MINUTES OF THE

BI-STATE REGIONAL COMMISSION

Wednesday, September 23, 2026, 3:30 p.m.
Rock Island County Office Building
1504 Third Avenue, Third Floor County Board Room
Rock Island, IL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Brad Bark – Chair; David Adams; Kippy Breeden; Richard "Quijas" Brunk; Kimberly Callaway-Thompson; Danny Chick; Michael Davis; Jean Dickson; Reggie Freeman; Jason Gordon; Ashley Harris; Ralph Heninger; Marshall Jones; Kurt Kirchner; Jerry Lack; Michael Limberg; John Maxwell; Marcy Mendenhall; Drue Mielke; Sangeetha Rayapati; Eileen Roethler; Rich Volkert

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mike Bartels; Maria Bribriesco; Rick Dunn; Robert Gallagher; Gary Moore; Scott Naumann; Jazmin Newton; Dylan Parker; Rick Schloemer; Alan Silas; William Stoermer

OTHERS PRESENT: Don Wrenn, Rock Island Arsenal; John Thompson, City of Riverdale

STAFF PRESENT: Lisa Ahern, Denise Bulat, Sarah Grabowski, Jill Henderson, Gena McCullough, Ricky Newcomb

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

1. Approval of the August 26, 2026 Minutes. Mr. Maxwell motioned to approve the minutes of the August 26, 2026 meeting as presented. Mayor Gordon seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
2. Treasurer's Report. Mayor Volkert presented the Treasurer's Report for the month ending August 31, 2026, noting an ending total bank book balance of $893,133.86. Mayor Volkert 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 $5,452.27, as listed on the following bills listing:

Bills List

Rock Island County Treasurer			$5,293.51
09/2026	Rent	4,841.75	
09/2026	Internet Access	88.00	
07/2026	Postage	292.66	
07/2026	Paper	71.10	

Addendum

Strategic Government Resources, Executive Recruitment Professional Fee	9,421.65

Mayor Limberg moved approval of the bills totaling $5,452.27 as presented above. Ms. Breeden seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

b. Report on Progress on Commission's FY 2026-27 Program Budget as of July 31, 2026. Mayor Limberg explained that on Program Budget Status Report, the Commission is 17% through the fiscal year with 14.7% expended and within budget.

c. Contracts/Grants for Consideration. There were no contracts or grants for consideration.

4. Executive Committee.

d. Consideration of recommendation regarding employment contract for Executive Director. Mayor Bark reported that the Executive Committee met twice to discuss the recommendation of the Executive Director Search Advisory Committee. There were 26 applicants that were narrowed to a field of eight and then four for final in-person interviews.

The Executive Committee unanimously approved hiring Todd Ashby as the next Executive Director of Bi-State. He was the Executive Director of the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Commission for over 10 years and most recently was in consulting in transportation planning and studies. The Executive Committee thoroughly reviewed his draft contract and recommended its approval with a compensation level of $160,000 including benefits and cost of living adjustments, which are provided to all Bi-State staff. His compensation also includes a monthly allowance of $500 for the use of his automobile in the Bi-State Region. Mayor Bark noted these arrangements closely align to those Denise Bulat has been receiving. His start date will be November 2, 2026.

Mayor Freeman moved approval to enter into contract with Todd Ashby for Executive Director. Mr. Brunk seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

5. Updates on RLF Program Status. Ms. Bulat reported that staff are continuing to work on the use of the defederalized RLF for construction activities. This could be a possibility for Illinois projects through the establishment of a Project Labor Agreement between the borrower and the sponsoring municipality. Staff are waiting to determine if this option could be available in Iowa. The ideal PLA would ensure that prevailing wage is monitored over the life of the project by the local government sponsor. The attorney who would draft the closing documents has not provided a cost for the project.

6. Data Services. Mr. Newcomb explained that Bi-State Data Services staff utilize 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, 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. 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 inputted in the direct effect events (ex. jobs in manufacturing versus jobs in a specific type of manufacturing).

7. QCTrails.org Presentation. Ms. McCullough highlighted upcoming updates to the QCTrails.org website. In 2016 under a grant from the Center for Disease Control to the Quad City Health Initiative, Bi-State Regional Commission partnered to develop a website to identify trails and promote physical activity. From this, QCTrails.org was created to highlight the connectivity of trails beginning in the Quad Cities metropolitan area and later expanding to include the entire Bi-State Region. The mobile-responsive website includes spatial data on trail routes and amenities, such as trailheads, parking, restrooms, etc. The site includes select trail elevations, surface type, length, and difficulty. New trails, notice of temporary trail closures, and other changes have been maintained by Bi-State Regional Commission planning and GIS staff. Updates are requested from member governments to add new trails or highlight new features.

   With the 10-year anniversary of QCTrails.org, a contract with Community Geographics to update the web platform is nearing completion. An important update includes ADA accessibility along with refreshing maps and photos, and improving navigation between trail descriptions and the map features. Bi-State staff is working with QCHI, who continues the role of marketing the site via the QCTrails Facebook page as part of promoting physical activity in the region. The new site will be relaunched prior to Bi-State's 60th Anniversary in celebrating trail development over the organization's history.

8. Questions or Comments by Commissioners. There were no questions or comments.

9. Other Business. Ms. Bulat reminded Commissioners to sign up for the 60th Anniversary luncheon for the October 28 meeting at The Bend Event Center in East Moline at 11:30 a.m.

10. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



John Maxwell
Secretary

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