

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

Wednesday, April 22, 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; Kippy Breeden; Kimberly Callaway-Thompson; Danny Chick; Jean Dickson; Reggie Freeman; Robert Gallagher; Jason Gordon; Ashley Harris; Ralph Heninger; Marshall Jones; Jerry Lack; Michael Limberg; John Maxwell; Drue Mielke; Scott Naumann; Sangeetha Rayapati; Eileen Roethler; Rich Volkert

MEMBERS ABSENT: Michael Davis; Rick Dunn; Kurt Kirchner; Dan McNeil; Marcy Mendenhall; Gary Moore; Jazmin Newton; Dylan Parker; Rick Schloemer; William Stoermer

OTHERS PRESENT: Colin Shirk, Bi-CAM; Coal Valley Trustee; Aide to Mariannette Miller-Meeks

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

Chair Bark called the meeting to order at 3:34 p.m.

1. **Approval of the March 25, 2026 Minutes.** Mr. Maxwell motioned to approve the minutes of the March 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 March 31, 2026, noting an ending total bank book balance of \$728,798.49. Mayor Volkert moved the report be accepted as written and mailed. Mr. Naumann seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
3. **Finance and Personnel Committee.**
 - a. **Bills.** Mayor Limberg presented the bills totaling \$5,596.19, as listed on the following bills listing:

Bills List

Rock Island County Treasurer		5,176.88
05/2026	Rent	4,841.75
05/2026	Internet Access	88.00
03/2026	Paper Supplies	207.10
05/2026	Printing	40.03

Addendum

Rock Island County Treasurer; additional invoice added in the amount of \$419.31 (Postage)

Mayor Limberg moved approval of the bills totaling \$5,596.19 as presented above. Mayor Gallagher seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

b. Report on Progress on Commission's FY 2025-26 Program Budget as of March 31, 2026.

Mayor Limberg explained that on Program Budget Status Report, the Commission is 75% through the fiscal year with 66.0% expended and within budget.

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

- Contract with Community Geographics for an upgrade of the QCTrails.org website. The contract is for \$16,000 and will run from 4/22/26 through 7/31/26.
- Contract with Economic Development Administration (EDA) for planning services. The contract is for \$210,000 with a match of \$141,000, and runs from 7/1/26 through 6/30/29.

Mr. Maxwell moved approval to approve the contracts as presented. Mr. Jones seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

4. Consideration of Succession Planning Process. Ms. Bulat presented

Mr. Naumann moved approval to approve the Succession Plan as approved and by the Executive Committee for recommendation to the Commission. Mayor Bartels seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

5. Consideration of Adoption of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2026 (CEDS).

Ms. Ahern presented the final draft of the *Bi-State Region Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) 2026*, that had been distributed to Commissioners at the March 25, 2026 meeting for review and provided to the public on the Bi-State website. Minor comments were received through the 30-day review regarding economic development related projects as noted in the projects list. Updates were made to Analysis of Regional Economy to add information shared by local economic development staff and partners, identify manufacturing capabilities as a strength, and to provide additional context to certain topics such as energy and rail traffic. The revisions also included updates to list of Recreational Amenities, Festivals and Events, and Progress Toward Goals.

Mr. Maxwell moved approval to adopt the *Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2026*. Mayor Gallagher seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

6. Status of the Development of the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan for Iowa Region 9.

Ms. McCullough described the Region 9 geography as covering rural Scott County outside of the metropolitan area and all of Muscatine County as the area addressed in the *2050 Long Range Transportation Plan for Iowa Region 9 (LRTP)*. Regional transportation planning is under state oversight, but many requirements mirror the MPO and the federal planning process. The plan purpose looks at travel needs and desires, existing conditions and outlines improvements that are needed in the future. The LRTP goals emphasize efficient movement of goods/services, well developed land use patterns to compliment transportation, balancing economic development with environmental protection, supporting safety and security, promoting accessibility for a variety of modes and ensuring a resilient system to minimize travel disruptions.

A public survey determined interest in extending bicycle and walking facilities as well as public transit service hours. Citizens also expressed interest in improved roads and passenger rail. The plan identifies 53 roadway projects with the majority focusing on system preservation. This will be important as 93% of the future freight movement is projected to be by truck. The LRTP notes modest transit growth and support for operations and service needs by fixed-route transit and regional transit. Trail connectivity will focus on completing the national trail system in Region 9. The Iowa DOT requires a financial analysis for the plan with an estimated 80-90% dedicated to operations and maintenance and 10-20% toward expansion or capacity improvements. The Region 9 Transportation Policy Committee will review the full draft and consider opening the plan for a 30-day public review on April 23, 2026. They will consider a recommendation for adoption in late May or early June. Following this recommendation, the plan will be presented to the Commission for adoption at the June 24 meeting.

7. Bi-CAN Presentation. Mr. Shirk provided a presentation on the Bi-State Conservation Action Network (Bi-CAN) in recognition of Earth Day. Bi-CAN works to achieve conservation action through networking and collaboration in the Quad-Cities Area. Through partnership-based initiatives, Bi-CAN seeks opportunities to add, restore, and protect green space through habitat restoration projects that provide wildlife habitat, protect at-risk wildlife species, and enhance environmental resiliency. Bi-CAN led initiatives, provide community-based environmental education to encourage and foster stewardship of natural areas.

Bi-CAN was initiated in 2015 with a coalition of many organizations including local governments and their conservation and recreation departments; State Departments of Natural Resources; national resource agencies such as US Fish and Wildlife, Natural Resource Conservation Service, and US Army Corps of Engineers; state universities; and other local, state, and national organization such as Living Lands and Waters, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, and Pheasants for Ever. One of their core goals is invasive species awareness and removing invasive species from QC natural areas by engaging the community to action and educating the public on future conservation efforts.

Work related to education includes their Pollinator Conference, Winter Webinar Series, Invasive Species Workshop and Land Management Conference. They also hold annual public and member networking events. An activity they are known for is their Bioblitz efforts. This is a semiannual public event in which the coalition surveys the biodiversity of a location and concurrently engages the community while supporting conservation. The next Bioblitz will be held on June 26, 2026 at the Wapsi Environmental Education Center in northern Scott County. Prior Bioblitz events have been held at Milan Bottoms (563 species identified), Green Valley in Moline (429 species identified); Blackhawk Historic Site (538 species identified), Quad Cities Conservation Alliance Wetlands in East Moline (440 species identified), Loud Thunder Forest Preserve (868 species identified), Sunderbruch Park in Davenport (571 species identified), Hauberg Estate in Rock Island (607 species identified), and Amowa Forest Preserve (906 species identified). They also hold an annual Backyard Bee Blitz in collaboration with the US Fish and Wildlife Service to encourage citizen science.

8. Questions or Comments by Commissioners. There were no questions or comments.
9. Other Business. There was no other business.
10. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

John Maxwell
Secretary