



**MISSISSIPPI RIVER  
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**  
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*Eugene Savage, Black River Falls  
Chairman*  
*Margaret Baecker, Independence  
Vice Chairman*  
*Vicki Burke, Onalaska  
Secretary & Treasurer*  
*Greg Flogstad, Onalaska  
Director*

### MINUTES

**MISSISSIPPI RIVER REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (MRRPC)  
BIMONTHLY MEETING  
10:00 a.m., June 12, 2013  
Seasons by the Lake, 910 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue North, Onalaska, Wisconsin**

#### **Call to Order**

Chairman Savage called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and asked for the roll call. Greg Flogstad, Director took the roll and stated a quorum was present. The attendance roster is attached. Guests in attendance: Paul Wydeven, Wisconsin Department of Transportation-Southwest Region.

#### **Minutes of April 10, 2013 Bimonthly Meeting**

Chairman Savage asked for a motion to approve the April 10, 2013 bimonthly minutes. Commissioner Schnitzler made a motion; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Krachey to accept the minutes of the April 10, 2013, bimonthly meeting. The motion was carried unanimously.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Vicki Burke, MRRPC Secretary/Treasurer presented the treasurers reports. Ms. Burke said the March 31, 2013 balance in all MRRPC accounts was \$281,636.13 and the April 30, 2013 ending balance was \$316,085.97. Ms. Burke reported that the beginning balance in May 1, 2013 was \$316,085.97 and the balance in all accounts as of May 31, 2013 was \$290,843.21.

Ms. Burke presented the financial report for the Business Capital Fund I indicating a March 31, 2013 balance of \$205,158.84. From April 2013 through May 2013 activity in this account included loan repayments of \$15,509.99, account interest of \$70.09, D&O insurance premium payment of \$2,077 and MRRPC Administrative fees of \$3,400 leaving a May 31, 2013 ending balance of \$215,261.92. Ms. Burke reported a balance of \$231,772.06 in the BCF Sequester Account as of March 31, 2013. Account activity for April and May 2013 included a U.S. Treasury interest payment of \$82.78 and account interest of \$97.48 leaving a May 31, 2013 balance of \$231,786.76.

Ms. Burke said that as of March 31, 2013, the Business Capital Fund II RLF had a balance of \$61,885.37. Activity in this account for April 1, 2013 through May 31, 2013 included interest of \$20.64, loan repayments of \$2,168.72, transfer of funds to the BCF 2 Sequester Account of \$2,499.04 and MRRPC Administrative fees of \$850 leaving a May 31, 2013 balance of \$60,725.69. A balance of \$116,849.87 was reported for the BCF 2 Sequester Account. Account activity for April and May 2013 included a deposit of \$2,499.04 of sequestered funds, a U.S. Treasury interest payment of \$43.23 and account interest of \$49.40 leaving a May 31, 2013 balance of \$119,355.08.

The CMV Growth Development Fund began with a March 13, 2013 balance of \$35,072.17. Ms. Burke said from the period of March 14, 2013 through May 8, 2013 activity in this account included \$8.12 in interest and loan payments of \$518.50 leaving a March 13, 2013 balance of \$35,598.79. Ms. Burke said the balance in the CMV-EDA Sequester Fund as of March 13, 2013 was \$164,008.83. During the period of March 14, 2013 through May 8, 2013 activity in this account consisted of interest earned of \$37.74 leaving a May 8, 2013 balance of \$164,046.57.

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#### ***A Nine County Economic Development District Providing Assistance to Local Governments***

- Land Use Planning ▪ Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances ▪ Transportation Planning ▪ Economic Development Planning
- GIS Mapping ▪ Recreation Planning ▪ Revolving Loan Fund Administration ▪ Grant Writing ▪ Socioeconomic Data Dissemination
- Assist Local Interests in Responding to State and Federal Programs ▪ Advisory Service on Local Planning Issues
- Coordinating Agency for Programs and Activities ▪ Public Advocacy on Issues Affecting Our Region

Ms. Burke said the La Crosse County Economic Development Fund (LCEDF) began with a March 13, 2013 balance of \$50,026.89. From March 14, 2013 through May 13, 2013 account activity included \$2,280 in loan payments, \$16.02 in account interest, a transfer of \$4,450.46 to the LCEDF Sequester Fund RLF, and MRRPC administrative fees of \$1,100 leaving a May 13, 2013 account balance of \$46,772.45. The LCEDF Sequester Account began with a May 31, 2013 balance of \$59,201.93. From April 1, 2013 through May 31, 2013 activity in this account included account interest of \$20.54, an interest payment of \$24.99 to the U.S. Treasury, and a \$4,450.46 deposit of sequestered funds leaving a May 31, 2013 balance of \$63,647.94.

Chairman Savage asked for a motion of approval on the treasurers reports presented. Commissioner Schlesselman made a motion to approve the treasurer's reports as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schroeder and approved unanimously.

Mr. Law reported there weren't any additional loans made from the Business Capital Fund or the CMV Growth Development Fund since the last bimonthly meeting but he had good news to report for the Monroe County CDBG Revolving Loan Fund. He reported the Monroe County RLF recently approved a \$25,000 loan to an auto sales/auto detail business located in the City of Sparta. Mr. Law said any loans we make we take as indication things are starting to look up. Commission Kuhn questioned if the revolving funds just reported on would be affected by the regionalization of the State revolving loan funds. Mr. Flogstad explained the MRRPC revolving loan funds would not be affected by the regionalization as those funds came from the U.S. Department of Commerce-Economic Development Administration and are totally separate. Mr. Flogstad said the funds affected by the regionalization are US Department of Housing and Urban Development –Community Development Block Grant Funds. Mr. Law said the Monroe County RLF would be part of the regionalization. Mr. Flogstad said everything just approved on the treasurer's reports are not part of the regionalization.

#### **Presentation on Pierce, Pepin, Trempealeau and Monroe County Communication Interoperability Plans**

Mr. Bonifas said there are three programs and actions regarding Interoperability he would be reporting on today: 1) Tactical Interoperability Communications (TIC) Plan, 2) WISCOM, and 3) Broadband (high speed Internet). Mr. Bonifas said a TIC plan is used as a tactical tool for incidents and planned events providing standardized information on county, regional, or Urban Area (UASI) communications resources and capabilities. He explained the state wishes to have standardized TIC plans in place so communication equipment etc. can easily be identified. He said TIC plans are geared towards mass disasters where you can have responders coming from other counties etc. He said TIC plans are used as a tool for tactical incidents and also for planning purposes. Mr. Bonifas said there is a requirement that every three or four years counties conduct a planned disaster event. He gave the example a such an event recently held in La Crosse County where there was a staged disaster at a high school dealing with a large number of people and outside agencies.

Mr. Bonifas said a TIC Plan Template or model is provided by the State so everyone can follow the same guidelines. The template serves as a starting point offering instructions, suggestions, examples and suggestions. Primary TIC Plan components include five sections: Executive Overview; Section 1: County/Region Participation; Section 2: Governance; Section 3: Interoperability Equipment and Policies and Procedures; Section 4: County/Regional Emergency Resource Staffing; Section 5: Communication Asset Survey and Mapping (CASM); and Appendices. Mr. Bonifas said when doing the TIC plans one of the things we found that was lacking was policies and procedures in place in case of a disaster event.

Mr. Bonifas said one of the things the state is implementing is COML, a command leader. COML are people specifically trained in interoperability for most disasters. Mr. Bonifas said the COML need TIC Plans in place so they can easily find a county's resources/assets etc. in case of a disaster. Mr. Bonifas said at a national level there is a database called CASM routinely updated by counties, regional coordinators etc. that is used to track local communication assets. He said CASM has the capability to do some mapping. Mr. Bonifas said all the information entered in CASM is public safety sensitive and restricted. It is not available to the general public; you have to have authority just to view CASM data and different authority to change the data. Mr. Bonifas said it used to be the case you could only view your state's data but there has been a change so Wisconsin can a view a strip of neighboring states 2 or 3 counties wide. Mr. Bonifas explained Wisconsin was the first to request this change.

Mr. Bonifas provided an update on TIC plans in the region. He said Pepin County's TIC plan is almost complete. A kick-off meeting was held in Trempealeau County about a year ago and about a month ago he met with the Emergency Management Director to get that plan completed. Monroe County was provided a model plan as they are doing their own plan. He attended a kickoff meeting with Pierce County three months ago and they are now in the data collection stage. Jackson County just had a radio switch so they are working with their new radio company on their plan. Buffalo County's Emergency Management Director

was serving overseas and the State has agreed in postponing their plan. Mr. Bonifas explained the State has set up six WEM regions for interoperability and each region has a coordinator. Our region, the West Central region does not cover Crawford and Vernon County. Mr. Bonifas said he has talked with the regional coordinator overseeing those counties and they haven't started the plans to date. Mr. Bonifas said the state would like to have all the TIC plans done by the end of the year. Commissioner Schnitzler asked who was handling Monroe County's Plan. Mr. Bonifas responded that Randy Williams, Director of the 911 Communications Center is handling Monroe County's plan. Commissioner Burke asked about the status of La Crosse County's TIC Plan. Mr. Bonifas said that 4 or 5 years ago La Crosse County's plan was done but it was never officially adopted according to his knowledge. Mr. Bonifas said the plan identifies all your assets and shows your shortcomings.

WISCOM is a statewide VHF trunked radio system that first responders in communities across the state can communicate with during a major disaster or large-scale incident and broadband. He said 95% statewide coverage is the goal of WISCOM, a seamless statewide public safety radio communications network. Areas of the MRRPC region are included in the 5% not covered. Mr. Flogstad said the MRRPC region only takes up 11% of the land area in the state. Mr. Bonifas said the state also has a goal of 60% portable coverage from core sites. Portable coverage is when you have it on your belt and you are walking around. He said there's a difference between on your belt and on your lapel, the types of radios. WISCOM can be used locally or over a wide area. It's tied into other radio systems and bordering states. Cities etc. can sign up for WISCOM or the county can do it as a whole. Mr. Bonifas reviewed some of the benefits of being on WISCOM. He said there are currently 10,000+ subscriber units enabled on the system. WISCOM became live May 2012. Mr. Bonifas passed out a map of WISCOM tower sites showing active, future and anticipated core sites. Mr. Bonifas said some counties have signed on as daily users. Mr. Bonifas said there is a charge to use WISCOM however most of the charges are waived until 2015. The charges were waived until 2015 to get some users on the system and show the benefits of the system. The user charges will be used to upgrade the system. Mr. Flogstad asked about special radios and Mr. Bonifas said the radios just have to be P25 compliant. He said almost everyone should have those types of radios. Mr. Bonifas explained that if you use WISCOM just for interoperability, there is no charge; however if you are going to use it on a daily basis, there will be a charge. If you need a build out or any additional equipment there is a charge for that. Fees are waived until June 2015 for eligible local and public safety users. Mr. Bonifas said there will be additional training on WISCOM. Mr. Bonifas said he is the regional coordinator for our region. He explained our RPC area and West Central RPCs area overlap and West Central RPC is the lead agency. Mr. Bonifas said the regional coordinators are going to be trained on the information on WISCOM and will respond to inquiries in our region. Commissioner Borreson said this is a no brainer and this would be a positive step but questioned the charges being assessed in almost every aspect, and if long term there would be any savings. Mr. Bonifas explained the state maintains the towers. Mr. Bonifas said there has been positive feedback on the system and the ones we know about, like it. Commissioner Kuhn commented all is good if all radios are P25 compliant and all your equipment is P25 compliant which they aren't. He explained that in Monroe County's case they would not have been able to talk to Jackson County. He added that the State isn't going to buy your equipment for you but once you hang the equipment on the tower it becomes property of the state. He added the State won't build the other towers you may need; you have to build and maintain those towers yourself. There was some discussion on the fact that additional towers would have to be built to get 95% coverage in our region. Mr. Bonifas said there are benefits to WISCOM and that as a regional coordinator we want feedback from the counties on issues of concern. There was some more discussion on the obstacles facing counties with their communication systems. Mr. Bonifas said if there are any concerns or questions the regional coordinators meet quarterly with the State.

Mr. Bonifas said the last thing he wanted to talk about was the Nationwide Broadband Network. He said Section 6302 of the Middle Class Tax Relief Act of 2012 calls for the establishment of a national public safety broadband network that will enhance communications interoperability for our nation's first responders. Mr. Bonifas said the radio frequency went from a wide band to a narrow band and once they did that requirement it freed up some space where broadband can be used. Communication failures are a huge issue in the face of a disaster. Mr. Bonifas said broadband can provide streaming video / surveillance, large file transfer / download, license plate reader, facial recognition, field fingerprinting, GIS/mapping tools, and database queries. Mr. Bonifas said FirstNet has been established as an independent authority within the National Telecommunications and Information Administration and will hold the spectrum license for the network, and is charged with taking "all actions necessary" to build, deploy, and operate the network, in consultation with Federal, State, tribal and local public safety entities, and other key stakeholders. He said the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) will award \$121.5 million in grants, to assist State, local and tribal governments with planning for a nationwide interoperable public safety broadband network; Wisconsin will get \$2.35 million over a three year period. Wisconsin will use this money for planning activities that could include establishing governance, staff support, education and outreach, identifying network users, developing standard Memorandums of Agreement (MOA) and data collection. The planning period July 2013 – June 2016 to go through planning steps to determine

Wisconsin's assets and needs and determine if Wisconsin will go along with the National Broadband Network (FirstNet) or opt out and create our own network. Mr. Bonifas we are trying to get the regional coordinators involved with the Broadband process. He said there are a lot of things up in the air with broadband as it is in the initial stages.

### **Review and Discussion on Regional Economic Development, Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resource Goals for Comprehensive Plan**

Mr. Fletcher said over the last couple of meetings, in conjunction with working on our regional comprehensive plan, the Commission has been developing draft goals for inclusion in the plan. He said staff is currently working on data gathering and developing goals for the remaining elements of the plan. Mr. Fletcher said transportation and community facilities goals were discussed at our last bimonthly meeting. Mr. Fletcher then presented draft Economic Development goals and explained that county comprehensive plans were used as a foundation in establishing these goals. He said certain trends from county plans came to the forefront such as the preservation of our natural resources. Mr. Fletcher said the utilization of information that came through the public process in preparing the county comprehensive plans helps us with input for our regional plan. The trends and goals identified can be looked at from a regional standpoint to see if there are any gaps. Mr. Fletcher then presented some draft economic development goals: 1) Attract, retain, and nurture the start-up of businesses that strengthen, diversify, and increase opportunities for entrepreneurship and growth in the Region's economy and employment opportunities. 2) Encourage the preservation of the Region's forested, agricultural, and other open lands as a means of maintaining the agriculture- and tourism-based segments of the Region's economy. 3) Encourage the distribution and consumption of products created, produced, and manufactured in the Region, as well as the export of them outside the Region. 4) Encourage cooperative and collaborative economic and workforce development efforts among economic development organizations, other nonprofit groups, private-sector businesses, educational institutions, and the public sector. He said the next step is once we have the goals, how do we accomplish those goals. He explained that annually staff prepares a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Report that contains a wealth of information in regards to economic development. He said we will be drawing a lot from that document in our planning process. He reviewed some economic objectives outlined in the CEDS. Mr. Fletcher said there are numerous economic development agencies/organizations (local, regional, and state) in the region and we want to make sure we are working together to maximize our efforts. Mr. Fletcher said a key issue that stands out is that natural resources are key to the region.

Mr. Fletcher continued by presenting draft goals for Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources: 1) Preserve productive farmland and forests as a viable foundation for a strong natural resource based (agriculture, forestry, etc.) economy. 2) Preserve, protect, manage, and enhance the Region's natural resources. 3) Protect and preserve surface and groundwater resources to maintain an abundant supply of potable water for the Region. 4) Maintain, preserve, and enhance the cultural, historical and archeological resources of the Region. Mr. Fletcher briefly discussed the "Working Lands Initiative" and tools that can be used to protect farmland, forests, park land etc. Mr. Fletcher said key natural resource in the region is water. He stressed we are very fortunate to have high quality water. Mr. Fletcher stated feedback is important during this goal setting process and asked if anyone has any additional comments. Charlie Handy, La Crosse County Planner, complimented the MRRPC on their annual Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) report. He stated that La Crosse County uses the CEDS report for their economic development planning efforts. He reiterated the importance of the preserving and protecting the region's Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources. He said La Crosse County may be considered a somewhat urban county but 80% of the County is rural. Mr. Leys said the value of land in Buffalo County is based on big antlers with hunters coming in from all over the country to hunt in Buffalo County. Mr. Leys said wildlife is an important natural resource that should be preserved and protected. Some discussion then occurred on land values. Commissioner Christenson commented that legislation is being developed that would overrule what they are trying to do at the local level in terms of preserving potable water due to the increase of frac sand mines.

### **Report on Town of Unity (Trempealeau County) Frac Sand Survey and Town to City Annexation Occurrences to Avoid Mining Regulations**

Mr. Fletcher said he has been assisting Trempealeau County and the Town of Unity in updating their comprehensive plan. Right now there are no frac sand mines in the Town of Unity but they want to update their plan and address this issue before it happens. Mr. Fletcher displayed a map of the Town of Unity prepared by the Trempealeau County Land Information office showing that 75%-80% of the town has desirable areas of frac sand that is easily accessible for mining. Mr. Fletcher said you can get that same picture for neighboring towns. Mr. Fletcher said many comprehensive plans were completed prior to the surge of frac sand mining so the issue hasn't been addressed. There is no guidance provided on how to handle this issue. He referred Commissioners to survey results from a Town of Unity survey that asked some valuable questions on frac sand mining. He

reviewed survey results on questions pertaining to frac sand mining. He said respondents were relatively split on whether frac sand mines should be permitted in the Town (41.1% agree and 42.6 disagree); 70% indicated the potential noise associated with frac sand mining is a concern; 77% indicated the potential increase of truck traffic is a concern; 54% indicated light from night-time frac sand mining is a concern, 21% indicated mine owners should be able to set their hours of operation; and 30% said they would support a frac sand mine within ½ mile of their property. Mr. Fletcher said landowners not actually living in the Town were more favorable on mining. He said the Town of Unity's Planning Committee was willing to ask these tough questions and the Town's Planning Committee is using this survey as a resource to help make some decisions when updating their comprehensive plan.

Mr. Fletcher continued by discussing town to city/village annexations occurring to avoid County mining regulations. He explained Trempealeau County has zoning and towns are under the county zoning but often city and village regulations are less restrictive so a mine owner will talk to a village or city to see if they can annex. He gave some examples of annexations that have already occurred in the County and some potential situations under consideration. He said as far as the annexation law in the State of Wisconsin the cities and villages have the advantage. Mr. Fletcher said this is becoming an issue in the County so it will be important for the towns, villages and cities to work together to avoid contentious situations. Commissioner Leys commented this was a good survey that asked good, specific questions. He said too often local and state governments respond to people with the most money or who make the most noise. Mr. Fletcher noted question 17 on the survey that asked if maintaining drinking water was important where 97.7% of respondents said yes. Mr. Savage asked if there was any concerns where mineral rights weren't attached to a deed. Mr. Fletcher said he hadn't experienced that situation yet. Commissioner Smith said it's going to become real important for Towns to work with other Towns and Towns to work with Villages.

#### **Scenic Mississippi Regional Transit Bus Service Running in Crawford, Vernon and La Crosse Counties**

Mr. Fletcher provided an update on Scenic Mississippi Regional Transit (SMRT) bus service operating in the region. He said the service has been running since December and ridership increased from 450 in January to 975 in May. Mr. Fletcher said on May 28<sup>th</sup> schedule and route adjustments were made allowing for a direct link to Prairie du Chien from La Crosse. He reviewed the schedule changes. Mr. Fletcher said there was also a schedule and route adjustment to provide service to Organic Valley in Cashton. Mr. Fletcher said we are making adjustments along the way to the bus service based on what we hear from rider's concerns etc. Commissioner Murray asked what percent of riders use the service for work, school, etc. Mr. Fletcher said it depends on the route but on one route in the a.m. at least 75% of riders are going to and from work. Commissioner Leys asked how close the route from Prairie du Chien to La Crosse comes to the Amtrak station. Mr. Fletcher said the SMRT bus is coordinated with the La Crosse MTU bus system that will get you to within two blocks of the Amtrak station. He concluded by saying there are now bike carriers on the buses.

#### **Commissioner Input on Regional Subsidized Housing inventory**

Chairman Savage said he found the regional subsidized housing inventory prepared by MRRPC staff very interesting. He mentioned that some units may be missing in Jackson County including Ho Chunk Nation housing. Mr. Law said staff was presenting this inventory to the Commission to identify any gaps. He explained staff is analyzing the region's housing stock as part of the regional comprehensive plan underway. Mr. Law outlined some of the types of subsidized housing included in the inventory: HUD Section 8 program, HUD Housing Voucher Program, Subsidized housing for elderly, disabled etc. He asked if anyone had any comments on the inventory. Commissioner Murray noted the subsidized units listed for the community of Arkansaw were incorrect. Ms. Buros said those units were broken down between Arkansaw, Pepin and Durand. Mr. Law said with this inventory we are trying to determine if there is a shortage of subsidized housing in the region. Commissioner Borreson said the information shown for Trempealeau County appears to be accurate. There was some discussion on buildings with a combination of subsidized and unsubsidized units.

#### **Update on WEDC's Regional RLF Initiative**

Mr. Law made reference to a letter sent by the new CEO of the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) encouraging communities to taking advantage of the regionalization of their revolving loan funds. Mr. Law said the State is leading an effort to regionalize CDBG funded RLFs. The benefits of regionalization include: access to a larger pool of capital, more flexible use of the funds, ability to leverage other federal and state funds, ability to spread the risk of lending over a greater area, ability of local governments and economic development entities to collaborate on opportunities, broader range of innovative investment and financing opportunities, and reduction of administrative burdens spreading the risk. Mr. Law said there are 12 eligible RLFs in our region. He said designates from all the region's RLFs met on April 29<sup>th</sup> and had a teleconference on May 23<sup>rd</sup> to review the RLF administrative manual making it ready to take to the governing bodies of the different communities who will

make a decision on whether or not to join the regional RLF. The manual will be presented to all 12 eligible RLFs in June and July so hopefully by August we should know who will be participating in the regional fund. Mr. Law said a lot of work was done on this trying to make sure the manual is shaped in such a way that it's palatable to all communities considering joining the regional RLF. There was some discussion on how many RLF's would have to be involved to form the regional RLF. Mr. Law said the regional fund will be organized as a nonprofit organization and WEDC has indicated they would like more than three RLFs joining.

### **Report on Heating the Midwest Initiative, Achieving 15% of all Thermal Energy from Renewable Energy With Biomass Comprising 10%, Creating a Reinvestment of \$2.2 Billion in Midwest Economy**

Chairman Savage said 80 years ago most homes were heated by biomass. Mr. Law referred everyone to the Executive Summary and Introduction of a report entitled "Heating the Midwest with Renewable Biomass: A Vision for 2025, April 24, 2013" prepared by Futuremetrics. Mr. Law said thermal energy in Wisconsin is currently dominated by the use of fossil fuels all of which originate from outside the state. He said to purchase those fossil fuels, monies from this area are exported to the fossil fuel creating regions of the world. Some of this energy could be generated through renewable resources such as biomass (plant material that can be burned and used for heating). He said biomass can be done in a way that is less carbon impacting than it once was. He said this report outlines a Midwest vision of having 15% of thermal energy for residential and commercial needs provided by renewable energy by 2025, with 10% derived from sustainably produced biomass. Mr. Law said if this goal is realized it could retain an estimated \$2.2 billion annually in the Midwest stimulating the economy and creating tens of thousands of jobs. He said the study fits in very well with the Kickapoo Bio-Fuel and Wood Product Feasibility Study that the Commission is part of right now. Mr. Law reviewed some pie charts showing current thermal heating sources in the Midwest and the potential thermal heating sources in the Midwest by 2025. Mr. Law said biomass is abundant in the Midwest and relatively undeveloped. He explained that is part of the reason for the study in the Kickapoo Valley, to see how biomass can better be developed. Mr. Law said at the next bimonthly meeting we will be presenting a resolution asking the Commission to approve this goal of 15% of thermal energy coming from renewable energy by 2025. Mr. Law said the economic and environmental benefits of this would be very beneficial to the Midwest states. It is totally in line with all five of our infrastructure, public facility and renewable energy goals in the CEDS. Mr. Law outlined other CEDS goals relating to this initiative. Mr. Law said a link to this report would also be added to the MRRPC's website. Commissioner Schlesselman questioned the possible reduction of propane in 2025 to 4%. Mr. Law said that could be due to the projected increase in use of natural gas and biomass. Mr. Law said the price for biomass is competitive. There was some discussion on the switchover from propane to biomass. Mr. Flogstad mentioned a pilot program in Northwest Wisconsin through a community action program where through their weatherization program a pellet stove could be paid for as part of a weatherization project. Mr. Schroeder said corn is mentioned as a biomass source and this would be a disaster. He said to take that residue off the farmland has a negative impact on the land. He said the residue keeps the soil viable and helps retain water.

### **Report on Providing Input to the Small Business Regulator Review Board**

Mr. Law said everyone should have a copy of a form from the Small Business Regulatory Review Board (SBRRB). The purpose of the SBRRB is to review proposed regulations and existing regulations and solicit suggestions from business and other organizations about regulatory reform. The SBRRB can then recommend realistic reforms to change regulations that are seen as confining or burdensome. The SBRRB is looking for reform ideas which can be submitted online at [www.smallbusiness.wi.gov](http://www.smallbusiness.wi.gov) or via this form. Commissioner Smith said some regulations are needed for small businesses; it can go both ways.

### **Old Business and New Business**

Chairman Savage asked if there was any old business. He then asked if there was any new business. Chairman Savage asked if there was any more discussion on any new or old issues and hearing none a motion was made to adjourn.

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the June 12, 2013, bimonthly meeting minutes approved on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of August 2013.

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Vicki Burke, Secretary-Treasurer