

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

Wednesday, May 28, 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 Bribriescio; Richard “Quijas” Brunk; Kimberly Callaway-Thompson; Michael Davis; Jean Dickson; Robert Gallagher; Ashley Harris; Ralph Heninger; Marshall Jones; Jerry Lack; Michael Limberg; John Maxwell; Drue Mielke; Scott Naumann; Sangeetha Rayapati; Eileen Roethler; Lynn Segura (for Reggie Freeman); Jeff Sorensen; William Stoermer; Rich Volkert

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kippy Breeden; Danny Chick; Rick Dunn; Dan McNeil; Marcy Mendenhall; Gary Moore; Randy Moore; Jazmin Newton; Dylan Parker; Rick Schloemer

OTHERS PRESENT: Don Wrenn, Rock Island Arsenal; Tom Bowman, Chief Executive Officer, Community Health Care, Inc.; William Gillespie, Mayor of McCausland

STAFF PRESENT: Denise Bulat, Sarah Grabowski, Jill Henderson, Gena McCullough

Chair Bark called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m. and presented a plaque to Mayor Gallagher for his years of service as Chair and Vice-Chair.

1. Approval of the April 23, 2025 Minutes. Mayor Limberg motioned to approve the minutes of the April 23, 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 April 30, 2025, noting an ending total bank book balance of \$554,378.96. Mayor Volkert moved the report be accepted as written and mailed. Mr. Maxwell seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
3. Finance and Personnel Committee.

- a. Bills. Mayor Limberg presented the bills totaling \$12,317.41, as listed on the following bills listing:

Bills List

Kaskaskia Engineering Group, Professional Services, March 2025		\$6,656.24
Rock Island County Treasurer		*5,128.50
06/2025	Rent	4,841.75
06/2025	Internet Access	88.00
03/2025	Paper	72.42
04/2025	Paper	116.22
04/2025	Print Job	10.11

Addendum

*CORRECTION:

Rock Island County Treasurer, on Bills List, shown as \$5,128.50; additional invoice added in the amount of \$532.67 (Postage) for a total of \$5,661.17 \$5,661.17

Mayor Limberg moved approval of the bills totaling \$12,317.41 as presented above. Mr. Brunk seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

- b. Report on Progress on Commission’s FY 2024-25 Program Budget as of April 30, 2025. Mayor Limberg explained that on Program Budget Status Report, the Commission is 83% through the fiscal year with 76% expended and within budget.
- c. Contracts/Grants for Consideration Ms. Bulat presented the following contracts or grants for consideration.
 - Contract with City of East Moline for a comprehensive plan update. Contract is for \$20,041.00 for the period of 7/1/25-7/31/26.

Mayor Limberg moved approval of the contract with the City of East Moline as presented above. Mr. Maxwell seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

- d. Consideration of Recommended FY2025 Proposed Revised Commission Planning Budget Ms. Bulat reported the Finance and Personnel Committee reviewed and recommended the proposed revised FY 2025 Commission Planning Budget.

Mayor Limberg motioned to approve the Revised FY2025 Program Budget as presented, and Mr. Jones seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- e. Presentation of Recommended FY2026 Commission Planning Budget Ms. Bulat reviewed the draft FY 2025 Budget as recommended by the Finance and Personnel Committee. She reported dues for Bi-State’s member governments will not increase and that they are used to match federal and state grants and provide regional programs and technical assistance. Continuation of the merit performance review program, with a projected average of 2.5%, is recommended along with a 3.0% across the board annual wage adjustment. Another Department Director is budgeted to assist the Executive Director and Deputy Director, which will increase the depth in management.

The budget will lay on the table and be considered for approval at the June 25, 2025 Commission meeting, and the line item budget and dues pages are sent to all member governments for review.

4. Consideration of Resolutions Supporting the FY2026 Quad Cities and Region 9 Transportation Planning Work Programs (TPWPs). Ms. McCullough provided a summary on the draft FY2026 Transportation Planning Work Programs (TPWPs) for the Quad Cities metropolitan planning area and the area serving rural Scott County, and Muscatine County known as Region 9. These documents contain the planned activities and budget for transportation efforts conducted by Bi-State Regional Commission staff in the coming fiscal year. The budgets are incorporated into the overall Bi-State agency budget. The Quad Cities MPO effort is a total of \$1,490,228 utilizing \$1,192,183 in federal transportation planning dollars. The Region 9 effort is a total of \$75,715, which includes \$60,672 in federal transportation planning dollars.

The MPO activities will include development of the *Thrive 2055: Quad Cities Long Range Plan*, traffic safety and transit summits, trail planning, as well as focus on river crossing improvements, mobility, system preservation, and moving local projects forward. Region 9 activities will include development of the *2050 Long Range Plan for Iowa Region 9*, programming funds, trails/transit assistance, and an update of the Muscatine County Trails Plan.

The MPO and Region 9 Transportation Policy Committees' review the work program activities while the Commission approves the budgets and ability for staff to facilitate contracts with the DOTs. Commissioners approved the budgets and ability to execute contracts accordingly.

Mr. Maxwell moved approval of the resolutions to authorize application of the federal transportation planning grants and execute the respective grant agreements as presented. Mayor Gallagher seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

5. Healthcare Funding Changes and Potential Impacts. Ms. Bulat explained that concerns about Medicaid funding and the closure of pharmacies in the Bi-State Region and been noted as a threat in the *Bi-State Region Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Progress Report 2025*. Mr. Bowman was invited to provide a summary of healthcare funding changes and potential impacts. He first explained that Community Health Care, Inc. is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) with 49,000 patients and 15 locations in the Quad Cities, Muscatine, and Clinton. Their services include medical, dental, OBGYN, and behavioral health with a pharmacy, lab, pain management, and school-based health. They provide healthcare for the homeless via mobile based units, telehealth, and assistance through the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program. CHC is open to all, but focuses on the underserved; 85-90% of their clients fall below 200% of Federal Poverty Guidelines with 63% on Medicaid. The majority of their Governing Board includes actual patients.

Mr. Bowman explained Medicaid is a federal/state partnership where the state and federal governments provide funding to pay for care for low-income people. Traditional Medicaid match varies by state, but generally is around 50/50 and is meant for children, elderly, the blind, people with disabilities, and pregnant mothers. Expanded Medicaid may be used for persons up to 138% of the Federal Poverty Level, which is \$21,597/individual or \$44,367/family of four. The match is 90/10 with 90% coming from the federal government and covers all qualifying adults.

Proposed changes to Medicaid include work requirement, so those in Expanded Medicaid would have to work 80 hrs./month if able, and states would have to implement a strategy to verify and track the work. He mentioned most of those in the expansion group are working and would still qualify under the work requirements. A concern is that less of those in need would enroll in Medicaid, which would mean a loss of federal Medicaid dollars to the states and ultimately fewer tax revenues.

Block grants to states for Medicaid are also proposed with a set amount of funding per patient per year. Typically, an inflationary factor would be applied, and the states would be allowed to determine all aspects of the plans. The concerns from health care providers include inconsistent services by state, rates will not keep pace with healthcare inflation, there may be no opportunity to readjust the rates, all of which may lead to underfunding, service cuts, and loss of patient access.

Mr. Bowman noted Enhanced Subsidies through the Affordable Care Act are set to expire at the end of this year. These provide premium assistance to mostly lower income people to purchase health insurance on federal or state marketplace plans of up to 44% on the premium depending on income level. While states will have the option to backfill the subsidies, it is

not likely due to lack of funding at the state level. The expiration of this program will save about \$25 billion/year in federal funding.

One alternative related to Medicaid is for states to apply to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) for a waiver to be able to tax healthcare providers (hospitals, nursing homes etc.). The states could then draw a larger match from the federal portion of Medicaid, and the additional dollars could go to healthcare providers who were taxed. It is felt that this would be good for rural areas and low-income persons. This was implemented in 2023 in Iowa, and most hospitals went from being in the red to recovering their costs.

Mr. Bowman closed stating Federally Qualified Health Center Funding annual appropriations have been flat since 2010. Community Health Center Funding has been flat since 2015, but the number of patients continues to increase with about 32M in CY 2024. Also, Community Health Care, Inc. has grown by about 15,000 patients since 2015.

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 4:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

John Maxwell
Secretary