

Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission Staff Report on Projects for the Bimonthly Meeting on 06.12.2019

	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 that includes: (1) Operational funds (checking , savings, CDs) (2) The four business Revolving Loan Funds and (3) the Disaster Recovery Microloan Fund.	Today's Meeting	(1) Review operational fund transaction activity that include: Checking, savings and certificate of deposit transactions. (2) Review 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. (3) Review transaction activity in the Disaster Recovery Microloan program funded from Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation – WEDC.	Greg Flogstad, Director 608.785.9396 greg@mrrpc.com
4	Decision on submission of EDA grant application to fund economic recovery planning and engineering grant up to \$800,000 for participating communities in the Kickapoo Valley	Economic Recovery Planning is needed by flood impacted communities. The following 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.		Submission of a grant to EDA needs to take place for economic recovery planning and engineering services. For this to happen a firm local commitment to match the EDA grant needs to take place. Vernon County is granting communities \$40,000 each from their Ho-Chunk Nation gaming compact annual allocation of \$1.2 million to be used as each village's local matching share for this EDA grant that would then be used to pay for the economic recovery planning and engineering services. The Villages were asked to pass resolutions stating these funds are on hand and are authorized to be used as a match for a grant that the MRRPC would then apply for. As of this date we have received resolutions from the Villages of Readstown, Viola and Ontario. The Village of La Farge is acting on their resolution at the June Village Board Meeting. 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 Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com

5	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	June 12, 2019	The Summit is scheduled to take place at 10:00 AM right after today's abbreviated MRRPC commission meeting at 9:15 AM. At the conclusion of the Summit, the goal is to have some integrated economic development projects identified to pursue in our region. The MRRPC will provide assistance in implementation of development projects as applicable.	Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 peter@mrrpc.com
6a	Status 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	<p>The City of La Crosse was awarded a \$3.6 million EDA grant to do the following: 1) Upsize the wet well, increase pumping capacity and increase the storm water pipe size at the Taylor Street and George Street lift station; 2) Install an additional pump at the Moore Street and Rose Street lift station; and 3) Install a new lift station with greater capacity plus adding a secondary booster station at the Monitor Street and Lang Drive lift station.</p> <p>The City of Arcadia was awarded a \$4.3 million EDA grant to fund Storm Water System Flood improvements. The grant will be used to fund upgrades and redevelop four storm water pumping stations in the downtown area to protect Ashley Furniture's manufacturing operations and the City's downtown from flooding should a breach in a new levy that is currently being planned occur.</p> <p>The City of Viroqua was awarded a \$2.6 million EDA grant to support the construction and expansion of the City of Viroqua/Vernon County Industrial Park.</p>	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com
6b	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	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 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	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com

		<p>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>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 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.</p>	
6c	<p>Monroe County Hazard Mitigation Planning</p>	<p>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</p>	2016-2018	<p>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 12th. 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 17th. Staff has also begun updating the risk assessment chapter of the plan. The number of times each hazard has occurred</p>	<p>Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com</p>

		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.		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. A third survey has been sent out after the recent flooding. Staff has begun meeting with the various county departments to get county projects	
6d	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 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	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.	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com
6e	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	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

		<p>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>			
6f	<p>Scenic Mississippi Regional Transit (SMRT) bus serving Crawford, Vernon, Monroe, and La Crosse counties</p>	<p>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.</p> <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>Service Began on December 3, 2012 - present</p>	<p>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 rebounded on the SMRT system and increased by 9% over 2017 ridership. Ridership so far in 2019 has decreased approximately 10% over 2018 ridership numbers. Weather issues in January caused the service to cancel around a week of service which impacted overall ridership numbers.</p> <p>The SMRT Bus system continues evaluating the use of electric buses on selected SMRT routes. 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. SMRT routes are being analyzed by the WISDOT electric bus contractor to determine if electric buses are capable of serving our route distances and terrain. La Crosse County applied for a Bremer Foundation grant in January and is expecting a decision on the grant (public announcement) in June.</p> <p>On May 13, 2019, the SMRT Bus system added a mid-day route between La Crosse-Tomah. The additional route will provide more flexibility for riders to use the bus for medical appointments, school, and daily activities.</p>	<p>Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 peter@mrrpc.com</p>
6g	<p>La Crosse County Outdoor recreation plan</p>	<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>	<p>November 2018 – June 2019</p>	<p>MRRPC staff met several times with La Crosse County staff over the last nine months and gathered background information (recreation budget, projects, data, etc.) that assisted in updating the outdoor recreation plan.</p> <p>The final draft of the Outdoor Recreation Plan was provided to La Crosse County in March and was posted on the La Crosse</p>	<p>Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 peter@mrrpc.com</p>

				County website. In March/April La Crosse County towns, and cities/villages were asked to review the plan and provide information on their municipality's future outdoor recreation projects. Information from local units of government was received and incorporated into the planning document. The Outdoor Recreation Plan was approved by the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors in May and the finalized document has been posted on the La Crosse County and MRRPC website.	
6h	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 – July 2019	<p>MRRPC staff facilitated a public open house meeting in February 2019 to provide the opportunity for residents to provide input on the draft updated Comprehensive plan. Comments received and plan modifications were made and in April staff completed a public hearing draft of the updated comprehensive plan. A public hearing on the updated comprehensive was held on April 30, 2019 in the City of Mondovi. A few modifications pertaining to future annexations and planning maps were requested.</p> <p>Staff has made plan modifications and forwarded the final updated comprehensive plan to the City of Mondovi. It is anticipated the final plan will be approved by the City Council in June or July.</p>	Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 peter@mrrpc.com
6i	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, and public safety, child care, health services: substance abuse services-counseling and	This program was rolled out by WI DOA in February 2019. Communities and counties 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>The Wisconsin Department of Administration received approval from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development roll out this program. DOA has sponsored meetings and webinars on this program and attended meetings in various counties to explain this program. 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 and/or a blighted project. Counties in the region that will need to address this program are: Pierce, Pepin, Buffalo, Jackson, La Crosse, Monroe and Vernon Counties.</p> <p>Cities and Villages in the region that will need 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>

		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.			
6j	Status 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 include MRRPC contributions in their 2019 budget..	Today's Meeting	Greg asked and was granted time on the County Board's February 20 th 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. No further communication has been received from the County since then.	Greg Flogstad Director 608.785.9396 greg@mrrpc.com