

Minutes
McLEAN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, August 23, 2023, 9:00 A.M.
115 E. Washington St. M103, Bloomington IL, 61701

(Voting) Members Present:

John Burrill, MCRPC Chairperson
Carl Teichman, MCRPC Vice Chairperson
Bart Bittner, MCRPC Designated Member

(Non-Voting) Advisory Members Present:

Tim Gleason, City Manager – City of Bloomington
Pam Reece, City Manager – Town of Normal
Cassy Taylor, County Administrator – County of McLean
Raymond Lai, MCRPC Executive Director

Others Present:

MCRPC Staff: Katie McShane; Jennifer Sicks

1. Call to Order:

Mr. Burrill called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. noting the presence of a quorum.

2. Attendance

See Above

3. Public Comment:

None

4. Minutes:

A. Approval of the minutes of the March 15, 2023 Executive Committee meeting

Following a motion by Mr. Teichman and a second by Mr. Bittner, the minutes of March 15, 2023, Executive Committee Meeting were unanimously approved.

5. Items of Business:

A. Proposed FY2024 Overall Work Program (OWP)

Mr. Lai provided a background of the Overall Work Program (OWP) process. He explained that MCRPC creates two budgets annually. The OWP follows the County Fiscal Year and the UWP follows the State Fiscal Year. He pointed out that MCRPC is primarily grant funded, with limited contributions coming from the County, City of Bloomington and Town of Normal.

Mr. Lai explained the approval process for the proposed FY24 OWP, with first review by the County Administration, then review and recommendation by the Executive Committee, followed by MCRPC at the next meeting in September. Once ok, the OWP will be presented to the County Board Executive Committee, then to the full County Board for final adoption.

Mr. Lai explained the 45% increase from last year to this year is due to five grants (two federal and three state grants) MCRPC has been awarded and additional MPO funds from IDOT. The additional MPO funds has been allocated by IDOT from left over funds from previous years and extra funds from the infrastructure bill.

Ms. Taylor asked how much of an increase from last year there is. Mr. Lai explained it's about 44.9%, which is a little over \$500,000.

Mr. Burrill asked what will the majority of that increase go towards. Mr. Lai answered most of the grants will go towards consultants, but also for staff time. Mr. Burrill also asked if the increase will go into a specific work element. Mr. Lai advised that the majority of it is in Work Element 800 for the additional grants, but there is some additional funds in housing for the Consolidated Plan and Work Element 300 for the Regional Comprehensive Plan Update.

Mr. Bittner asked if there is enough staff to cover the resources needed for the additional grants. Mr. Lai advised yes, staff will also be managing the consultants for the grants. Staff has to work smart and efficiently with good time management for the additional grants.

Mr. Bittner asked if costs for benefits is included in the grants or if the County pays that with their funds. Mr. Lai stated that fringe benefits costs are included when applying for the grants and are included in the grant funds. He also explained that the County recently completed a compensation study comparing staff costs with other agencies and have increased salaries as needed to be competitive with other regional agencies.

Mr. Bittner asked if there is additional costs from the County that aren't reflected on the charts provided. Ms. Taylor answered by stating that there is a portion of in-kind funds for administration costs, human resources costs and legal counsel costs that are not broken out in the charts. Mr. Lai added that funding sources is a group effort from the County, Town of Normal and City of Bloomington.

Mr. Teichman asked if there was a lack of resources available due be budget limitations. Mr. Lai stated no for now, and that the benefits of these plans and resources will go on for years to come. Ms. Taylor added that there are more limitations from the grants than the budget. Ms. Sicks added that the additional MPO funding is a mutual benefit because staff can use more resources. She also stated that the additional funds may not be available

next year so MCRPC does not want to commit to hiring more employees because the additional funds may not be here next year.

Mr. Teichman moved for a motion for a recommendation to approve the proposed FY24 Overall Work Program. Mr. Bittner seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

6. Discussion Items:

A. Regional Comprehensive Plan Update – Project Steering Committee

Mr. Lai provided some background information about the Regional Comprehensive Plan Update project, the last adopted plan was in 2009. He explained the many factors that have happened since then, such as a pandemic, 2020 Census, the Town and City Comprehensive Plan updates, renewal energy projects in rural county, and major employer expansions including Rivian and Ferrero. He recently met with his counterparts with the County, City and Town about the 2009 Plan update project. This group will be setting up a Project Steering Committee (PSC) to guide the planning process. Mr. Lai asked for feedback from the Executive Committee on a draft list of organizations and individuals for the PSC. Suggested revisions were provided by the Executive Committee members.

B. That which may arise

None

7. Adjournment:

With no action to be taken or further business to discuss, Mr. Teichman moved the meeting to adjourn. Mr. Bittner seconded the motion which passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Katie McShane
Office Manager/Executive Assistant