

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

Wednesday, March 26, 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 – Chair; David Adams; Ken Beck (for John Maxwell); Richard “Quijas” Brunk; Danny Chick; Michael Davis; Jean Dickson; Reggie Freeman; Ralph Heninger; Marshall Jones; Jerry Lack; Michael Limberg; Marcy Mendenhall; Drue Mielke; Scott Naumann; Eileen Roethler; William Stoermer; Mike Thoms; Rich Volkert

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kippy Breeden; Kimberly Callaway-Thompson; Duane Dawson; Rick Dunn; Robert Gallagher; Dan McNeil; Mike Matson; Gary Moore; Randy Moore; Jazmin Newton; Dylan Parker; Sangeetha Rayapati; Rick Schloemer; Jeff Sorensen

OTHERS PRESENT: Don Wrenn, Rock Island Arsenal; William Gillespie, Mayor of City of McCausland; Dehn Stevens, MidAmerican Energy

STAFF PRESENT: Denise Bulat, Sarah Grabowski, Gena McCullough

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

1. Approval of the February 26, 2025 Minutes. Mayor Limberg motioned to approve the minutes of the February 26, 2025 meeting as presented. Mr. Beck seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
2. Treasurer’s Report. Mayor Volkert presented the Treasurer’s Report for the month ending February 28, 2025, noting an ending total bank and book balance of \$466,513.58. Mayor Volkert moved the report be accepted as written and mailed. Mr. Stoermer seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
3. Finance and Personnel Committee.
 - a. Bills. Mayor Thoms presented the bills totaling \$13,336.83, as listed on the following bills listing:

Bills List

Environmental Systems Research Institute, 3/31/25-3/30/36, ArcGIS Renewal		\$7,885.00
Rock Island County Treasurer		5,451.83
04/2025	Rent	4,841.75
04/2025	Internet Access	88.00
02/2025	Paper Supplies	107.85
02/2025	Print Job	25.00
02/2025	Postage	389.23

Addendum

There were no additional bills.

Mayor Thoms moved approval of the bills totaling \$13,336.83 as presented above. Ms. Mendenhall seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

- b. Report on Progress on Commission’s FY 2024-25 Program Budget as of February 28, 2025. Mayor Thoms explained that on Program Budget Status Report, the Commission is 67% through the fiscal year with 61% expended and within budget.
 - c. Contracts/Grants for Consideration. There were no contracts or grants for consideration.
4. Bi-State Region Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Progress Report 2025. Ms. Bulat presented a draft of the *Bi-State Region Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Progress Report 2025*, highlighting economic trends in the Quad Cities. Besides the Bi-State Regions Goals and Strategies that were presented previously, components of the CEDS include a detailed demographic overview of the people, economy, and place of the Bi-State Region; a description of the strengths, challenges, opportunities, and threats; and a list of performance measures to assess the progress toward the region’s goals.

Strengths and opportunities in the Bi-State Region include access to multiple modes of transportation; the Rock Island Arsenal and its global reach; numerous economic tools, such as tax credits, enterprise zones, and RLFs; a trained educated labor force; multiple economic development partners; multiple health service institutions; multi-season outdoor recreation opportunities; e-commerce/EV deployment/renewable energy; and major redevelopment activities throughout the region.

The themes related to threats include protecting the Rock Island Arsenal from job losses; the need for improvements and completion of numerous infrastructure projects; changes in state and federal taxing including tariffs; the need for workforce housing throughout the region; workforce attraction and retention; the need for large-scale, site ready industrial parks; flooding impacts and extreme weather; funding for commercial district/downtown revitalization; business succession planning including pharmacy closures; increasing construction and insurance costs; and long-term access to energy. The economic development projects listed in the plan were collected from partners and member governments and are used to report progress toward goals. Bi-State staff are continuing to collect input from members and partners on the draft.

Ms. Bulat noted that the CEDS will lay on the table until the April 23, 2025 meeting when it will be considered for approval to be submitted to EDA.

5. The Greater Grid – MidAmerican and MISO. Mr. Stevens provided a presentation on the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) grid, which is the largest Regional Transmission Organization in the U.S. stretching across Arkansas, Southern Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Texas, Wisconsin, and the Canadian province of Manitoba. The MISO directs the energy traffic on the grid for the 45 energy operators who have joined the MISO and serves 45 million people with the goal to ensure reliable access to energy at the lowest cost.

MidAmerican is one of the 45 energy operators in the MISO grid with the Louisa and Riverside generating stations contributing energy to the grid in the Bi-State Region. In 2023, MidAmerican Energy’s portfolio included 63% wind and solar, 22% coal, 10% natural gas and 5% nuclear derived energy. MidAmerican is the number one in the United States for its investment in wind and solar and serves 1.6 million customers.

The MISO Grid operators have indicated that additional transmission investment will be needed soon to address increasing load growth driven by data centers and other economic development efforts including industries that seek to be carbon neutral. In 2022, MISO began long range planning to reduce inefficiencies in the power network and find gaps in the grid. They have proposed 2,000 miles of 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission lines at a total cost of \$10.4 billion. MidAmerican participated in the planning and provided input for the big picture items while addressing how to meet local needs to support reliability for customers and provide low-cost energy resources. They expect to build 500 miles of 345 kV transmission lines in Iowa at a cost of \$2 billion. In late 2024, the MISO board approved a \$21.9 billion long-range transmission plan that includes building a 765-kV backbone across the grid and moving for the first time west of Chicago.

Following the presentation, Bill Stoermer noted that Northern Illinois is part of the PJM Interconnection LLC (PJM). PJM is a regional transmission organization (RTO) in the United States. It is part of the Eastern Interconnection grid operating an electric transmission system serving all or parts of Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

6. Questions or Comments by Commissioners. There were no questions or comments.
7. Other Business. There was no other business.
8. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Maxwell', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Maxwell
Secretary