

1. THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION'S ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE AND MISSION



COMMISSION FORMATION AND PURPOSE

The Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission (MRRPC) was formed in 1964 under Wisconsin Statute to provide cost shared planning and economic development services to Pierce, Pepin, Buffalo, Trempealeau, La Crosse, Vernon, and Crawford counties. Monroe and Jackson Counties joined the Commission in 1973. Some of the services provided include: comprehensive planning, revolving loan fund administration, geographic information system map production, transportation planning, public policy advocacy, coordination of regional programs and activities, economic development planning and implementation, and park and recreation planning and implementation. To gain additional federal resources for economic development the MRRPC prepared the first Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) report for the region in 1977, subsequently the MRRPC was awarded the "Economic Development District" designation from the U.S. Department of Commerce—Economic Development Administration. The MRRPC has maintained this Economic Development District Designation since then.

CURRENT COMMISSION ROSTER

The present Commission roster is presented on the following page. According to Commission bylaws a University Extension office representative from each member county may serve as a non-voting designee and Wisconsin statutes state the Secretary of the Department of Commerce, or a designee may serve as non-voting members of the Commission as well. This arrangement helps coordinate activities with both the counties and the state.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM MEMBER COUNTIES

In 2006, the Commission received \$134,808 in dues payments from member units of government to help support the Commission's planning and economic development activities. Dues payments are not mandatory and are based on an agreed rate applied against each counties' real estate equalized value. Dues paid in 2006 were as follows:

Member County	2006 Payment
Buffalo County	\$ 6,293
Crawford County	6,767
Jackson County	8,475
La Crosse County	50,781
Monroe County	15,770
Pepin County	3,654
Pierce County	21,968
Trempealeau County	10,799
Vernon County	10,301
	\$134,808

2006 Member Payment Schedule

Other operating funds obtained in 2006 to support the MRRPC included grants from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (DOT), the Economic Development Administration (EDA), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and local government contracts.

COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY REPORT PREPARATION PURPOSE AND PROCESS

The Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission is responsible for preparing the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the purpose of aiding regional economic development. Input from the public and private sector was made possible at each of the Commission public meetings held in 2006 and in February and March 2007 when the CEDS was listed on the Commission Agenda. Surveys were mailed to public and private sector organizations during the year as were drafts of the CEDS document. Each of our county U.W. Extension offices were also provided copies of the CEDS

where the public could review the document. The report also received scrutiny from the Western Wisconsin Workforce Development Board who served as the CEDS Strategy Committee. This Board is comprised of a diverse group from both the public and private sector. The CEDS documents the region's history, current conditions, economic challenges and actions to take 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 region maintains its Economic Development District designation conferred upon it by the U.S. Department of Commerce—Economic Development Administration (EDA). This district designation qualifies the region's counties, 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. The counties and the Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission have responsibly maintained this designation since 1977 as an important tool to foster economic development.

Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission Commissioner Roster

County Representing and Commissioner Name	County Board, County Board & Governor or Governor Appointment Category and	Six Year Term Expiration Date
Buffalo County Bergie Ritscher	County Board	7/15/2008
James Scholmeier	County Board and Governor	7/15/2010
Kathleen Vinehout	Governor	7/15/2012
Crawford County Virgil Butteris	County Board	7/15/2010
Gerald Krachey	Governor	7/15/2008
Ron Leys	County Board and Governor	7/15/2012
Jackson County Ron Carney	County Board	7/15/2010
James E. Christenson	Governor	7/15/2007
Eugene Savage	County Board & Governor	7/15/20011
La Crosse County Vicki Burke	County Board	7/15/2010
Jim Ehram	County Board & Governor	7/15/2008
Tara Johnson	Governor	7/15/2012
Monroe County George Baker	County Board & Governor	7/15/2012
James B. Kuhn	County Board	7/15/2010
Cedric A Schnitzler	Governor	7/15/2008
Pepin County George T. Dupre	County Board & Governor	7/15/2008
Norman (Mike) Murray	County Board	7/15/2012
David Smith	Governor	7/15/2010
Pierce County Richard E. Purdy	Governor	7/15/2010
William Schroeder	County Board	7/15/2008
James Camery	County Board & Governor	7/15/2012
Trempealeau County Margaret M. Baecker	County Board & Governor	7/15/2010
Barbara Semb	County Board	7/15/2012
Jerold Nysven	Governor	7/15/2008
Vernon County Gail Frie	Governor	7/15/2011
Jo Ann Nickelatti	County	7/15/2009
Eldon D Warren	County Board & Governor	7/15/2007

MISSISSIPPI RIVER REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee

The Western Wisconsin Workforce Development Board serves as the CEDS Strategy Committee. Committee members are listed below.

Sharon Folcey, Executive Director (<i>Chairperson</i>) Sparta Area Chamber of Commerce	Rebecca Bjork, Regional Director of Advertising River Valley Newspaper Group
Judy Berg, Human Resources Manager (<i>Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect</i>) Courtesy Corporation	Jerry Bloom, Member Services Advisor Oakdale Electric Cooperative
Daniel VonFeldt, Support Manager (<i>Secretary/Treasurer</i>) 3M	Daniel Braund, District Manager CenturyTel
Marina Abbott, Area Manager Tomah/Stevens Point Manpower, Inc.	Karen Dunn, VP Business Banking (Past Chairperson) Coulee Bank
Michael Ablan, Attorney at Law Michael Ablan Law Firm, SC	Pete Eide, Administrator (<i>Healthcare Taskforce Chair</i>) Hillview Health Care Center
Sherrie Hein, Human Resources Manager D & S Manufacturing	Mason Quackenbush, Director, Recruitment Gundersen Lutheran Health System
Ellen Holt, Director, HR Services Logistics Health, Inc.	Ron Roodell, General Manager/CEO Jackson Electric Cooperative
Terry Lee, H.R. Manager Mathews, Inc.	Kathryn Sexauer Badger Corrugating Co.
Del Long, Administrator – Human Resources Franciscan Skemp Healthcare	Karen Long, Employee Communications Coordinator Organic Valley
Judith Erickson, Mgr of Opportunity Center/Student Employment Services Western Wisconsin Technical College	Dan Hanson, Labor Liaison Great Rivers United Way, Inc.
Greg Flogstad, Director (<i>Economic Development Taskforce Chair</i>) Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission	Terry Hicks, President Western Wisconsin AFL-CIO
Sadie Garvin, Executive Director Ho-Chunk Nation	James Hill, Executive Director (<i>Planning Committee Chair</i>) La Crosse Area Development Corp.
Amy Grotzke, DVR WDA Director DWD-Division of Vocational Rehabilitation	Marcia Jagodzinske, CEO Riverfront, Inc.
Jerry Hanoski, Executive Director Workforce Connections, Inc.	Grace Jones, Executive Director Couleecap, Inc.
Tim Kabat, Senior Planner – Economic Development Planning Department, City of La Crosse	Stephen Woessner, Business Education Outreach Coordinator UW-La Crosse SBDC
John Kriesel, Director Buffalo County Human Services	John Wyatt, Superintendent (retired) (<i>Youth Council Chair</i>) Bangor School District
Edward Ryan, Employment and Training Supervisor Job Service	James Young, Veterans Service Officer (<i>One-Stop Committee Chair</i>) Vernon County Veterans Service Office
Sara Ryan, Director Crawford County Human Services	Craig Sandager DWD-Unemployment Insurance
Thai Vue, Executive Associate Director La Crosse Area Hmong Mutual Assistance Association	