

Agenda Items 1-13

Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission Staff Report on Projects for the Bimonthly Meeting on 06.14.2017

	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 Meeting	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	Greg Flogstad, Director 608.785.9396 greg@mrrpc.com
4	Amendments to MRRPC's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy	A strategy regarding protection of ground and surface waters threatened by pollution due to effluent disposal and the region's more fragile karst topography needs to be added to the CEDS to assist communities in addressing surface and ground water pollution concerns.	Today's Meeting	Consideration of adding this strategy to the CEDS needs to be taken during today's meeting	Greg Flogstad Director 608.785.9396 greg@mrrpc.com
5	Report on Crawford County's Farmland Preservation Plan	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 working with the Land Conservation Committee created goals and policies compiled a list of Farmland Preservation related goals and policies. 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. The first draft of the plan was presented to the Land Conservation Committee for their comments and recommendations. Following the approval from the Land Conservation Committee a public hearing on the plan was held on April 18 th . The plan was revised based upon public comments and was presented to the Land Conservation Committee for their approval. The approved plan has been submitted to DATCP to see if it meets the requirements for certification. Once their approval is received the plan will go to the County Board for their approval.	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com

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6	Report on 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 several months of 2017 ridership has decreased slightly from 2016. It appears there has been fewer Organic Valley riders than this time last year. 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
7	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 May staff met with Ashley Furniture and Golden Plump to discuss the proposed bus routes. Also in May staff met with the Trempealeau County and Monroe County Board Chairman as well as staff from the City of Sparta. In June staff will be giving presentations to the Sparta City Council and the Monroe County Board.	Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 peter@mrrpc.com
8	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.	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.	October 1, 2015 – September 30, 2016	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 County and the MRRPC received a copy of it on January 20, 2017. The Plan will be presented to the County Board at their May or June Meeting for approval.	Greg Flogstad, Director 608-785-9396 greg@mrrpc.com

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9	Report on proposed federal budget impact on MRRPC	US Department of Commerce -Economic Development Administration-EDA, US Department of Housing and Urban Development – Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, US Department of Transportation, US Department of Homeland Security are federal agencies that are proposed to be cut and in some cases eliminated - EDA and CDBG.	Today's meeting	To be determined at bimonthly meeting.	Greg Flogstad, Director 608.785.9396 greg@mrrpc.com
10	Commissioner input on Annual Report and Its Dissemination	Ideas on Best ways to use Annual Report to Market MRRPC accomplishments this past year.	Today's Meeting	Receive Commissioner input on ideas to make dissemination of Annual Report as wide and beneficial as possible	Greg Flogstad, Director 608.785.9396 greg@mrrpc.com
11a	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. Six MRRPC counties and six other counties are included in the State application for a Presidential Disaster Declaration	To be determined	FEMA declared these counties a disaster area. FEMA declared these counties eligible for Public Assistance but they did not qualify for Individual Assistance. The total amount of eligible public assistance was \$11,340,370. Of this amount MRRPC counties were eligible for the following: Vernon \$4,832,556; Crawford \$2,056,508; Jackson \$882,701; La Crosse \$460,338; Monroe \$255,860 and Trempealeau \$55,443. Pre-applications for mitigation grants were due by 1/12/17. WEM reviewed and ranked the preapplications, then asked those who rank high to submit a full app. WEM is waiting for additional information on some of the final applications before announcing the grants.	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com
11b	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 has prepared the first draft zoning map for the County. Staff is now in the process of meeting with towns to resolve any map discrepancies. Staff has also been meeting with the Zoning Committee to complete draft chapters of the revised zoning ordinance. The majority of the draft zoning ordinance is complete. Staff is working on the definitions chapter of the ordinance at this time. 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 Fall.	Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 peter@mrrpc.com

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11c	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. Staff is finalizing the social-economic data and hazard assessment chapters of the plan and has begun updating the maps. This involves migrating from the Mapinfo software over to the Arc Info software.	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com
11d	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. 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. Trempealeau County Land Information office has provided updated GIS data as a base for the mapping required for the plan. Staff made a presentation to the Law Enforcement/Emergency Management	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com

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				Committee to update them on the progress of the plan.	
11e	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	Project has been completed	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 Dave@mrrpc.com
11f	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
11g	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	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	

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		<p>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.</p>		<p>TUMMA so TUMMA could assume EMMA's tax ID number and non-profit 501c 6 status.</p> <p>At the April 13, 2017 TUMMA Board meeting scholarships for students going into manufacturing careers were discussed, A presentation was made about process to place Offender population with manufacturers, Jackson County will be the beneficiary of the region's Inspire Program. Involving connecting students to businesses through work based learning activities. The K-12 Task Force is working on scheduling manufacturing open houses during October – "Manufacturing Month". K-12 Task Force also sent out survey to 43 Tech, Science, Math instructors and administrators on what they would like to see from an organization like TUMMA.</p>	
11h	Village of Oakdale Strategic Development Plan	<p>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</p>	08.07.2015 – 08.06.2017	<p>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. The Plan is completed and final payment was approved by the Village. The MRRPC staff is in the process of completing all the project status and financial completion forms in order for the Village to receive their final reimbursement payment.</p>	<p>Greg Flogstad, Director 608.785.9396 greg@mrrpc.com</p>
11i	Contract to Update Comprehensive Plans for Trempealeau County Towns	<p>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 to MRRPC and completion of all 13 plans by December 2017.</p>	June 2016 – December 2017	<p>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. Towns are reviewing draft plans and sending modifications back to MRRPC staff. The Town of Chimney Rock held their public hearing in May and approved their plan. The Town of Lincoln has a public hearing scheduled for June. The remaining towns will be holding public hearings later in 2017.</p>	<p>Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 peter@mrrpc.com</p>

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11j	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 prepared the first draft of the Commissioner handbook in April and the MRPC reviewed the draft and provided comments. MRRPC staff have modified the draft and will have the Commissioner Handbook completed by July.	Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 peter@mrrpc.com
11k	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 inventoried public facilities along the Great River Road and presented a draft inventory to the Parkway Commission at their May meeting. The facilities will then be rated by MRPC Commissioners in June and recommendation for the facilities will be included in the plan.	Peter Fletcher, Planner 608.785.9396 peter@mrrpc.com
11l	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 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 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 also began 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 is scheduled for June 12 th .	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com
11m	Vernon County Hazard Mitigation Plan			A contract has been signed and work has begun on this project. Staff has met with the Vernon County Emergency Management Director and the Vernon County Land Information Officer to work out how the grant will be administered. Staff has also began updating the required social – economic	Dave Bonifas, Planner 608.785.9396 dave@mrrpc.com

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				data. In addition, 2 surveys have been sent out to all municipalities, first	
12	Old Business				
13	New Business				
14	Adjourn				