

**MINUTES OF THE
BI-STATE REGIONAL COMMISSION**

Wednesday, January 22, 2025, 3:30 p.m.
Rock Island County Office Building
1504 Third Avenue, Third Floor County Board Room
Rock Island, IL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Brad Bark – Vice Chair; David Adams; Ken Beck; Richard “Quijas” Brunk; Danny Chick; Michael Davis; Jean Dickson; Rick Dunn; Reggie Freeman; Robert Gallagher; Ralph Heninger; Marshall Jones; Jerry Lack; Mike Matson; John Maxwell; Drue Mielke; Sangeetha Rayapati; Eileen Roethler; Jeff Sorensen; Mike Thoms; Rich Volkert

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kippy Breeden; Kimberly Callaway-Thompson; Duane Dawson; Michael Limberg; Dan McNeil; Marcy Mendenhall; Gary Moore; Randy Moore; Jazmin Newton; Dylan Parker; Rick Schloemer; William Stoermer

OTHERS PRESENT: Colonel William Parker and Don Wrenn, Rock Island Arsenal

STAFF PRESENT: Denise Bulat, Sarah Grabowski

Vice Chair Bark called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m.

1. Approval of the December 18, 2024 Minutes. Mr. Beck motioned to approve the minutes of the December 18, 2024 meeting as presented. Mayor Matson seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
2. Treasurer’s Report. Mr. Maxwell presented the Treasurer’s Report for the month ending December 31, 2024, noting an ending total bank and book balance of \$461,177.55. Mr. Maxwell moved the report be accepted as written and mailed. Mr. Jones seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
3. Finance and Personnel Committee.
 - a. Bills. Mayor Thoms presented the bills totaling \$49,818.03, as listed on the following bills listing:

Bills List

Mel Foster Company, 2025 Policies		\$15,225.30
Rock Island County Treasurer		5,010.17
02/2025	Rent	4,841.75
02/2025	Internet Access	88.00
09/2024	Managed Print Services	40.21
10/2024	Managed Print Services	40.21

Addendum

Kaskaskia Engineering Group, November 2024, Professional Fees	\$24,094.49
NADO, Annual Membership Dues and RPO Subscription for 2025	5,000.00

*Correction:

Rock Island County Treasurer, on Bills List, shown as \$5,010.17; additional invoice added in the amount of \$488.07 (Postage and Managed Print Services) for a total of \$5,498.24	\$5,498.24
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Mayor Thoms moved approval of the bills totaling \$49,818.03 as presented above. Mr. Davis seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

- b. Report on Progress on Commission’s FY 2024-25 Program Budget as of December 31, 2024. Mayor Thoms explained the Program Budget Status Report was distributed at the meeting. The Commission is 50% through the fiscal year with 44% expended and within budget.
 - c. Contracts/Grants for Consideration. There were no contracts or grants for consideration.
4. Executive Committee
- a. Election of Officers. Vice Chair Bark reported the Executive Committee, serving as the Nominating Committee, met January 22, 2025 to recommend a slate of officers for consideration to the full Commission. The By-Laws provide that officers shall serve a term of one year (with eligibility for re-election to a second term) and must be elected officials with no more than one officer from each jurisdiction and no more than two officers from the same state. The office begins March 1, 2025. The slate nominated is:

Chair – Brad Bark, Mayor, City of Muscatine
Vice Chair – Richard “Quijas” Brunk, Chair, Rock Island County Board
Secretary – John Maxwell, Member, Scott County Board
Treasurer – Rich Volkert, Mayor, Representing Henry and Mercer County Small Community Members

Vice Chair Bark called for nominations from the floor, and none were received. Mayor Matson motioned to approve the slate of officers as presented, and Mayor Gallagher seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
5. Commission Committee Assignments for 2025-2026. Vice Chair Bark presented the list of the 2025-2026 officers and committees distributed at the meeting. Mr. Beck motioned to approve the Commission officers and committee assignments as presented. Mayor Thoms seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
6. Rock Island Arsenal Presentation. Colonel Parker provided an update on U.S. Army Garrison activities at the Rock Island Arsenal (RIA). The Garrison vision is an adaptive, conscientious, and talented team providing ready infrastructure and responsive services that enhance readiness and quality of life, through efficient and effective resource management. The Garrison mission is to deliver and integrate installation support services to enable readiness for RIA mission partners. The resulting goals are that mission partners have the infrastructure and support to accomplish their global mission; RIA is a renowned place to work, live, and play (superior quality of life); the Quad Cities community engages with the resources and people of the Arsenal; and local, state, and national leaders understand RIA’s value to national security and the local community.

The RIA employs nearly 6,500 people living in a six-county radius. The majority of the employees are civilians, and RIA supports 601 active military and 509 reservists. He noted many generations of families have worked on the Arsenal. RIA is the only full-service Army installation in Iowa, Illinois, and Minnesota and home to over 50 Department of Defense organizations and private companies with a global impact. The local economic impact is over \$1.2 billion per year. The average salary is \$89,288 with an average length of service of 14 years. Many of the employees serve the RIA's major commands including U.S. Army Sustainment Command (ASC), First Army, U.S. Army Joint Munitions Command (JMC), U.S. Army Garrison RIA, RIA Joint Manufacturing and Technology Center (TACOM), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Rock Island District, U.S. Army Contracting Command Rock Island (ACC-RI), and Civilian Human Resource Agency (CHRA).

One example of integration is the development of the howitzer. First, the Army Contracting Command issues and manages contracts to supply parts and materiel for Army equipment, and then the RIA-Joint Manufacturing & Technology Center builds the howitzer and its components/repair parts. Army Sustainment Command ships, maintains, stores, issues, and integrates sustainment for the howitzer in the field and through prepositioned stocks, and the Joint Munitions Command supplies the shells the howitzer fires and manages munition stockages globally. Finally, the First Army trains the soldiers or partners who use the howitzer while preparing them to deploy.

The Arsenal is a critical component to Army readiness and is setting conditions for modernization of the Organic Industrial Base (OIB). They are pursuing energy resilience through improvements, such as a natural gas generator, solar energy generation, a transmission line project, material handling equipment electrification, and dredging Sylvan Slough to support hydroelectric plant improvements.

Right sizing space utilization to create efficiency by lowering costs is also a part of the OIB modernization. In 2021, Rock Island Arsenal was designated a pilot installation for the Army's Real Property Space Availability (RPSA) Multiple Listing Service (MLS) in support of the 2021 NDAA. The initiative is still in the testing and development phase with a goal that potential tenants can search installations for available space, similar to commercial real estate applications such as Zillow. Currently, there are eight buildings in MLS available for use, totaling approximately 535,000 square feet. The hope is to target the placement of more federal offices at the Arsenal thus reducing overhead expenses in places like Washington, DC and Chicago.

The RIA is committed to community partnerships and is actively seeking additional partnerships, such as the Defense Community Infrastructure Program, a competitive grant program funding repairs to the Moline viaduct; and the Intergovernmental Support Agreement (IGSA), which are agreements between the Army and local governments for services, such as solid waste collection and water supply. They are also working with Fresh Films media for marketing needs.

Infrastructure projects that the RIA are anticipating include repairs to the water distribution system, the Government Bridge, roofs, windows, HVAC, lighting, and Quarters One. RIA amenities for residents and workers include the Veterans Administration Cannon Flats, an RV Park with 40 pads that may be used by veterans traveling across the country, a Child Development Center, a School Age Center, and a nine-hole golf course. He noted the RIA welcomes the public to visit and use the Island for outdoor recreation, auto repair services, and leisure travel services. The RIA is also scheduling Arsenal Tours with the Riverboats.

Colonel Parker finished by inviting the Commission to upcoming events in celebration of the Army's 250th Birthday including:

March 29	Vietnam War Veterans Commemoration at the VA Cemetery
April	Rock Island Arsenal Golf Course Reopening
May 15-17	Armed Forces Day Celebration / Run the Rock
May 31	Memorial Day Observance at the VA Cemetery
June 14	Army 250th Birthday / Army Ball
September 11	9/11 Ceremony Observance
September 27	Quad Cities Marathon
November 11	Veterans Day Observance at the VA Cemetery
December	Wreaths Across America at the VA Cemetery

7. Questions or Comments by Commissioners. There were no questions or comments.
8. Other Business. There was no other business.
9. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard "Quijas" Brunk
Secretary