

**Agenda Items 1-17**

**Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission Staff Report on Projects for the Bimonthly Meeting on 04.10.2019**

	<b>Agenda Topic or Project Name</b>	<b>Purpose, Benefit, Project deliverables, and Contract Amount</b>	<b>Project Time Period</b>	<b>Project Status</b>	<b>Contact</b>
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. In addition, the lending activity from the Disaster Recovery Microloan program funded from WEDC is also reported.	Greg Flogstad, Director 608.785.9396 <a href="mailto:greg@mrrpc.com">greg@mrrpc.com</a>
4&5	Presentation and Decision on Audit	To ensure MRRPC funds and transactions are being administered appropriately	Today's Meeting	Decision to accept audit needs to be acted on during the Bimonthly Meeting	Greg Flogstad Director 608.785.9396 <a href="mailto:greg@mrrpc.com">greg@mrrpc.com</a>
6	Decision on Executive and Administration Committee's recommendation on staff wage adjustments	Determine appropriate wages for staff.	Today's Meeting	Decision by Commission on Executive and Administration Committee's recommendations	Greg Flogstad Director 608.785.9396 <a href="mailto:greg@mrrpc.com">greg@mrrpc.com</a>
7	Decision on the Executive and Administration Committee's recommendation on 2020 County Contributions.	Determine appropriate amount of funds made available to MRRPC in 2018 for operations.	Today's Meeting	Decision by Commission on Executive and Administration's Committee's recommendations	Greg Flogstad Director 608.785.9396 <a href="mailto:greg@mrrpc.com">greg@mrrpc.com</a>
8	Decision on: Existing Employer Update Resolution Wisconsin Public Employers' Group Health Insurance Program.	Reference cited in the original resolution is no longer applicable due to combining terms referenced in a variety of publications into one reference manual now titled: Local Employer Health Insurance Standards, Guidelines and Administration Manual. The original resolution is therefore no longer accurate. And a new one needs to be passed.	Today's Meeting	Contract provisions that were moved into this employer manual were not materially changed. Approving a new resolution does not bind the Board into any new or substantially revised provisions that haven't already been communicated or implemented.	Greg Flogstad Director 608.785.9396 <a href="mailto:greg@mrrpc.com">greg@mrrpc.com</a>
9	Report on community flood recovery activities in Coon Valley, Ontario, La Farge, Viola, Readstown, and Steuben from heavy	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	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	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 <a href="mailto:dave@mrrpc.com">dave@mrrpc.com</a>

	<p>rain and flooding disaster event of August 27-28.</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>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 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. The MRRPC has made 14 disaster recovery microloans totaling over \$200,000 to businesses damaged by flooding. 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>	
10	<p>Decision on submission of EDA grant application to</p>	<p>Economic Recovery Planning is needed by flood impacted communities. The following</p>	<p>Submission of a grant to EDA needs to take place for the 8 Planning Activities. For this to happen a firm local commitment to match</p>	<p>Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396</p>

	fund economic recovery planning and engineering grant up to \$800,000 for participating communities in the Kickapoo Valley	Planning Activities are proposed to assist with economic recovery and long term sustainability: (1) site relocation decision research, (2) site design for community economic development and resettlement, (3) community facility assessment engineering and design, (4) public infrastructure engineering assessment and design, (5) project cost estimating, (6) real estate appraisal, (7) environmental assessment and (8) public participation.		the EDA grant needs to take place. The Kickapoo Valley communities in Vernon County are hoping to receive \$40,000 each from the County from Ho Chunk Nation gaming compact revenue that could be used as their local matching share for this EDA grant that would then be used to pay for the Planning Activities. The Villages would pass resolutions stating these funds are on hand and are authorized to be used for a grant that the MRRPC would then apply for. If the grant is approved the Villages would form a working committee to prepare an RFP and then select consultants to conduct the 8 Planning Activities as devised by each village that would be included in the RFP. The MRRPC would administer the grant on behalf of the Villages and would also provide up to \$25,000 as their matching share that would be matched equally or better with the federal funds for administration. Based on economic distress and the fact that a federal disaster declaration was made the grant match may be as high as 80% of total project costs.	dave@mrrpc.com
11	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 met with the Cities of Arcadia, La Crosse and Viroqua to discuss possible projects. This led to 3 grant application submissions from each community. On September 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2018 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 was notified on March 28 <sup>th</sup> 2019 the City of Arcadia was awarded \$4.3 million for new main storm sewer lift station, upgrades to five other lifts stations, and sewer drainage channels to protect the City's manufacturers and business district. Viroqua's Project involves developing a new site for the County Highway Shop and more safe sites for industrial development in a new industrial park that will be developed.	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com
12	Report on Pepin County 2019 Contributions	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	Greg asked and was granted time on the County Board's February 20 <sup>th</sup> Meeting Agenda. He gave a presentation on the past and current activities of the MRRPC and asked the county to reconsider. At the end of his presentation and a question and answer period. The County Board Chair stated they would not be making a decision at that meeting.	Greg Flogstad Director 608.785.9396 greg@mrrpc.com

13	Planning for 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	Summer 2019	The summit is scheduled to take place at 10:00 AM right after an abbreviated MRRPC commission meeting at 9:30 AM. At the conclusion of the Summit we are to have some integrated economic development projects identified to pursue.	Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 <a href="mailto:peter@mrrpc.com">peter@mrrpc.com</a>
14a	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 Plan Inventories and maps critical facilities and all structures in floodplains. The Plan Develops projects and strategies to reduce losses from future disasters. 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	Project completed. Crawford County Board approved the plan on February 19 <sup>th</sup> .	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 <a href="mailto:dave@mrrpc.com">dave@mrrpc.com</a>
14b	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 ended 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 <sup>th</sup> . A hazard risk assessment survey was mailed to all municipalities and first responders with a May 31 <sup>st</sup> deadline for return. Staff also made a presentation of the updating process at the April 26 <sup>th</sup> 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 75% completed. Chapter 5 which identifies how the plan will be monitored and updated is approximately	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 <a href="mailto:dave@mrrpc.com">dave@mrrpc.com</a>

				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.	
14c	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 <sup>th</sup> . 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 <sup>th</sup> . 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 to in the plan have been created. The plan is approximately 75% 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 <a href="mailto:dave@mrrpc.com">dave@mrrpc.com</a>
14d	Jackson County Hazard Mitigation Plan	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	August 2018 through March 2021	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	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 <a href="mailto:dave@mrrpc.com">dave@mrrpc.com</a>

		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.		assessment survey which will be mailed out to all municipalities, EMS, Fire Departments, Police Departments and various county departments.	
14e	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
14f	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.	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.	Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 peter@mrrpc.com

		<p>Projected operating costs for 2019 are approximately \$420,000. Funding comes from a federal DOT grant, local governments, corporate donations and the fare box.</p>		<p>As of January 1, 2019, La Crosse County became the local unit of government sponsor (administrator) of the SMRT Bus.</p> <p>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. The SMRT bus system has been approved for the purchase on one electric bus and is requesting eligibility for approval of a second vehicle in 2020. Prior to purchasing an electric bus, the routes need to be analyzed by the WIDOT electric bus contractor to determine if electric buses are capable route distances and terrain.</p> <p>In February, the Transportation Planner met with La Crosse County and representation from the Bremer Foundation regarding the grant request that would assist in off-setting the local match required for the purchase of an electric bus. A decision on the Bremer grant request is anticipated this May.</p>	
14g	La Crosse County Outdoor recreation plan	<p>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.</p>	November 2018 – June 2019	<p>MRRPC staff has met several times with La Crosse County staff and gathered background information (recreation budget, projects, data, etc.) to assist in updating the outdoor recreation plan. A preliminary draft of the plan was prepared by staff and sent to La Crosse County for review. Based on feedback from La Crosse County staff the preliminary draft was updated and the first draft of the La Crosse County Outdoor Recreation Plan has been completed.</p> <p>The first draft of the Outdoor Recreation Plan has been posted on the La Crosse County website and La Crosse County towns, and cities/villages have been requested to review the plan and provide information on their municipality's future outdoor recreation projects. Information received will be incorporated into the planning document. It is anticipated the final plan will be completed this Spring/Summer.</p>	<p>Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 <a href="mailto:peter@mrrpc.com">peter@mrrpc.com</a></p>
14h	City of Mondovi Comprehensive Plan	<p>Assist Mondovi in having an up-to-date Comprehensive Plan that meets Wisconsin Statutes. Total contract is for \$12,000.</p>	June 2018 – August 2019	<p>Staff completed a draft plan updating the goals, objectives, demographic information and maps for all planning of the City of Mondovi Comprehensive Plan in February.</p> <p>MRRPC staff facilitated a public open house meeting on February 21, 2019 to provide the opportunity for residents to provide input on the draft plan. Staff also attended a Plan</p>	<p>Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 <a href="mailto:peter@mrrpc.com">peter@mrrpc.com</a></p>

				<p>Commission meeting and gathered additional information and comments on the draft comprehensive plan.</p> <p>Based on comments received at the meetings the draft plan was revised and a public hearing draft of the plan has been completed. A public hearing on the updated comprehensive will be held on April 30, 2019 in the City of Mondovi.</p> <p>After the public hearing, it is anticipated that the final plan will be forwarded to the City Council for final plan approval.</p>	
14i	<p>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</p>	<p>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, 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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Greg Flogstad Director 608.785.9396 greg@mrrpc.com</p> <p>David Pawlisch, Bureau Director, Community Development, WI Dept of Administration 608.2617538 David.pawlisch@wisconsin.gov</p>