

**PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT**

500 West Fourth Street  
Davenport, Iowa 52801-1106  
E-mail: [planning@scottcountyiaowa.com](mailto:planning@scottcountyiaowa.com)  
Office: (563) 326-8643 Fax: (563) 326-8257



---

Timothy Huey  
Director

To: Dee F Bruemmer, County Administrator

From: Timothy Huey, Planning Director

Date: November 10, 2011

**Re: Discussion of public hearing on accepting the transfer of ownership of the Mississippi Valley Welcome Center building and property from the Cities of Davenport, Bettendorf and LeClaire to facilitate the sale of the property.**

About a year ago the Quad Cities Convention and Visitors Bureau in conjunction with the Mississippi Valley Welcome Center Board established a task force to recommend what direction the Bureau and the Board should take in regards to the operation of the Welcome Center in light of declining visitation, increasing operation and maintenance costs and the changing landscape of how travelers and visitors receive information on the QCA.

Attached is the recommendation of that task force that was approved by the QCCVB Board in June of 2011. Since that time the two Boards have proceeded on parallel tracks. The QCCVB established a Visitor Services Committee to determine what methods the Bureau should use to deliver visitor information in an increasing digital world. The MVWC Board has commissioned a commercial appraisal of the property and following an RFP, has reached an agreement with a local realty firm to market the property.

Since the building is jointly owned by the four local governments that make up the MVWC Board any pending sale of the property would require a public hearing on the offer by each of those four governing bodies. In order to facilitate and expedite any sale offer the Board determined that it would be advisable for three of those governments to transfer its ownership interests to a single governmental entity. That way only a single public hearing would need to be held on any purchase offer. Because, under the management agreement, Scott County has been the designated entity to manage the capital budget and improvements of the building it was determined Scott County would be the governmental entity that would take sole ownership.

However, the proceeds of the sale of the building will still be distributed in accordance with the management agreement and the MVWC Board will still review and make a recommendation on any offer received for the purchase of the property.

A determination of how the proceeds from the sale of the property will be used by Scott County and the other three participating governments will be decided at a later date.