

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

Wednesday, April 23, 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; Mike Bartels; Maria Bribriesco; Richard “Quijas” Brunk; Kimberly Callaway-Thompson; Danny Chick; Michael Davis; Jean Dickson; Reggie Freeman; Robert Gallagher; Ralph Heninger; Marshall Jones; Michael Limberg; Mike Matson; John Maxwell; Drue Mielke; Scott Naumann; Jeff Sorensen; Mike Thoms; Rich Volkert

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kippy Breeden; Rick Dunn; Jerry Lack; Dan McNeil; Marcy Mendenhall; Gary Moore; Randy Moore; Jazmin Newton; Dylan Parker; Sangeetha Rayapati; Eileen Roethler; Rick Schloemer; William Stoermer

OTHERS PRESENT: Don Wrenn, Rock Island Arsenal; Thomas Heinold, Chief of Operations Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District; Tom House, Coal Valley Trustee

STAFF PRESENT: Denise Bulat, Sarah Grabowski, Gena McCullough

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

1. Approval of the March 26, 2025 Minutes. Mayor Limberg motioned to approve the minutes of the March 26, 2025 meeting as presented. Mr. Maxwell seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
2. Treasurer’s Report. Mayor Volkert presented the Treasurer’s Report for the month ending March 31, 2025, noting an ending total bank and book balance of \$466,513.58. Mayor Volkert moved the report be accepted as written and mailed. Mayor Gallagher seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
3. Finance and Personnel Committee.
 - a. Bills. Mayor Thoms presented the bills totaling \$52,645.70, as listed on the following bills listing:

Bills List

Benesch, Professional Services, 2/10/2025 to 3/23/2025	\$14,298.44
Kaskaskia Engineering Group	33,200.50
01/2025 Professional Services	29,558.26
02/2025 Professional Services	3,642.24
Rock Island County Treasurer	5,146.76
05/2025 Rent	4,594.43
05/2025 Internet Access	88.00
03/2025 Postage	464.33

Addendum

There were no additional bills.

Mayor Thoms moved approval of the bills totaling \$52,645.70 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 March 31, 2025. Mayor Thoms explained that on Program Budget Status Report, the Commission is 75% through the fiscal year with 68% expended and within budget.
 - c. Contracts/Grants for Consideration. There were no contracts or grants for consideration.
4. Consideration of Adoption of the *Bi-State Region Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Progress Report 2025*. Ms. Bulat presented the final draft of the *Bi-State Region Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Progress Report 2025*, that had been distributed to Commissioners at the March 26, 2025 meeting for review and provided to the public on the Bi-State website. Minor comments were received through the 30-day review regarding economic development related projects as noted in the document. Ms. Bulat mentioned that an electronic copy of the document would be made available either on e-mail or the FTP site, as well as posted on Bi-State’s website.

Mayor Matson moved to approve a resolution to adopt the 2025 CEDS Progress Report, and to submit the report to the Economic Development Administration. Mr. Maxwell seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

5. Rock Island District Corps of Engineers Regional Projects and Update. Mr. Heinold reviewed the Division’s areas of responsibility. They cover parts of five states with five river basins including the Upper Mississippi, Illinois, Des Moines, Iowa/Cedar and Rock Rivers. Within this area there are 12 locks & dams on the Mississippi River, six locks & dams on the Illinois Waterway, three large reservoirs in Iowa, and two dry reservoirs in Illinois. The Inland Navigation Design Center and the National Flood Fight Center are located within the Rock Island District Corps of Engineers. The Rock Island District Operations Division business lines/mission areas are related to navigation; flood risk management; natural resource management; and environmental stewardship, recreation, and water supply.

He stated that on July 3, 1930, the 1930 Rivers and Harbors Act was signed authorizing the existing 6-foot channel be “modified so as to provide a channel depth of 9 feet at low water with widths suitable for long-haul common-carrier services. Therefore, most structures were built in the 1930s and were designed for a 50-year life. Most dam gates and mechanical and electrical systems are original. Maintenance crews do their best to keep everything operating with limited resources. Funding for routine operation and maintenance is through the Energy and Water appropriation Operation and Maintenance Program, and funding for capital improvements is through the Energy and Water appropriation Construction Program plus the Inland Waterway Trust Fund.

He noted benefits of navigation include saving money since shipping commodities on the river is the least expensive mode of transportation and helps to make U.S. commodities more competitive. Sixty-two percent of U.S. grain exports are shipped down the Mississippi on barges. River navigation is also the safest shipping method in comparison to rail and truck, and it is the most environmentally responsible. The navigation system offers other benefits, such as providing a more reliable water supply, cooling water for industrial operations, recreation opportunities, and improved environmental habitats.

Some of the projects in and near the Bi-State Region for the Navigation & Ecosystem Sustainability Program (NESP) include 1200-foot locks downstream, new mooring cells at Lock and Dams 14 and 15, the Andalusia Island Complex, and the Pool 17 forest inventory. Other projects include Lock 16 kevel rail and valves repair; Lock 14 bascule bridge construction; dredging the main channel, small boat harbors, and beneficial use sites in Davenport, Rock Island, Andalusia, Moline, and Buffalo; dam gate repairs; environmental restoration projects at Steamboat Island and Keithsburg; and risk analysis in the Lower Rock River. He also mentioned the Corps' potential planning studies in the region and its responsibility to maintain authorized levee systems in the region.

He finished by stating this is the 250th Anniversary of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

6. Questions or Comments by Commissioners. Mr. Brunk noted that three people wrapped up their service to the Quad Cities MPO Transportation Policy Committee (TPC), Mayor Thoms, Ms. Dickson, and Berlinda Tyler-Jamison from MetroLINK. Ms. Bulat noted staff appreciated that in February, Mr. Brunk agreed to serve as the TPC Chair.
7. Other Business. There was no other business.
8. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:14 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