

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

Wednesday, May 27, 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; Ken Beck (for Jean Dickson); Michael Davis; Robert Gallagher; Jason Gordon; Ashley Harris; Ralph Heninger; Marshall Jones; Kurt Kirchner; Jerry Lack; Michael Limberg; John Maxwell; Marcy Mendenhall; Drue Mielke; Scott Naumann; Sangeetha Rayapati; Lynn Segura (for Reggie Freeman); William Stoermer; Rich Volkert

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mike Bartels; Kippy Breeden; Kimberly Callaway-Thompson; Danny Chick; Rick Dunn; Dan McNeil; Gary Moore; Jazmin Newton; Dylan Parker; Eileen Roethler; Rick Schloemer

OTHERS PRESENT: Don Wrenn, Rock Island Arsenal; John Gering, Iowa Department of Natural Resources

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

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

1. **Approval of the April 22, 2026 Minutes.** Mr. Maxwell motioned to approve the minutes of the April 22, 2026 meeting as presented. Mr. Stoermer seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
2. **Treasurer's Report.** Mayor Volkert presented the Treasurer's Report for the month ending April 30, 2026, noting an ending total bank book balance of \$780,956.57. Mayor Volkert 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.** Mayor Limberg presented the bills totaling \$12,889.89, as listed on the following bills listing:

Bills List

Churchill & Churchill, P.C., 1/9/26 – 3/27/26, Admin Hearing Officer Fee	\$7,500.00
Rock Island County Treasurer	5,389.89
06/2026 Rent	4,841.75
06/2026 Internet Access	88.00
04/2026 Postage	383.54
04/2026 Paper	76.60

Addendum

There were no additional bills.

Mayor Limberg moved approval of the bills totaling \$12,889.89 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 April 30, 2026. Mayor Limberg explained that on Program Budget Status Report, the Commission is 83% through the fiscal year with 77.0% expended and within budget.
- c. Contracts/Grants for Consideration. There were no contracts or grants for consideration.
- d. Consideration of Recommended FY2026 Proposed Revised Commission Planning Budget. Ms. Bulat reported the Finance and Personnel Committee reviewed and recommended the proposed revised FY 2026 Commission Planning Budget.

Ms. Mendenhall motioned to approve the Revised FY2026 Program Budget as presented, and Mr. Jones seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- e. Presentation of Recommended FY2027 Commission Planning Budget. Ms. Bulat reviewed the draft FY 2027 Budget as recommended by the Finance and Personnel Committee. She reported dues for Bi-State's member governments will not increase and that they are used to match federal and state grants and provide regional programs and technical assistance. Continuation of the merit performance review program, with a projected average of 2.5%, is recommended along with a 3.0% across the board annual wage adjustment.

The budget will lay on the table and be considered for approval at the June 24, 2026 Commission meeting, and the line item budget and dues pages are sent to all member governments for review.

4. Executive Committee

- a. Potential Recommendation to Hire a Search Firm for Executive Director Recruitment. Chair Bark reported the Executive Committee recommended that a search committee be hired for recruiting candidates for executive director.

Mayor Gallagher moved approval to approve hiring a search firm for Executive Director recruitment as directed by the Executive Committee. Mr. Maxwell seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

5. Consideration of Resolutions Supporting the FY2027 Quad Cities and Region 9 Transportation Planning Work Programs (TPWPs). Ms. McCullough provided a summary on the draft FY2027 Transportation Planning Work Programs (TPWPs) for the Quad Cities metropolitan planning area and the area serving rural Scott County, and Muscatine County known as Region 9. These documents contain the planned activities and budget for transportation efforts conducted by Bi-State Regional Commission staff for the coming fiscal year. The budgets are incorporated into the overall Bi-State agency budget. The Quad Cities MPO effort is a total of \$1,404,835 utilizing \$1,123,868 in federal transportation planning dollars. The Region 9 effort is a total of \$76,960, which includes \$61,568 in federal transportation planning dollars.

The MPO activities will include working with jurisdictions to implement projects in the *Thrive 2055: Quad Cities Long Range Transportation Plan*, programming funds, traffic safety and transit summits, trail planning, as well as a focus on river crossing improvements, mobility, system preservation, and moving local projects forward. Region 9 activities will

include assistance with implementation of the *2050 Long Range Transportation Plan for Region 9*, programming funds, trails/transit assistance, and completing the *Muscatine County Trails Plan*.

The MPO and Region 9 Transportation Policy Committees' review the work program activities while the Commission approves the budgets and ability for staff to facilitate contracts with the DOTs.

Mr. Beck moved approval of the resolutions to authorize application of the federal transportation planning grants and execute the respective grant agreements as presented. Mr. Maxwell seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

6. Ozone and PM2.5 Design Values in the Bi-State Regional Area. Mr. Gering provided an update on meeting federal air quality standards in Iowa, and the Iowa Quad Cities. He described two air ambient air quality standards related to fine particulate matter and ground level ozone.

Particulate matter is made of very small solid particles and liquid droplets suspended in air, excluding water droplets. The finer particles with a diameter of 2.5 micrometers or 30 times smaller than an average diameter of a human hair are classified as PM 2.5. Coarser particulates are classified at PM10. Ozone at ground level is a photochemical reaction when nitrogen oxide and volatile organic compounds combine under sunlight. Sources of these pollutants come primarily from combustion of fuel sources as emissions, such as vehicles, landscape equipment, industrial processes, fossil fuel power generation, grass or forest fires, and a number of other sources.

Mr. Gering noted that health exceedances of the standard for each of these pollutants does not directly equate to non-attainment. Mathematical formulas and annual averages are used over a three-year period to determine non-attainment of an air quality standard. He reviewed how fine particulates and ozone are calculated. These design values are used to evaluate the exceedance of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

For PM2.5, the 24-hour standard is 35 micograms per cubic meter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$). The 2023-2025 Design Value for PM2.5 is 20 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ in western Davenport and 19 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ in Muscatine. The annual standard for PM2.5 is 9.0 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ with 2023-2025 Design Values of 8.2 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ in Davenport, and 8.1 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ in Muscatine. The current annual standard was lowered from 12.0 to 9.0 in March 2024. On November 24, 2025, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requested that the D.C. Circuit Court vacate the agency's 2024 revision. A final decision has not been made.

Mr. Gering explained that for ozone, the standard is 70 parts per billion (ppb). A value of 71 ppb would be an exceedance of this standard. For ozone, the 2023-2025 Design Value for ozone is 70 ppb at Scott County Park monitor. While ozone levels have been on the decline, in 2023 of the three-year period, there were a greater number of higher readings, and the method on how ozone concentrations were calculated changed during that period.

Based on a five-year review of Iowa data (2018-2022), there were less than four ozone exceedances per year and less than three PM2.5 exceedances per year. There have been no ozone or PM2.5 exceedances to date in the Davenport/Muscatine areas in 2026. Assuming this year and 2027 reflect more "normal" average number of exceedances, Mr. Gering would expect the design values to decline.

7. Questions or Comments by Commissioners. There were no questions or comments.
8. Other Business. Ms. Bulat reminded Commissioners that this is BSRC's 60th anniversary in October. It is also the anniversary She asked that Commissioners send in trails pictures for centerpieces for the October meeting. On October 5 and 6, the ADT trail will have a celebration of riders across the Arsenal Bridge.
9. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Maxwell', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

John Maxwell
Secretary