

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

Wednesday, August 27, 2025, 3:30 p.m.
Rock Island County Office Building
1504 Third Avenue, Third Floor County Board Room
Rock Island, IL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Richard “Quijas” Brunk – Vice Chair; David Adams; Mike Bartels; Ken Beck (for John Maxwell); Michael Davis; Jean Dickson; Reggie Freeman; Robert Gallagher; Ashley Harris; Ralph Heninger; Marshall Jones; Michael Limberg; Marcy Mendenhall; Drue Mielke; Scott Naumann; Sangeetha Rayapati; William Stoermer; Rich Volkert

MEMBERS ABSENT: Brad Bark; Danny Chick; Kippy Breeden; Maria Bribriescio; Kimberly Callaway-Thompson; Rick Dunn; Jerry Lack; Dan McNeil; Gary Moore; Randy Moore; Jazmin Newton; Dylan Parker; Eileen Roethler; Rick Schloemer; Jeff Sorensen

OTHERS PRESENT: Trish Burnett, Executive Director, American Red Cross of the Quad Cities and Northwest Illinois; William Gillespie, Mayor of McCausland; Tom House, Coal Valley Trustee

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

Vice Chair Brunk called the meeting to order at 3:34 p.m.

1. Approval of the July 23, 2025 Minutes. Mr. Beck motioned to approve the minutes of the July 23, 2025 meeting as presented. Mr. Stoermer seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
2. Treasurer’s Report. Mayor Volkert presented the Treasurer’s Report for the month ending July 31, 2025, noting an ending total bank book balance of \$576,939.56. Mayor Volkert moved the report be accepted as written and mailed. Ms. Mendenhall seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
3. Finance and Personnel Committee.
 - a. Bills. Mayor Limberg presented the bills totaling \$5,303.26, as listed on the following bills listing:

Bills List

Rock Island County Treasurer		5,303.26
09/2025	Rent	4,841.75
09/2025	Internet Access	88.00
07/2025	Postage	305.29
07/2025	Paper	68.22

Addendum

There were no additional bills.

Mayor Limberg moved approval of the bills totaling \$5,303.26 as presented above. Ms. Dickson seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

b. Report on Progress on Commission’s FY 2025-26 Program Budget as of July 31, 2025.

Mayor Limberg explained that on Program Budget Status Report, the Commission is 8.3% through the fiscal year with 6.3% expended and within budget.

c. Contracts/Grants for Consideration. There were no contracts or grants for consideration.

4. Community Mobilization Building Capacity and Resilience. Ms. Burnett provided an overview of the Red Cross and their Community Mobilization effort. The Quad Cities and Northwest Illinois chapter serves 20 counties including four in Iowa and 16 in Illinois, with headquarters in Moline and Rockford, Illinois. The chapter has four full-time paid staff and 10 shared regional paid staff, plus more than 200 trained volunteers.

The Red Cross is a local nonprofit with national resources to assist in times of need with a focus on serving local communities and providing life changing services to those in need. Ms. Burnett said that most disasters that Red Cross responds to are home fires. They have improved their services with faster dispatching of volunteers to fire calls, and dispatchers have a better understanding of the geography and relationship with responders. This results in a better client experience because of speedier response times.

A new effort by the Red Cross is Community Mobilization. Due to an increase in the frequency of, and impact from, emergencies and global conflicts, the Red Cross is continuously responding to emergencies. This challenges the operating model across all Red Cross lines of service and creates an environment of opportunity to innovate and adapt the way Red Cross delivers existing services and programs.

Community Mobilization involves the concept of building both internal and external capacity to mobilize communities to better care for themselves by empowering communities to serve as a force multiplier and to better care for themselves in times of crisis. The Red Cross will identify and engage resources, partners, and expertise to help them be resilient in times of emergency through simplified training. When accomplished, all Red Cross services will be designed and delivered in alignment with community need and alongside neighborhoods, communities, and partners.

The Red Cross will achieve this by listening to learn the actual needs of partners and clients to understand how to help. Building resiliency within communities will involve strengthening partnerships with other agencies and organizations especially those focused on housing, health and hunger while understanding the needs of severely impacted communities of concern. The bottom line is to know local needs and local resources and build local volunteer capacity with both trained Red Cross volunteers and event-based volunteers, and to shift from thinking how does the Red Cross do this to how can the community do this. Examples are providing the equipment and training, so that a local church can open a warming center when their community is in need or training neighborhoods how to install fire alarms.

Ms. Burnett noted that the next steps include developing a Maturity Matrix and a Chapter Strategic Plan and identifying areas of greatest need with the goal of aligning all Red Cross service lines (disaster, biomed, and service to the Armed Forces) to better serve the right needs of those impacted. She ended by requesting input to better understand the needs of the community and what resources that are available and what are lacking.

5. Questions or Comments by Commissioners. Mayor Harris asked about the budget status report, and Ms. Bulat responded the FTE means full-time equivalent staff. Bi-State is budgeted for 19.75 FTE and currently retains 16.5 FTE. The budget includes the possibility of planning interns and planners that may need to be hired for special projects.
6. Other Business. There was no other business.
7. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:01 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