

Agenda Items 1-13

Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission Staff Report on Projects for the Bimonthly Meeting on 04.12.2017

	Agenda Topic or Project Name	Purpose, Benefit, Project deliverables, and Contract Amount	Project Time Period	Project Status and Next Steps	Contact
1	Roll Call	Confirm a quorum	Today's Meeting	NA	NA
2	Minutes of last MRRPC Bimonthly	Confirm past meetings decisions and outcomes	Today's Meeting	NA	NA
3	Treasurer's Report	Present all financial activities occurring on the MRRPC accounts and the four business Revolving Loan Funds since last Bimonthly Meeting.	Today's Meeting	The MRRPC administers 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. The loan funds cover all nine MRRPC counties. The latest loan was a \$75,000 Loan to Pearl Street Brewery in late August.	Greg Flogstad, Director 608.785.9396 greg@mrrpc.com
4	Decision on 2016 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 greg@mrrpc.com
5	Decision on Executive and Administration Committee's recommendation on 2017 Staff Salary Adjustments and 2018 County Contributions	Determine appropriate wages for staff and 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 greg@mrrpc.com
6	Presentation on New Venture Capital Fund serving the region. The Idea Fund and the Badger Fund of Funds	Learn about new business funding source in Western Wisconsin	Today's Meeting	NA	Jon Horn, Managing Director 608.498.4557
7	Report on the MRRPC's 2017-2022 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy	The CEDS for the Mississippi River Region documents the Region's conditions and strategies to improve our Region's environment, economy, and quality of life. By preparing and member counties participating in the development of this report, the nine county Mississippi River Region maintains its Economic Development District designation conferred upon it by the U.S. Department of Commerce-Economic Development Administration (EDA). This qualifies the region's communities, institutions and businesses to be eligible for EDA assistance under its public works and economic development facilities program, technical (research) assistance programs, loan programs, and planning programs. Through the years' millions of dollars in Federal EDA grants have funded industrial parks, economic research studies, public facility projects and business loans through this partnership.	CEDS needs to be adopted at the April 2017 Meeting	After receiving input from economic development organizations and federal and state agencies on Economic Development activities and needs during the June, August, October and December meetings need final input from commissioners on Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. Also, need to hold Public input meeting at MRRPC April 12, 2017 meeting.	Greg Flogstad, Director 608.785.9396 greg@mrrpc.com

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8	Public comments on the MRRPC's 2017-2022 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy	See Above	CEDS needs to be adopted at the April 2017 Meeting	See Above	Greg Flogstad, Director 608.785.9396 greg@mrrpc.com
9	Decision on adoption of the MRRPC's 2017-2022 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy	See Above	CEDS needs to be adopted at the April 2017 Meeting	See Above	Greg Flogstad, Director 608.785.9396 greg@mrrpc.com
10	Decision on Monroe County Hazard Mitigation Planning Grant Contract	The grant applications to DHS-FEMA were written by staff to update the Monroe County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Plans are prepared to reduce costs and losses from natural disasters. This is an update to the existing plan. The plan inventory's 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 grant funding is to update the existing Monroe County Multi-Hazards Mitigation Plan. The total project is in the amount of \$43,744. Of this total the grant amount would be \$32,808 with a match requirement of \$10,936	2016-2018	Sign the contract	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com
11	Decision on Vernon County Hazard Mitigation Planning Grant	The Grant application to DHS-FEMA were written by staff to update the Vernon County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Plan is prepared to reduce costs and losses from natural disasters. This is an update to the existing plan. The plan inventory's 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 grant funding is to update the existing plan along with complete parcel mapping within the county. The Vernon County grant application involves a total project in the amount of \$259,794. Of this amount the grant would be for \$194,845 and \$64,949 would be the required match. Parcel mapping will make up	2016-2018	Sign the contract	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com

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		\$220,039 of the project with \$39,755 being used to update the existing Multi-Hazards Mitigation Plan.			
12a	Public Transit Feasibility Study Results on service from La Crosse County to Monroe and Trempealeau Counties. PF	La Crosse County Public Transit Feasibility Study which analyzed and made recommendations on service to Trempealeau and Monroe Counties. La Crosse County is interested in expanding the SMRT Bus concept to Monroe and Trempealeau Counties. Total contract is for \$8,000.	2016-2017	The study has been completed and the findings are being presented to various committees, officials, and businesses. The study included proposed routes connecting La Crosse-Sparta-Tomah via Interstate 90 and a La Crosse-Arcadia via US Highway 53 and State Highway 93. From a ridership and ridership revenue perspective the bus service is feasible (based on study projections and assumptions). In the next few months staff will be meeting with county officials, businesses, and DOT officials to determine interest in expanding the SMRT Bus and the possibility of funding from various entities.	Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 peter@mrrpc.com
12b	Status of Wisconsin's Federal Disaster Declaration.	Severe rainstorm and flooding occurred on Sept 22, 2016 causing over \$20 million damages to public infrastructure and homes. 7 MRRPC counties are included with the 13 the State included in their application for Presidential Disaster Declaration	To be determined	FEMA declared these counties a disaster area. FEMA has held initial public assistance recovery meetings with each county. Pre-applications for mitigation grants were due by 1/12/17. WEM will review and rank the preapplications, then ask those who rank high to submit a full app.	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com
12c	Scenic Mississippi Regional Transit (SMRT) project serving Crawford, Vernon and La Crosse Counties.	Develop a fixed route public transportation service for Crawford, La Crosse, and Vernon Counties. Bus transportation will service commuters, elderly, disabled, medical appointments, and personal travel. Projected operating costs for 2016 are approximately \$343,000.	Service began December 3, 2012 – Ongoing	The SMRT Bus has been operating for four years. In 2016 ridership increased by 8% over 2015 ridership. In the first two months of 2017 ridership has remained consistent with 2016 ridership numbers. The MRRPC will continue marketing and promotion and evaluate routes and schedules and integrate service modifications based on the La Crosse, Monroe, and Trempealeau County commuter bus feasibility study.	Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 peter@mrrpc.com
12d	Update to Zoning Ordinance for Buffalo County	New zoning ordinance is needed to deal with growing development activity. Zoning Ordinance and Maps are to be completed on or prior to September 30, 2017. Contract amount is for \$43,964.	May 2015 – May 2018	Staff has met with all towns and each town has submitted a draft zoning map. Buffalo County is in the process of compiling the maps and preparing a draft zoning map for the County. Staff has also been meeting with the Zoning Committee to complete draft chapters of the revised zoning ordinance. Chapters on non-conforming uses, specific	Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 peter@mrrpc.com

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				use requirements, zoning districts, Zoning Committee and Zoning Administrators powers and duties, Board of Adjustment, Parking and Loading Areas, and Penalties have been completed in draft form. Once the draft zoning map and first draft of the zoning ordinance are completed public meetings will be held throughout the County to gather feedback on the drafts. It is anticipated public input meetings will be held this Spring/Summer.	
12e	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 has been 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. Staff has begun updating the demographic information such as populations, land use, employment and updating the risk assessment portion of the plan, i.e. number of times each hazard has occurred within the county and the amount of damage caused by the hazard. In addition, staff has also compiled the returned surveys. A second survey is being sent out to those municipalities which did not return the first survey. Due to the flooding, which occurred in late September this project was put on hold for a few weeks. Staff is finalizing the social-economic data and hazard assessment chapters of the plan. Staff will attend the April Crawford County Towns Association meeting to make a presentation.	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com
12f	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	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	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com

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		<p>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.</p>		<p>explaining the update process was held on April 12th. A hazard risk assessment survey was mailed to all municipalities and first responders with a May 31st deadline for return. Staff also made a presentation of the updating process at the April 26th Trempealeau County Towns Association meeting. Staff is finalizing the updating of the demographic information such as populations, land use, employment and updating the risk assessment portion of the plan, i.e. number of times each hazard has occurred within the county and the amount of damage caused by the hazard. In addition, staff has also begun compiling the returned surveys. A second survey is being sent out to those municipalities which did not return the first survey. Staff has begun the process of updating information on the over 630 structures located within the FEMA 100-year floodplain. Staff made a presentation to the Law Enforcement/Emergency Management Committee to update them on the progress of the plan.</p>	
12g	<p>Report on Status of the Federal Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization (POWER) Grant Program for Buffalo County to prepare an Economic Development Strategy in response to the Alma coal power plant closure.</p>	<p>This is a new \$35 million federal multi agency program for coal impacted communities across the U.S. Grant funding will be used to prepare a detailed economic development plan for Buffalo County to assist in recovering from employment losses and economic losses from closing one of the two coal powered electric plants in Alma. The Grant application was submitted to the U.S. Dept. of Commerce – EDA in June. The Grant has been awarded. Total Planning Project is \$100,444. Federal funds will cover just under one-half the costs. The local match will come from Buffalo County \$16,000, MRRPC \$15,000 and UW Extension \$19,268.</p>	<p>October 1, 2015 – September 30, 2016</p>	<p>The grant has been awarded. Buffalo County Agricultural Agent, MRRPC Director, Two UW Extension Economic Development Specialists and UW Madison Economist conducted a teleconference in October. On April 11, the County Economic Development Committee met to hear on progress and findings of the study to date. The first public information meeting on the initial findings was held on June 16, 2016 at the County Courthouse. Due to wide spread damage to roads and homes from severe storms that depleted county resources and staff, a project extension request was made. This request was approved. The project completion date is now June 30, 2017. A draft of the Strategy document has been submitted to the</p>	<p>Greg Flogstad, Director 608-785-9396 greg@mrrpc.com</p>

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				County and the MRRPC received a copy of it on January 20, 2017.	
12h	Crawford County Farmland Preservation contract	Crawford County is required to update its Farmland Preservation Plan by December 31, 2015 to meet the requirements of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Protection Working Land's Initiative Program. Counties are required to designate Farmland Preservation areas in their counties for land owners to be eligible to receive Farmland Preservation Tax Credits. The Farmland Preservation Plan must also be consistent with the County's comprehensive plan. Total Project Cost \$60,000, The MRRPC contract is for \$30,000.	June 2014 – December 2016	Contract has been approved and staff has updated Agricultural Statistics tables such as "Who owns Farms; Farms by NAICS"; "Market Values of Ag Products Sold"; "Income from Farm Related Sources"; "Crops"; "Land Sales"; etc. have been updated. Staff has compiled a list of Farmland Preservation related goals and policies from the county comprehensive plan. The list was presented to the Land Use Concerns committee and they approved using these goals and policies for the farmland preservation plan. Staff presented information regarding Farmland Preservation plans at the Crawford County Towns Association meeting. Two meetings with the Towns to explain to the towns what information the county would like from them have been held. A draft of the text portion of the plan was presented to the Land Conservation Committee for their approval. Maps for individual towns and Villages are approximately 90% completed. A public hearing on the plan is scheduled for April 18 th .	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com
12i	Buffalo County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan	Update the Buffalo County, Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. \$30,000 federal planning grant approved requiring \$10,000 match from MRRPC and Buffalo County. Plan is prepared to reduce costs and losses from natural disasters and some manmade disasters. Inventories 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. Plans must be approved by DHS-FEMA and Wisconsin Emergency Management. Once Plan is approved county and other participating local governments are eligible for Federal and State Hazard Mitigation Grant programs.	June 2014 – December 2015	Plan has been completed and approved by FEMA and the county board. Staff will be sending out adopting resolutions to all cities and villages.	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 Dave@mrrpc.com
12j	Outdoor Recreation Planning in Trempealeau and Buffalo Counties.	Plan for maintenance and expansion of outdoor recreation opportunities in each county. Plan makes county and communities that participate eligible for State Land and Water Conservation Grants and State Stewardship Grants.	2016	Both county plans have been completed and adopted by their respective county boards.	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com

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12k	The transition of the Equipment and Metal Manufacturing Association (EMMA) Inc. to The Upper Mississippi River Manufacturing Alliance TUMMA Inc. Industry Cluster Initiative	Manufacturing is a priority economic sector because it is a major economic driver of the region. MRRPC serves a logistical support role by helping convene manufacturers to network in hopes developing joint workforce development services and ventures on new or better products. On November 24, 2015 EMMA voted to change its name and bylaws to TUMMA to invite all manufacturers in the tristate region to join. Its primary focus will be on improving the skill sets and knowledge of the region's manufacturing work force. A TUMMA steering group was established and met regularly. Officer elections were held in January 2016. A fulltime director was hired in February 2016 and resigned in March 2016. Funding for initial position was provided by the Western Wisconsin Workforce Development Board. In June 2016, a \$80,000 Request for Proposals RFP was issued by the Western Wisconsin Workforce Development Board. The RFP was awarded in July to Western Technical College to hire a Business Services Coordinator to assist TUMMA and other industry sectors. The Business Services Coordinator will work directly with technical colleges, universities, Workforce Boards and manufacturers in the region to raise awareness of manufacturing careers and develop workforce development initiatives. Major emphasis will be to increase K-12 students' interests in manufacturing careers. This position will be housed in the new Integrated Technology Center on the WTC campus.	Continual	On July 15, 2015, the EMMA board of directors met with Western Wisconsin Technical College, Workforce Connections, Western Wisconsin Workforce Development Board on the concept of forming a manufacturing alliance organization like the North-East Wisconsin Manufacturing Alliance. The EMMA board was open to the idea of reorganizing under a manufacturing brand that would include all kinds of manufacturers. This concept was popular and all parties agreed to further pursue this concept. The MRRPC instigated this industry cluster initiative in 2005 and has been serving as a liaison for EMMA since and was instrumental in helping EMMA incorporate in 2007. In 2015 the MRRPC Director assisted EMMA-TUMMA in preparing amended articles of incorporation and completing the IRS name change form from EMMA to TUMMA so TUMMA could assume EMMA's tax ID number and non-profit 501c 6 status. At the January 12, 2017 TUMMA Board meeting The Board indicated a need for: a strategic plan, a desire to hold a manufacturing expo in the fall of 2017, develop a manufacturing all-star magazine to promote employees in manufacturing, work with children museums across the state to include manufacturing exhibits and review their K-12 Survey for future actions.	Greg Flogstad, Director 608.785.9396 greg@mrrpc.com
12l	Village of Oakdale Strategic Development Plan	The Village contracted with the MRRPC to Administer a \$40,000 State Community Development Block Grant Planning Project that will be used to hire a planning and engineering firm to prepare a five-year capital improvement plan, targeted business feasibility study, blighted property analysis and a sidewalk/trail plan for the Village. The contract with the MRRPC is for \$6,000	08.07.2015 – 08.06.2017	In the Fall of 2015 MRRPC staff prepared the grant administrative paperwork then prepared and disseminated a Request for Proposals in January 2016. SEH was selected as the Consultant in March 2016 by the Village Board. Public Hearings were held on July 12, 2016, September 17, 2016 to receive public input on community and economic needs of the community. A draft of the Strategic Development Plan was submitted to the Village in January 2017 for review. Changes are being made.	Greg Flogstad, Director 608.785.9396 greg@mrrpc.com

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12m	Contract to Update Comprehensive Plans for Trempealeau County Towns	Trempealeau County would like to contract with the MRRPC to update the 13 town comprehensive plans and will provide the MRRPC \$2,200 per town to do so. Trempealeau County will be responsible for the mapping. Total contract calls for \$28,600 in funding for MRRPC and completion of all 13 plans by December 2017.	June 2016 – December 2017	The goals and objectives from the existing plans have been forwarded to each town to receive their input and recommendations for modifications. In addition, revised draft plans for 13 Towns in Trempealeau County have been completed and have been forwarded to Trempealeau County and the respective Town's for their review. Town's are reviewing draft plans and sending modifications back to MRRPC staff. Two Towns have schedule public hearings for this Spring.	Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 peter@mrrpc.com
12n	MRRPC preparing a Commissioners handbook for the Wisconsin Mississippi River Parkway Commission. PF	The Wisconsin Mississippi River Parkway Commission has contracted with the MRRPC to prepare a Commissioner handbook. The handbook will assist new/existing Commissioner's in understanding the Great River Road and their responsibilities. The contract for the project is \$1,200.	2017-2018	Staff has been preparing the first draft of the Commissioner handbook and it will be presented to the Commission in May.	Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 peter@mrrpc.com
12o	MRRPC preparing an update the Mississippi River Parkway Commission's corridor management plan. PF	The Wisconsin Mississippi River Parkway has contracted with the MRRPC to prepare an update to the Corridor Management Plan for the Great River Road. The contract for the project is \$7,200.	2017-2018	Staff have been inventorying facilities along the Great River Road and will be presenting a draft inventory to the Parkway Commission at their May meeting. The facilities will then be rated and recommendation for their improvement will be documented.	Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 peter@mrrpc.com
13	Old Business				
14	New Business				
15	Adjourn				