

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

Wednesday, February 26, 2025, 3:30 p.m.
Rock Island County Office Building
1504 Third Avenue, Third Floor County Board Room
Rock Island, IL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kippy Breeden – Chair; David Adams; Brad Bark; Richard “Quijas” Brunk; Kimberly Callaway-Thompson; Danny Chick; Michael Davis; Jean Dickson; Reggie Freeman; Robert Gallagher; Ralph Heninger; Marshall Jones; Jerry Lack; Michael Limberg; John Maxwell; Marcy Mendenhall; Drue Mielke; Sangeetha Rayapati; Eileen Roethler; Jeff Sorensen; Mike Thoms; Rich Volkert

MEMBERS ABSENT: Duane Dawson; Rick Dunn; Dan McNeil; Mike Matson; Gary Moore; Randy Moore; Jazmin Newton; Dylan Parker; Rick Schloemer; William Stoermer

OTHERS PRESENT: Don Wrenn, Rock Island Arsenal; Sarah Bohnsack, Bohnsack and Frommelt; Rachel Anderson, District Representative for U.S. Rep. Miller-Meeks; Mark Breeden

STAFF PRESENT: Denise Bulat, Sarah Grabowski, Jill Henderson; Kassie Keeney-McGurk; Gena McCullough

Chair Breeden called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

1. Approval of the January 22, 2025 Minutes. Mr. Maxwell motioned to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2025 meeting as presented. Mayor Limberg seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
2. Treasurer’s Report. Mr. Maxwell presented the Treasurer’s Report for the month ending January 31, 2025, noting an ending total bank and book balance of \$476,368.19. 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 \$95,962.85, as listed on the following bills listing:

Bills List

Benesch, Professional Services, 12/1/2024 to 12/31/2024	\$14,354.10
Benesch, Professional Services, 1/1/2025 to 2/9/2025	39,980.70
Bohnsack & Frommelt, Year End and Single Audit, June 30, 2024	21,000.00
Kaskaskia Engineering Group, Professional Services, 12/1/2024 to 12/31/2024	9,884.99
Platinum Information Services	5,283.16
02/2025 Server Warranty Extension	1,150.98
02/2025 IT Support/Network Services	1,575.00
01/2025 Meeting Room Equipment	2,557.18

Rock Island County Treasurer			5,459.90
03/2025	Rent	4,841.75	
03/2025	Internet Access	88.00	
12/2024	Paper Supplies	42.51	
01/2025	Postage	487.64	

Addendum

There were no additional bills.

Mayor Freeman moved approval of the bills totaling \$95,962.85 as presented above. Mayor Limberg seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

- b. Report on Progress on Commission’s FY 2024-25 Program Budget as of January 31, 2025. Mayor Thoms explained that on Program Budget Status Report, the Commission is 58% through the fiscal year with 52% expended and within budget.
- c. Contracts/Grants for Consideration. There were no contracts or grants for consideration.
- d. Consideration of Recommendation to Accept the Financial and Compliance Report for the Year Ended June 30, 2024. Mayor Thoms stated the Finance and Personnel Committee received a detailed audit presentation and are recommending approval of the audit report. There were no findings and that Bi-State complied with all laws, regulations, contracts, and grants. The Commission again received the highest audit opinion, an unmodified opinion "Clean Audit" with no findings or questioned costs.

Mayor Thoms made a motion to accept the Financial and Compliance Report for the year ended June 30, 2024. Mr. Jones seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

- e. Consideration to Renew the Executive Director’s Annual Employment Agreement. Mayor Thoms reported evaluation forms were sent to Commissioners and member government officials, with Ms. Bulat receiving high marks by those who responded. He stated the Finance and Personnel Committee recommended the Executive Director’s employment contract be renewed for the year February 1, 2025 – January 31, 2026, with a 3% merit increase, along with any budgeted wage adjustment received by all staff across the board.

Mayor Thoms made a motion to renew the Executive Director’s annual employment agreement with a 3% merit increase in addition to any budgeted wage adjustment received by all staff across the board. Mayor Limberg seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

- 4. Bi-State Region Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Progress Report 2025. Ms. Bulat provided a brief update on the status of the *Bi-State Region Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Progress Report 2025* (CEDS). The CEDS is redeveloped every five years and must be completed for the region to receive federal funds from the Economic Development Administration (EDA). The last full update was in 2021, and a progress report is prepared annually. The planning process is a collaborative effort with participation from local governments, economic development organizations, institutions of higher learning, and workforce training organizations. In order to ensure full representation of the region, meetings have been held throughout the Bi-State Region. The CEDS also serves as an umbrella economic development overview with broad goals that support projects from across the region.

Ms. Bulat explained the CEDS progress report includes a summary of economic and demographic data; an analysis on the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats to the region; a review of progress made toward the goals and strategies identified in the 2021 CEDS; and a comprehensive list of economic development projects that have been completed, are underway, and/or are planned for the future. As a preview of regional data and demographics, Ms. Bulat noted most data lags and is based on the five-year American Community Survey averages that were just released. There is a projected steady slow population growth aligning to the recently completed long range transportation plan population projections. Median age for the region increased from 40.3 to 40.6. The cost of living is lower than the national average and compares favorably to regional counterparts; it is also 90.1, which is lower than the U.S. average of 100.0. The draft annual 2024 unemployment rate is 4.7%. Draft numbers for labor force are down from 217,336 in 2019 to 203,091 in 2024. Major industries in the region include defense, food processing, machinery, metals, food services, and specialty contractors.

The jobs and investments from this list are reported to EDA, and the list may be utilized by legislatures to promote the region and champion projects. A draft of the 2025 CEDS progress report will be brought to the Commission in March to lay on the table and be reviewed for the following month with a final draft brought to the Commission at their April meeting.

5. Traffic Safety Planning in the Region. Ms. McCullough said that Bi-State Regional Commission was awarded \$160,000 in Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) federal funds as part of a \$200,000 Traffic Safety Action planning grant. The goal of the program is to plan for strategies to reduce fatal and serious injury crashes. The study area included the Iowa and Illinois Quad Cities, Kewanee, and Muscatine. Ms. McCullough explained the visionary goal, Vision Zero, that no traffic death and serious injury is acceptable. In the last decade, there have been 218 fatalities in the study area with 16.5% occurring from 2013-2022, and 20.9% over the last 3 years (2020-2022).

To address Vision Zero, the U.S. Department of Transportation is focusing on a Safe Systems Approach to reducing crashes with 6 principles and 5 elements. The principles, besides being traffic deaths are unacceptable, include a stance that people make mistakes and our bodies are vulnerable in crashes. The elements target improvements from safer roads and vehicles to reducing speeds, post-crash care, and addressing vulnerable road users like pedestrians and bicyclists.

Ms. McCullough noted that of the 7,200 collisions per year in the study area, the emphasis will be to examine the 22% of crashes resulting in injuries and the 0.3% ending in death. The study is being conducted by a consultant team of Kaskaskia Engineering Group and Iteris. Narrowing the focus, 16% of the crashes and 19% of the injuries happened at 100 of 12,000 locations. While vehicle-to-vehicle crashes were more numerous, incapacitating crashes involving overturned vehicles and bicycle and pedestrian crashes occurred at a higher rate of frequency.

The Traffic Safety Action Plan will make recommendations on proven countermeasures that can be implemented depending on the context of the crash location. Jurisdictions in the three geographies have received crash location data for review. On January 29, 2025, Bi-State staff hosted a Traffic Safety Summit to discuss the study data and strategies to reduce incapacitating crashes. Using the Traffic Safety “E’s” of engineering, enforcement, education, and emergency services, participants provided feedback and context to locations that were identified with a high frequency of fatal and serious injury crashes. The Quad Cities-Kewanee-Muscatine Traffic Safety Action Plan will be completed by May and provide these

areas an opportunity to pursue SS4A implementation grants to seek funding for implementation of the plan.

6. Bi-State Region Aerial Mapping Update. Ms. Keeney-McGurk reported that the Bi-State Regional Mapping Project, flown in Spring 2024, has been completed. She stated that Bi-State has done flights before in 2005, 2009, 2014, and 2019. The participants vary from year to year, but the Spring 2024 Participants were: Muscatine County/MAGIC, Rock Island County, Scott County, City of Bettendorf, City of Davenport, City of East Moline, Village of Milan, City of Moline, City of Rock Island, Rock Island Arsenal, City of Silvis, and the City of Aledo. Henry County declined, as they had a new aerial flown in 2023.

Ms. Keeney-McGurk stated that a technical consultant was hired to assist with the RFP, and this contract is held by Bi-State. The consultant's tasks are to review the proposals, create a summary of the proposals, and then advise the group. The proposals were reviewed by the consortium, and Surdex was chosen. On top of the three in aerial photography, each participant could choose additional products, such as LIDAR or Planimetric mappings. Each member holds their own separate contract with the vendor. In August 2024, preliminary products were provided by Surdex to the participants for review. In December 2024, final products were delivered. The biggest benefit of joint acquisition is the cost savings. It also ensures continuous aerial coverage of the greater Bi-State region. Ms. Keeney-McGurk then displayed 2019 and 2024 aerial imagery of several key areas in the Quad Cities to show the quality of the product and the value in seeing local development.

7. Questions or Comments by Commissioners. There were no questions or comments.
8. Other Business. Mr. Wrenn asked Commissioners to let him know if there are any defense contracts that they needed help with, and he would facilitate the work.
9. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard "Quijas" Brunk
Secretary