

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

Wednesday, March 23, 2022, 3:30 p.m.  
Bettendorf City Hall  
Second Floor Board Room  
1609 State Street  
Bettendorf, Iowa

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Gallagher–Chair, Adams, Bark, Beck, Deppe, Dunn, Heninger, Holmes, Kinzer, Lawrence, Limberg, Maxwell, Mendenhall, Mielke, Poulos, Roethler, Sauer, Schloemer, Thompson, Waldron

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Breeden, Dawson, Freeman, Kendall, Lack, Mather, Matson, G. Moore, R. Moore, Newton, Parker, Rayapati, Sherwin, Stoermer, Thoms

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Mia Frommelt, Bohnsack & Frommelt; Colonel Jesse Curry, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District; Sam Heilig, Corporate Communications, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District

**STAFF PRESENT:** Bulat, Connors, Grabowski, Henderson, McCullough

1. Approval of the February 23, 2022 Minutes. Mr. Maxwell moved to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2022 meeting as presented. Mr. Beck seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
2. Treasurer’s Report. Mr. Waldron presented the Treasurer’s Report for the month ending February 28, 2022, noting an ending total bank and book balance of \$651,466.76. Mr. Waldron moved the report be accepted as written and mailed. Mr. Maxwell seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
3. Finance and Personnel Committee.
  - a. Bills. Mr. Waldron presented the bills totaling \$32,349.43, as listed on the following bills listing:

Bills List

Bohnsack & Frommelt, LLP, Final Year-End June 30, 2021 Audit and Single Audit	\$17,500.00
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Addendum

Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. (esri), ArcGIS Network Analyst Desktop Concurrent Use License and Primary and Secondary Maintenance March 31, 2022 to March 30, 2023	6,916.03	
Platinum Information Services, Inc., IT Support and 24/7 Network Monitoring Service; Installation of 3 New Desktops; New Desktop Monitor	2,223.12	
Rock Island County Treasurer	5,710.28	
04/2022	Rent	4,979.25
04/2022	Internet Access	88.00
03/2022	Managed Print Services	239.77
02/2022	Postage	309.34

02/2022	Supplies	68.00
02/2022	Cell Phone	25.92

Mr. Waldron moved approval of the bills totaling \$32,349.43 as presented above. Mr. Kinzer seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

b. Report on Progress on Commission’s FY 2020-21 Program Budget as of February 23, 2022. Mr. Waldron explained the Program Budget Status Report was not available at the meeting; however, it will be distributed via e-mail afterward. The Commission is 66.7% through the fiscal year with 61.3% expended and within budget.

c. Contracts/Grants for Consideration. Ms. Bulat presented the following grant for consideration.

- Illinois Statewide Planning and Research Grant for an Andalusia Road-Indian Bluff Road Corridor Study. Cost is \$200,000 with \$160,000 from SPR Funds and a \$40,000 match to be shared with Rock Island, Milan, Moline, and Rock Island County. The grant is due March 30, 2022.

Mr. Maxwell moved approval of the grant as presented above. Ms. Mendenhall seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

d. Consideration of Recommendation to Accept the Financial and Compliance Report for the Year Ended June 30, 2021 Mr. Waldron stated the Finance and Personnel Committee received a detailed audit presentation and are recommending approval of the audit report. Ms. Frommelt reported there were no findings and that Bi-State complied with all laws, regulations, contracts, and grants. The Commission again received the highest audit opinion, an unmodified opinion "Clean Audit" with no findings or questioned costs.

Mr. Deppe made a motion to accept the Financial and Compliance Report for the year ended June 30, 2021. Ms. Mendenhall seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

e. Consideration to Renew the Executive Director’s Annual Employment Agreement Mr. Waldron reported evaluation forms were sent to Commissioners and member government officials, with Ms. Bulat receiving high marks by those who responded. He stated the Finance and Personnel Committee recommended the Executive Director’s employment contract be renewed for the year November 1, 2021 – October 31, 2022, with a 3% merit increase, along with any budgeted wage adjustment received by all staff across the board.

Mr. Deppe made a motion to renew the Executive Director’s annual employment agreement with a 3% merit increase in addition to any budgeted wage adjustment received by all staff across the board. Mr. Maxwell seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

4. Bi-State Region Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Progress Report 2022 Draft Presentation. Ms. Bulat presented a draft of the *Bi-State Region Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Progress Report 2022*, 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 access 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 40.9. The cost of living is lower than the national average and compares favorably to regional counterparts and is down from 91.7 to 89.4 based on 100.0 being the average in the U.S. The draft annual 2021 unemployment rate is 5.1% and less than the national rate of 5.3%. There has been a slight decrease in Gross Regional Product from the previous year of \$19.59 to \$19.27 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 being monitored.

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, RLFs; the I-74 Corridor Project, the largest infrastructure project in regional history; a trained educated labor force; multiple economic development partners; multiple mental health services; multi-season outdoor recreation opportunities; and major redevelopment activities.

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; the CP Rail merger; 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.

5. Overview and Status of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Rock Island District. Colonel Curry provided an overview and update on projects being undertaken by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Serving 5 river basins in 5 states, the Rock Island District delivers vital engineering and water resources solutions in collaboration with their partners to secure the nation, reduce disaster risk, and enhance the quality of the nation's inland waterway system. The Rock Island District maintains the second longest nine-foot navigation channel (582 miles) and 18 locks and dams. This system supports the movement of 313 million tons of cargo annually (2021).

Col. Curry highlighted a number of programs and projects including the Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program, Brandon Road Interbasin Project in Joilet, Cedar Rapids Flood Risk Management Project, and maintenance projects at five locks and dams in 2020 with four additional planned for 2023. The Lock 15 dewatering project completed March 3, 2022 was finalized in one quarter and included repair of miter gate and seals, concrete repair, and bubbler system repair and replacements.

FY2022 funding of the Rock Island District is \$416.3 million. With the passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, there will be an influx of funds amounting to \$1.2 billion to complete critical projects in the Upper Mississippi River Valley. The Mississippi River Project is planned for \$50 million to repair scour, lock damage, guide wall work, gate repairs, and dredging among items.

6. Questions or Comments by Commissioners. There were no questions or comments by Commissioners.
7. Other Business. There was no other business
8. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Scott Sauer  
Secretary