CALL TO ORDER
The meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT
There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 7, 2013 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND MINUTES
MOTION by O’Malley/Richards to approve the La Crosse County Economic Development Fund minutes of March 7, 2013. Brian Fukuda noted that Patti Balacek e-mailed him to make sure the minutes reflect that she had abstained from the vote on the Interior Systems International grant; correction noted. Motion carried unanimously (Ingvalson, Balacek, Doyle, Wehrs & Veenstra excused).

REVIEW OF DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE MANUAL FOR REGIONAL REVOLVING LOAN FUND
Brian Fukuda previously sent out an email of the draft administrative manual and other materials to review on the formation of the Regional Loan Fund. The representatives from each fund in our region are taking this draft manual back to their respective boards; then will regroup on April 29th to finalize the manual and draft a resolution of participation to bring to their respective boards. Brian did a Powerpoint to summarize the manual. He clarified that this is our business revolving loan fund (our State funded CDBG revolving loan fund) – not the housing loan funds. The workgroup will be working on finalizing the manual, so if anyone has any comments or suggestions, please get them to Brian. The final document will be brought back to the EDF Committee in May with a resolution.

BUSINESS REVOLVING LOAN FUND FINANCIAL REPORT
Greg Flogstad distributed a report showing the status of all La Crosse County Economic Development Fund loans. Crescent Printing is current; Platinum Press – a settlement has been worked out so they are considered paid in full; Airborne Datalink – is in default and we have a mortgage on the owner’s home; River Steele loans are current; Maid Rite is current; La Crosse Day Care Centers is current; Skipperliner/Griffith - reset terms and conditions and their first loan payment was made last October so they are current; CenturyLink – the terms and conditions are between CenturyLink and the State, and this is a forgivable loan that we made to them, and is current at this point.

Discussion followed on whether or not some type of an evaluation tool should be prepared to use when reviewing loan successes and failures. Staff will look into this.
MRRPC REVOLVING LOAN FUND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES INVOICE
The Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission (MRRPC) provides administrative services in connection with our revolving loan funds. An invoice in the amount of $1,100 for these services is being submitted for approval. **MOTION** by Gasterland/Lange to approve. **Motion carried unanimously** (Ingvalson, Balacek, Doyle & Wehrs excused)

UPDATE OF COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY REPORT
Bryan Law gave distributed and explained the Mississippi River Regional Planning Commissions 2013 Annual Update to the 2012-2017 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) document. This is a document that the EDA requires the MRRPC to write every 5 years to maintain their status as an economic development district.

Bryan also gave a brief report on trends in La Crosse County’s Economy.

In summary:
- Population in La Crosse County is increasing faster than average of similar counties
- Housing is increasing about equal to the average among similar counties
- Per capita income is increasing faster than average of similar counties
- Unemployment is decreasing – increase in number employed in 2011 for first time in many years
- Manufacturing Employment – has been decreasing - slower decline, but also slower recovery than similar counties
- Equalized value – net increase 2007-2012; decreasing since 2009; La Crosse County in better shape than almost all other similar counties
- Sales Tax Revenue – is increasing and La Crosse had faster rate of increase since 2009 than similar counties

UPDATE ON RENEW POWELL-HOOD-HAMILTON NEIGHBORHOOD PROJECT
Amanda Acklin, the new Director of Habitat for Humanity-La Crosse, was present to give a brief update of the ReNew project (Revitalizing Neighborhood Empowerment with Powell-Hood-Hamilton). She is the Event Coordinator for the ReNEW project, which is a partnership between Couleecap, Habitat for Humanity, Gundersen Lutheran, the Powell-Hood-Hamilton Neighborhood Association, City of La Crosse, La Crosse County, Neighborhood Revitalization Commission, Viterbo, Place of Grace, UW-L, neighborhood residents, and many community members and volunteers. Basically, this is an effort to revitalize the housing in the Powell-Hood-Hamilton area and empower the people in the neighborhood during a month long event. May 5th is the kick-off date to work in the neighborhood doing yard clean-up, landscaping, house painting, graffiti clean-up, minor repairs, etc. Another clean-up day is scheduled for June 2nd where similar things will be done. Throughout the month Coulee, Habitat, WisCorp and possibly others, will be in the neighborhood doing critical home repairs. This will be followed by a celebration in the neighborhood, as well as a couple of picnics held in an attempt to get the residents together to meet one another.

UPDATE ON COUNTY PROPERTIES
LAKEVIEW – There are continued discussions regarding the Lakeview Nursing Home site, as well as discussions with the School District of West Salem, and upcoming meetings with
the Village of West Salem regarding a long term plan for this site. A community meeting will be held – possibly at the end of May/early June to present choices and options.

**PARK PLAZA** – There is an offer from a developer on the Park Plaza site and staff is negotiating to make this a reality. They are also working with the City of La Crosse on updates to the Intergovernmental Agreement – the old one is from 2003.

**LANDFILL/NICOLAI PROJECT** – Charlie showed a slide of this potential project out by the landfill. Discussion has been ongoing to create an economic development opportunity out there for many years. The idea is that Onalaska and La Crosse would work together on a joint TIF district. One big gap in La Crosse County for economic development is large industrial parcels with significant sanitary sewer capacity, so we are trying to get a park that would fill this gap. We are trying to get the DOT to become involved with this project.

**NEXT MEETING: MAY 2, 2013**

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**
- La Crosse Promise
- Lakeview properties – West Salem
- Regional revolving loan fund administrative manual

**ADJOURN**
There being no further business, **MOTION** by Richards to adjourn the meeting at 8:55a.m. **Motion carried unanimously** (Ingvalson, Balacek, Doyle & Wehrs excused)

Approved July 11, 2013 - Recorded by Terri Pavlic