

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

Wednesday, October 22, 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; Ken Beck (for Jean Dickson); Maria Bribriescio; Richard “Quijas” Brunk; Kimberly Callaway-Thompson; Danny Chick; Michael Davis; Reggie Freeman; Robert Gallagher; Ashley Harris; Marshall Jones; Jerry Lack; Mike Matson; John Maxwell; Drue Mielke; Jeff Sorensen; William Stoermer; Rich Volkert

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kippy Breeden; Rick Dunn; Ralph Heninger; Michael Limberg; Marcy Mendenhall; Dan McNeil; Gary Moore; Randy Moore; Jazmin Newton; Dylan Parker; Sangeetha Rayapati; Eileen Roethler; Rick Schloemer

OTHERS PRESENT: Tom House, Coal Valley Trustee

STAFF PRESENT: Denise Bulat, Sarah Grabowski, Gena McCullough

Chair Bark called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

1. Approval of the September 24, 2025 Minutes. Mr. Beck motioned to approve the minutes of the September 24, 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 September 30, 2025, noting an ending total bank book balance of \$685,769.66. 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. Mr. Sorensen presented the bills totaling \$5,564.94, as listed on the following bills listing:

Bills List

There were no bills listed in the packet distributed before the meeting.

Addendum

Rock Island County Treasurer		\$5,564.94
11/2025	Rent	4,841.75
11/2025	Internet Access	88.00
09/2025	Postage	400.92
08/2025	Paper	209.22
09/2025	Print Job	25.05

Mr. Sorensen moved approval of the bills totaling \$5,564.94 as presented above. Mr. Beck seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

- b. Report on Progress on Commission’s FY 2025-26 Program Budget as of September 30, 2025. Mr. Sorensen explained that on Program Budget Status Report, the Commission is 25.0% through the fiscal year with 21.3% expended and within budget.
 - c. Contracts/Grants for Consideration. There were no contracts or grants for consideration.
 4. Update on Thrive 2055: Quad Cities Long Range Transportation Plan. Ms. McCullough reported that Bi-State Regional Commission is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Quad Cities Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA). MPOs are tasked with preparing a long range transportation plan every five years for metropolitan planning areas. Bi-State staff, alongside the Quad Cities MPO Transportation Technical and Policy Committees, is preparing the plan update for the year 2055. Chapters drafted for public review are placed on the Bi-State website (<https://bistateonline.org/transportation-and-mobility/quad-cities-metro-planning/lrtp-and-pms>) and include the MPA profile, system performance, passenger transportation, non-motorized mobility, and freight. Other chapters being drafted include roads and the results of the fiscal analysis with proposed projects. Ms. McCullough highlighted the plan vision and development goals, overview of the multi-modal system, and public input results from the plan kick-off meeting, survey, and other public input. There is strong support for repairing roads/bridges, expanding bike lanes and trails, and establishing passenger rail. “Make the system better” was the underlying emphasis, whether for sidewalks, transit, or roads/bridges. On a recommendation for approval by the Quad Cities MPO Transportation Policy Committee, the Commission will consider adoption of the plan in March 2026 after the full draft is released in early 2026 and public meetings are held on the plan draft.
 5. Report on Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative (MRCTI) Participation in the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution in Geneva, Switzerland. Mayor Gallagher shared about his time in Geneva, Switzerland where over 160 countries were represented and approximately 620 non-governmental entities were there as observers at a worldwide treaty negotiation in the United Nations building. During his time as Co-Chair of the MRCTI, they launched programs aimed at reducing pollution, especially plastic pollution, in the Mississippi River. Bettendorf was one of the pilot cities to introduce the Debris Tracker Application, developed in conjunction with the United Nations Environment Program, National Geographic, and the University of Georgia. The device was used to create hundreds of citizen scientists who logged the waste and recycling items along the Mississippi and its tributaries. This work led to an ability to determine what items were found in the largest numbers. Armed with that data, conversations began with producers of products about their responsibility to help ensure what they put into use is reused or recycled. Those conversations led to the global treaty on plastics that aims to create a circular life cycle of plastics and ensure the producers have financial responsibility to make sure that the items they place into the economy are reused or recycled properly. At present, the recycling burden falls on cities and counties. MRCTI believes, as the producers now believe, that producers have a responsibility to aid cities and counties in reusing or recycling products the producers put into the environment.

Mayor Gallagher explained that their role was to provide context to the negotiations as the “boots on the ground” representatives who handle waste management, including recycling. They believe that policy makers around the world should not be making decisions without hearing from those that are actually performing the work. Furthermore, relationships have developed with many producers through their prior work in this space that has led to the producers understanding their responsibility to ensure their products are reused or recycled properly.

While in Geneva, relationships were renewed with producers like Mars, Coca-Cola, Pepsi Co, Johnson & Johnson, Dow chemical, Wal Mart, and others. These companies believe that a world treaty that includes specific targets will best enable them all to perform the work needed to ensure everyone is doing the same work to ensure that producers are paying their fair share to get the items they place into the economy are returned for reuse or recycling.

They also met with other NOG's working in this space including the Business Coalition for a Global Plastics Treaty, the Recycling Partnership, the World Wildlife Foundation, Bloomberg Philanthropies, the Global Cities Hub, to name a few, as well as representatives from some of the countries there to negotiate the treaty including The U.S. State Department, Chile, Canada, the EU, and more.

Mayor Gallagher concluded by saying that the Waste Commission of Scott County is nationally renowned for the great work they do to divert everything possible from the landfill. By owning the landfill, the recycling center, and picking up the waste and recycling themselves, they are able control this diversion. In addition, the Waste Commission recycles tires into asphalt for road or shingles, composts, diverts electronics to the electronic recovery center, and recycles every stream available.

6. Questions or Comments by Commissioners. There were no questions or comments.
7. Other Business. Ms. Bulat mentioned the passing of Bi-State's former receptionist Pearl Clay, who had been considered the "Voice of Bi-State."
8. 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 flourish extending to the right.

John Maxwell
Secretary