and state requirements. In Region 9, Bi-State staff will be working with local staff and officials on an update of the Muscatine Countywide Trails Plan.

Following the transportation presentation, Ms. Bulat provided an overview of Economic Development Administration (EDA), specifically in regard to working with them on public works and planning grants. She noted that the mission of EDA is to lead the federal economic development agenda by promoting innovation and competitiveness and preparing American regions for growth and success in the worldwide economy. Bi-State Regional Commission is the Economic Development District for the Bi-State Region and is served by the Chicago EDA, which assists a total of eight states.

EDA works in partnership with state and local governments, regional economic development districts, public and private nonprofit organizations, and Indian tribes. EDA helps distressed communities address problems associated with long-term economic distress, as well as sudden economic job dislocations including recovering from natural disasters and the closure of military installations and other federal facilities.

Those who can apply include state/local governments, indigenous tribes, economic development districts, non-profits, and institutions of higher education. Non-profits and institutions of higher education must apply in cooperation with the local governments in which the project is located.

The investment policy guidelines EDA uses when evaluating a grant request are collaborative regional innovation, public/private partnerships, National Strategic Priorities, global competitiveness, environmentally-sustainable development, economically distress, and underserved communities.

The grant process from application to award often takes six months, especially in the case of construction projects. Key matters to remember are that projects must be on public or non-profit land and cannot be located on private property. So infrastructure such as sewer, water, or roads must go just to the business property line and preferable aid more than one business. Public works and planning projects requires a 50% match unless the project is in a county with chronic distress for which eligibility is based on being at least one percentage point higher than the national average for unemployment.

The typical funding cap for a public works project is \$3-3.5 million, and for technical assistance/planning it is \$50,000. Construction projects require a preliminary engineering report (PER). If an applicant is intending to use the same engineer throughout the project, competitive procurement that meets EDA guidelines is required prior to any portion of design or engineering beginning. Construction projects also require a preliminary environmental analysis (EA). Final EA approval by the EDA is required prior to ground-breaking. Because these are federal dollars, Davis Bacon and National Environmental Policy Act laws apply. Pre-award costs including grant application preparation, the PER, and the EA, are non-reimbursable.

When there is a project of interest, Bi-State will set up a call with the Economic Development Representative (EDR) to discuss the project and determine its competitiveness. Ms. Bulat reported that the Deere and Company losses have been a qualifying event, and EDA may assist on certain costs related to retraining the workers. A call with the Workforce Investment Board, the community college, and EDA had been scheduled to discuss the potential for funding.

5. Questions or Comments by Commissioners. There were no questions or comments.
6. Other Business. There was no other business.
7. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard “Quijas” Brunk
Secretary