

Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission Staff Report on Projects for the Bimonthly Meeting on 02.13.2019

	Agenda Topic or Project Name	Purpose, Benefit, Project deliverables, and Contract Amount	Project Time Period	Project Status	Contact
1	Roll Call	Confirm a quorum	Today's Meeting	NA	NA
2	Minutes of last MRRPC Bimonthly Meeting	Confirm past meetings decisions and outcomes	Today's Meeting	NA	NA
3	Treasurer's Report	Present all financial transactions occurring in all accounts including the four business Revolving Loan Funds and the Disaster Recovery Microloan Fund.	Today's Meeting	Checking, savings and certificate of deposit transactions are provided. Transaction activity in the four federally funded business revolving loan funds that were awarded to the MRRPC between 1989 and 1995 to assist in overcoming rural economic distress and flooding is also provided. These loan funds cover all nine MRRPC counties.	Greg Flogstad, Director 608.785.9396 greg@mrrpc.com
4.	Report on the Wisconsin Department of Administration's proposed Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Close Grant program involving terminating all CDBG Revolving Loan Funds across the state. Then allowing communities to apply for a guaranteed CDBG grant for the amount of RLF funds returned. GF	Due to compliance issues and over \$50 million sitting in bank accounts across the state the WI DOA is proposing to terminate the CDBG RLFs in all communities and counties. As an incentive for RLF communities and counties to participate it will allow counties and communities to apply for a CDBG grant in an amount that is equal to the amount of CDBG funds that are returned. This CDBG grant is guaranteed to be funded. Grants may be for road, water sewer, other public facilities, housing, planning, job training services and centers, food pantries, senior centers, services to the homeless, crime prevention and public safety, child care, health services: substance abuse services-counseling and treatment (opioid treatment), fair housing counseling, education programs, energy conservation, services for senior citizens, and other similar projects approved by DOA. Projects must also benefit a population area that is at least 51% Low and moderate Income.	This program will be rolled out by WI DOA in February 2019. Communities and counties will have two years to return the funds and apply for CDBG grant for the amount of RLF funds that they returned to the State.	The Wisconsin Department of Administration is still waiting to get approval from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development to roll out this program. Once approved it will be important to attend public meetings that DOA will be sponsoring. Communities and counties will have two years to determine and apply for projects that are CDBG eligible and provide service to a population that is at least 51% Low and moderate income. Counties that will need to address this program are: Pierce, Pepin, Buffalo, Jackson, La Crosse, Monroe and Vernon Counties. Cities and Villages that will have to address this are Tomah, Sparta, Kendall, Hillsboro and Osseo.	David Pawlisch, Bureau Director, Community Development, WI Dept of Administration 608.2617538 David.pawlisch@wisconsin.gov

5	Report on approved RLF loans since December 12, 2018 Bimonthly Meeting	Understand economic impact of MRRPC lending activities.	Today's Meeting	<p>A \$75,000 loan was approved in November for Cashtons's Cradle to Crayons Childcare Center. This loan was closed on January 23, 2019.</p> <p>On January 16, 2019 a \$95,000 loan was approved for Falls Florist and Greenhouse LLC in Black River Falls. This loan was closed on February 1, 2019.</p> <p>A Disaster Recovery Microloan Fund was also capitalized in the amount of \$605,000 through a WEDC grant in October. To date 11 loans of \$ 15,000 and one loan for \$10,000 have been approved. Six of the 12 loans have been closed on: NTM Inc., R&M Enterprises, Kickapoo Exchange Food Coop, 7th Deviation LLC, Titanic Canoe Rental, Driftys Canoe Rental. Loans yet to be closed on are for: Williams Construction and Properties, Viola Gift Shop, Liberty Bar, Pine River Inn, McGuire Properties, and La Farge Dental.</p>	Greg Flogstad Director 608.785.9396 greg@mrrpc.com
6	Decision on 2019 Budget.	Understand 2019 revenue and expense activities compared to 2018 and status of projects that are ending and starting	Today's Meeting	Make decision on budget.	Greg Flogstad Director 608.785.9396 greg@mrrpc.com
7	Report on Community Flood Recovery Activities heavy rain and flooding disaster event of August 27-28 and local, state and federal response to date.	Assistance is needed wherever it can come from. Over \$108 million of damages to residences and nearly \$49 million to businesses. Flooding also caused more than \$75 million in damage to public infrastructure such as roads, bridges, and dams, and emergency protective measures. Damage assessments to look at public assistance (infrastructure) will be conducted in Adams, Crawford, Dane, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Iron, Juneau, La Crosse, Marquette, Monroe, Ozaukee, Richland, Sauk, and Vernon Counties. Much of southern Wisconsin was hit with heavy rains, flash flooding, damaging winds and tornadoes during the latter part of August. Source: Wisconsin Emergency Management	Today's Meeting	Local damage assessments from counties finalized by Wisconsin Emergency Management today shows more than \$108 million in damage to residences. This includes 56 homes destroyed, 564 homes with major damage, and nearly 4,000 with minor or affected damage. In addition, 14 businesses were destroyed, 62 sustained major damage and 96 reported minor damage with losses of nearly \$49 million. Approximately 120 businesses in the nine county Mississippi River Region were flooded. Flooding also caused more than \$75 million in damage to public infrastructure such as roads, bridges, and dams, and emergency protective measures A large portion of southwest to central Wisconsin had over 10" of rain, with some areas measuring over 20" of rain causing many major rivers including the Baraboo and Kickapoo Rivers to flood at historic levels. One person was killed in Dane County during flash flooding. On August 28, severe storms spun up 19 tornadoes and 90-100mph winds in the east central region causing widespread damage. A Presidential Disaster declaration was issued in October. Under the declaration, individuals, families, and businesses in Crawford, La Crosse, Monroe and Vernon counties are now	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com

				<p>eligible to apply for federal disaster assistance. In addition to requesting individual assistance, Governor Walker also requested public assistance for local governments to help recover damage to infrastructure such as roads and bridges. Counties approved for the Public Assistance Program include Crawford, La Crosse, Monroe and Vernon counties. Under the Public Assistance Program, FEMA provides 75 percent reimbursement of eligible costs, while the state and local agencies share the remaining 25 percent. MRRPC along with county and state officials have been to recovery meetings thus far in Viroqua, Readstown, Ontario and La Farge. Other meetings were held in Viola and Coon Valley. MRRPC will be administering a Micro Loan program for businesses affected by this flood. In addition, based on past experience staff will likely be called upon to write FEMA, State HUD-CDBG, USDA Rural Development and US Dept of Commerce-EDA grants for public infrastructure, land acquisition, flood proofing, community facility, housing and relocation assistance projects. Staff continues to attend recovery meetings in various communities and also attended a Long Term Recovery Group meeting in Cashton.</p>	
8.	Report on Pepin County Contribution Correspondence	The Greg Flogstad, Director received an E-mail from the Pepin County Administrative Coordinator on January 8, stating that did not want to be members in 2019.	Today's Meeting	<p>The E-mail from the Pepin County Administrative Coordinator on January 8, 2019 states:</p> <p><i>Mr. Greg Flogstad – I am in receipt of your payment request for 2019 membership in the MRRPC. The Pepin County Board decided not to include the MRRPC membership in the 2019 Budget, so we will not be members in 2019. Please call if you have any questions. Thank you - Pamela Hansen (previously DeWitt), CPA Pepin County Finance Director and Administrative Coordinator</i></p> <p>I called Pam back and requested to be included on the February 20th County Board Meeting Agenda.</p>	Greg Flogstad Director 608.785.9396 greg@mrrpc.com
9.	Decision on date of Regional Economic Diversification Summit (REDS)	EDA requires all RPCs to each hold a summit to develop programs and projects that are integrated and supported by economic development organizations across the region	Today's Meeting	<p>Upon selection of a Summit date and conclusion of the Summit we are to have some integrated economic development projects to pursue.</p>	Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 peter@mrrpc.com

10a	Crawford County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update	Update the Crawford County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. \$30,000 federal grant approved requiring a \$10,000 match from MRRPC and Crawford County. The original plan was prepared to reduce costs and losses from natural disasters and some manmade disasters. This is an update to the existing plan. Inventories county's vulnerabilities to various types of disasters. The Plan Inventories and maps critical facilities and all structures in floodplains. The Plan Develops projects and strategies to reduce losses from future disasters. Plans must be approved by DHS-FEMA and Wisconsin Emergency Management. Once the updated plan is approved, the county and other participating local governments are eligible for Federal and State Hazard Mitigation Grant programs.	2016-2018	A grant has been approved by FEMA and the money has been awarded. The grant cycle ends October 30, 2018. A contract with the Planning Commission for an amount not to exceed \$29,000 has been signed. A public hearing explaining the update process was held on 4/27/16. A hazard risk assessment survey was mailed to all municipalities and first responders with a May 31 st deadline for return. A draft of the plan has been completed and a public hearing on the draft was held on January 17 th . Comments from the public on the draft were accepted until January 31 st . Comments received are being incorporated into the plan and a revised draft will be presented to the Land Use Concerns committee for approval. After approval from the Land Use Concerns committee the plan will be presented to the full County Board for final approval.	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com
10b	Trempealeau County Hazard Mitigation Plan update	Update the Trempealeau County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. \$30,000 federal planning grant approved requiring a \$10,000 match from MRRPC and Trempealeau County. The original was prepared to reduce costs and losses from natural disasters and some manmade disasters. This is an update to the existing plan. The Plan inventories the county's vulnerabilities to various types of disasters. The Plan inventories and maps critical facilities and all structures in floodplains. The Plan develops projects and strategies to reduce losses from future disasters. Plans must be approved by DHS-FEMA and Wisconsin Energy Management. Once the updated plan is approved, the county and other participating local governments are eligible for Federal and State Hazard Mitigation Grant programs.	2016-2018	A grant has been approved by FEMA and the money has been awarded. The grant cycle ends October 30, 2018. A contract between the Planning Commission and Trempealeau County for an amount not to exceed \$28,000 has been signed. A public hearing explaining the update process was held on April 12 th . A hazard risk assessment survey was mailed to all municipalities and first responders with a May 31 st deadline for return. Staff also made a presentation of the updating process at the April 26 th Trempealeau County Towns Association meeting. The plan contains 5 chapters these are: 1) Planning Process; 2) Planning Area; 3) Risk Assessment; 4) Mitigation Planning Strategies and 5) Plan Maintenance and Adoption. Chapter 1 which explains how the plan was developed and who was involved in preparing the plan is approximately 95% completed. Chapter 2 which contains the economic and demographic data for Trempealeau County has been completed. Chapter 3 which identifies all the hazards and lists the historical occurrences along damages for each hazard is approximately 90% done. Chapter 4 which identifies projects which will reduce the loss of life or structures in the event of a natural hazard is approximately	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com

				75% completed. Chapter 5 which identifies how the plan will be monitored and updated is approximately 80% completed. A risk assessment survey was created and mailed out the first week of April. A second survey to those communities which have not responded to the first survey was mailed out. Meetings with municipalities which have not responded to the surveys are being scheduled. Meetings with the Cities of Arcadia and Trempealeau have been held, in addition a phone conversation was held with the Town of Arcadia. Staff made a presentation to the Law Enforcement/Emergency Management Committee to update them on the progress of the plan. Staff will be setting up meetings with county staff from highway, public health, and sheriff departments to obtain mitigation ideas from them. The draft plan is approximately 90% completed.	
10c	Monroe County Hazard Mitigation Planning	A grant to DHS-FEMA was written by staff to update the Monroe County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plans are prepared to reduce costs and losses from natural disasters for counties and municipalities. This is an update to the existing plan. The plan inventories the county's vulnerabilities to various types of disasters. Inventories and maps critical facilities and all structures in floodplains. Develops projects and strategies to reduce losses from future disasters. The Plan must be approved by DHS-FEMA and Wisconsin Emergency Management. Once the updated plan is approved, the county and other participating local governments are eligible for Federal and State Hazard Mitigation Grant programs. The total project is in the amount of \$43,744, of which \$32,808 is the grant award and the remaining \$10,936 is a required match.	2016-2018	A contract has been signed and work has begun on this project. Staff has met with the Monroe County Emergency Management Director and a representative from the sheriff's office to work out how the grant will be administered and who will perform what activities. Staff has completed updating the required social – economic data. In addition, 2 surveys have been sent out to all municipalities, first responders, fire departments, and policing departments. A meeting with Monroe County, MRRPC staff and a representative from Fort Mc Coy was held on June 12 th . Staff met with the Monroe County Land Information Officer and obtained base maps for the county. Updating the structures located within the FEMA 100-year floodplain has begun. Staff made a presentation at the Monroe County Towns Association meeting on August 17 th . Staff has also begun updating the risk assessment chapter of the plan. The number of times each hazard has occurred within the county and how much damage has resulted from these events has been collected. Base maps to be used in the plan have been created. The plan is approximately 50% completed. Wisconsin Emergency Management has contacted the MRRPC and asked to expedite the completion of the plan because of recent flooding.	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com
10d	Vernon County Hazard Mitigation Plan	A grant to DHS-FEMA was written by staff to update the Vernon County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan and to complete county parcel mapping. The		The plan was adopted by the Vernon County Board on December 18 th . This project has been completed.	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com

		<p>MRRPC will be preparing the plan update and the county will be responsible for completing the parcel mapping. Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plans are prepared to reduce costs and losses from natural disasters for counties and municipalities. This is an update to the existing plan. The plan inventories the county's vulnerabilities to various types of disasters. Inventories and maps critical facilities and all structures in floodplains. Develops projects and strategies to reduce losses from future disasters. The Plan must be approved by DHS-FEMA and Wisconsin Emergency Management. Once the updated plan is approved, the county and other participating local governments are eligible for Federal and State Hazard Mitigation Grant programs. The total project is in the amount of \$259,793.98, of which \$40,000 of that amount is for the plan update.</p>			
10e	Jackson County Hazard Mitigation Plan	<p>Update the Jackson County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. \$30,000 federal grant approved requiring a \$10,000 match from MRRPC and Jackson County. The original plan was prepared to reduce costs and losses from natural disasters and some manmade disasters. This is an update to the existing plan. Inventories county's vulnerabilities to various types of disasters. The Plan Inventories and maps critical facilities and all structures in floodplains. The Plan develops projects and strategies to reduce losses from future disasters. Plans must be approved by DHS-FEMA and Wisconsin Emergency Management. Once the updated plan is approved, the county and other participating local governments are eligible for Federal and State Hazard Mitigation Grant programs.</p>	August 2018 through March 2021	<p>Jackson County received notification from FEMA in August that their grant application to update their existing plan has been approved. The final plan is due in March 2021. MRRPC staff has begun updating demographic information for the plan. Also, staff has begun creating a hazard risk assessment survey which will be mailed out to all municipalities, EMS, Fire Departments, Police Departments and various county departments.</p>	<p>Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com</p>

10f	La Crosse County Hazard Mitigation Plan	Update the La Crosse County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. \$31,331 federal grant approved requiring a \$10,444 match from MRRPC and La Crosse County. The original plan was prepared to reduce costs and losses from natural disasters and some manmade disasters. This is an update to the existing plan. Inventories county's vulnerabilities to various types of disasters. The Plan inventories and maps critical facilities and all structures in floodplains. The Plan develops projects and strategies to reduce losses from future disasters. Plans must be approved by DHS-FEMA and Wisconsin Emergency Management. Once the updated plan is approved, the county and other participating local governments are eligible for Federal and State Hazard Mitigation Grant programs.	August 2018 through March 2021	La Crosse County received notification from FEMA in August that their grant application to update their existing plan has been approved. The final plan is due in March 2021. MRRPC staff has begun updating demographic information for the plan. Also, staff has begun creating a hazard risk assessment survey which will be mailed out to all municipalities, EMS, Fire Departments, Police Departments and various county departments.	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com
10g	Scenic Mississippi Regional Transit (SMRT) bus serving Crawford, Vernon, Monroe, and La Crosse counties	Develop a fixed route public transportation service for Crawford, La Crosse, Monroe and Vernon Counties. Bus transportation will service commuters, elderly, disabled, medical appointments, and personal travel. Projected operating costs for 2019 are approximately \$420,000. Funding comes from a federal DOT grant, local governments, corporate donations and the fare box.	Service Began on December 3, 2012 - present	The SMRT Bus has been operating for over six years serving La Crosse, Vernon, Crawford, and Monroe Counties. In 2017 ridership decreased by about 6%. In 2018 ridership on the SMRT system increased by 9% over 2017 ridership as the service provided over 21,000 one-way trips. The City of Prairie du Chien had been the administrator of the SMRT Bus since it began operation in 2012. Since the service has grown and expanded primarily north of the City of Prairie du Chien a change in the local unit of government sponsor (administrator) to a more centrally located sponsor was evaluated. As of January 1, 2019, La Crosse County became the local unit of government sponsor (administrator) of the SMRT Bus. The SMRT Bus system is also evaluating the use of electric buses on selected SMRT routes. Capital funding for the purchase of electric buses is more readily available through a pilot program with the WISDOT. In January the MRRPC assisted La Crosse County in preparing a Bremer grant that if rewarded would assist in off-setting the local	Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 peter@mrrpc.com

				match required for the purchase of an electric bus. A decision on the Bremer grant request is anticipated this Summer.	
10h	La Crosse County Outdoor recreation plan	As part of receiving annual county contributions, the MRRPC updates and maintains county outdoor recreation plans. The MRRPC is currently working with La Crosse County on updating the county's outdoor recreation plan.	November 2018 – June 2019	<p>MRRPC staff has met with La Crosse County staff and gathered background information (recreation budget, projects, data, etc.) to assist in updating the outdoor recreation plan. In January a draft of the plan was prepared by staff and sent to La Crosse County for review.</p> <p>Once the first draft is reviewed copies will be sent to La Crosse County towns, and cities/villages for their review and input. It is anticipated the final plan will be completed this Spring/Summer.</p>	Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 peter@mrrpc.com
10i	City of Mondovi Comprehensive Plan	Assist Mondovi in having an up-to- date Comprehensive Plan that meets Wisconsin Statutes. Total contract is for \$12,000.	June 2018 – August 2019	<p>Staff met with the City Administrator in November and January to gather information for creating Mondovi Comprehensive plan maps. A draft plan updating the goals, objectives, demographic information and maps for all planning elements has been completed and forwarded to the City of Mondovi.</p> <p>MRRPC staff will facilitate a public open house meeting on February 21, 2019 to provide the opportunity for residents to provide input on the draft plan. The plan will also be presented to the City of Mondovi Planning Commission at the meeting for their review and comments.</p> <p>As part of the plan update, the City of Mondovi is also evaluating options to replace the City's wastewater treatment plant. The current plant is in very poor condition and in need of replacement. The comprehensive plan will address the wastewater treatment plant options. Additionally the City of Mondovi is exploring options to better promote the city and economic development opportunities.</p> <p>After the public open house meeting the plan will be modified based on public input and a final draft plan will be developed. It is anticipated that a public hearing on the final plan will be held in late Spring with plan approval taking place in the Summer.</p>	Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 peter@mrrpc.com
10j	Regionally Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plans	The Wisconsin Department of Transportation has requested Regional Planning Commissions to assist counties in updating their "Coordinated	February 2018 – December 2018.	The plan update was completed on a regional basis. County plans with regional initiatives were completed and were sent to county representatives for submittal to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation.	Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 peter@mrrpc.com

		Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plans”. Plans were originally prepared with assistance from the RPC’s. The plans are required by WIDOT for counties to receive state and federal transportation funding. The plans must be updated by October 15, 2018.		The MRRPC received and email from the WIDOT on November 29, 2018 stating they have plans from each county in the MRRPC region and the project is complete.	
10k	Report on US Dept. Of Commerce-EDA public facility flood disaster grant assistance projects in the cities of La Crosse, Arcadia and Viroqua. DB	EDA was allocated \$587 million in additional funding nation-wide for communities impacted by 2017 natural disasters. Only 11 counties in the Chicago Region are eligible all of these are in Wisconsin and 7 of them are in the MRRPC Region.	Today’s meeting	EDA and MRRPC staff has met with the Cities of Arcadia, La Crosse and Viroqua to discuss possible projects. EDA staff has recommended that these communities submit to EDA applications. On September 28 th The City of La Crosse was notified that they were awarded \$3.6 Million from the EDA for storm water lift and booster pumps at three locations in the North Side. The City of Arcadia is applying for approximately \$6 million for new main storm sewer lift station, upgrades to five other lifts stations, and sewer drainage channels to protect Ashley Furniture and it’s 3,000 jobs and the City’s downtown from flooding should a breach in a new levy that is also part of the project. Viroqua’s Project involves developing a new site for the County Highway Shop in an industrial park that will be developed.	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com