

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

Wednesday, March 25, 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; Mike Bartels; Ken Beck (for John Maxwell); Danny Chick; Michael Davis; Jean Dickson; Reggie Freeman; Jason Gordon; Ralph Heninger; Marshall Jones; Kurt Kirchner; Jerry Lack; Michael Limberg; Drue Mielke; Sangeetha Rayapati; Eileen Roethler; Jerry Secher (for Robert Gallagher); Rich Volkert

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kippy Breeden; Kimberly Callaway-Thompson; Rick Dunn; Ashley Harris; Dan McNeil; Marcy Mendenhall; Gary Moore; Scott Naumann; Jazmin Newton; Dylan Parker; Rick Schloemer; William Stoermer

OTHERS PRESENT: Andy Ervin, NOAA

STAFF PRESENT: Lisa Ahern, Denise Bulat, Sarah Grabowski, Jill Henderson, Gena McCullough, Natalie Murphy, Bryan Schmid

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

1. Approval of the February 25, 2026 Minutes. Mr. Beck motioned to approve the minutes of the February 25, 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 February 28, 2026, noting an ending total bank book balance of \$765,413.79. Mayor Volkert moved the report be accepted as written and mailed. Mr. Jones seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
3. Finance and Personnel Committee.
 - a. Bills. Mayor Limberg presented the bills totaling \$12,684.84, as listed on the following bills listing:

Bills List

ESRI, 3/31/26-3/30/27 ArcGIS Annual Subscription and Maintenance	\$7,340.00
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Addendum

Rock Island County Treasurer	5,344.84	
04/2026	Rent	4,841.75
04/2026	Internet Access	88.00
02/2026	Paper	14.00
02/2026	Postage	401.09

Mayor Limberg moved approval of the bills totaling \$12,684.84 as presented above. Mr. Beck seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

- b. Report on Progress on Commission’s FY 2025-26 Program Budget as of February 28, 2026. Mayor Limberg explained that on Program Budget Status Report, the Commission is 67% through the fiscal year with 58.5% expended and within budget.
 - c. Contracts/Grants for Consideration. There were no contracts or grants for consideration.
4. Status of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. Ms. Ahern presented a draft of the *Bi-State Region Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2026 (CEDS)*, highlighting economic trends in the Quad Cities. Besides the Bi-State Regions Goals, Strategies and Demographics that were presented previously, components of the CEDS include a description of the strengths, challenges, opportunities, and threats; and a list of performance measures to identify progress toward the region’s goals.

Strengths and opportunities in the Bi-State Region include multimodal transportation and connectivity; the Rock Island Arsenal and its global reach; economic development partnerships; tourism; labor force resources; numerous economic tools including enterprise zones, opportunity zones, and RLFs; and multiple healthcare facilities.

Challenges/Opportunities in the region include construction costs and tariffs; housing needs; internet infrastructure and access; and automation advances, remote work, and the unknown impacts of artificial intelligence. Other opportunities include passenger rail; preservation and revitalization activities; support for manufacturing; port districts; and e-commerce.

The themes related to threats include protecting jobs at the Rock Island Arsenal; the growing to need to fund and improve local and regional infrastructure projects; limitations to industrial park space; extreme weather events; state taxing changes; rising property insurance costs; and increased railroad traffic. In addition, recreational cannabis and electric vehicle infrastructure, such as battery production, storage, and disposal, were considered to have characteristics of both opportunities and threats.

The economic development projects listed in the plan were collected from partners and member governments and are used to report progress toward goals. The Bi-State staff are continuing to collect input from members and partners on the draft.

Ms. Ahern noted that the CEDS will lay on the table until the April 22, 2026 meeting when it will be considered for approval to be submitted to EDA.

5. Consideration of Adoption of the *Thrive 2055: Quad Cities Long Range Transportation Plan Update*. Ms. McCullough explained that Bi-State Regional Commission is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Quad Cities Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA). MPOs are tasked with preparing a Long Range Transportation Plan every five years for metropolitan planning areas. The Commission received a comprehensive overview of the *Thrive 2055: Quad Cities Long Range Transportation Plan* at the February 2026 meeting. Bi-State staff worked with the Quad Cities MPO Transportation Technical and Policy Committees over the last 24-months to draft an update. Chapters were available for public review since early January and placed on the Bi-State website. The plan address travel needs and desires in the Quad Cities, and supports opportunities for funding as projects move from concept to construction. Since February, three additional outreach efforts were noted, as well as consultation with resource agencies. Plan improvements addressed public input related to improved bus service, roads/bridges, safer streets, safer connected bicycle network, and the

desire for regional passenger rail service to Chicago. Ms. McCullough noted the comments received on the draft, grouping them as those addressed in the document and those that were passed along to appropriate jurisdictions to consider. The plan was recommended by the Quad Cities MPO Transportation Technical and Policy Committees for approval.

Mr. Brunk moved approval to adopt the *Thrive 2055: Quad Cities Long Range Transportation Plan*. Mr. Beck seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

6. National Weather Service Spring 2026 Flood Outlook. Mr. Ervin provided a 2026 Spring Flood and Water Resources Outlook. Mr. Ervin noted that, overall, the spring flood risk is below normal for the Mississippi River and near-to-below normal for tributary rivers across the NWS Quad Cities area. Heavy spring rains will be the main factors in whether or not spring flooding occurs, and how severe it will be. There are no greater than normal risks anticipated to flooding. Low precipitation has caused much of the area to enter into a D1 (moderate) drought. Parts of southeast Iowa and northwest Illinois are in a (D2) severe drought. Mr. Ervin noted that Mary-Beth Schreck is the NWS Senior Service Hydrologist for the NWS Quad Cities and may also be reached for questions related to flooding at marybeth.schreck@noaa.gov.
7. Questions or Comments by Commissioners. There were no questions or comments.
8. Other Business. There was no other business.
9. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



John Maxwell
Secretary