

**MERAMEC REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE/DEVELOPER'S LUNCHEON
Tuesday, Oct. 21, 2014**

Members Present: James Morgan, Ray Walden, Wayne Morgan, Cyndra Lorey, Candace Connell, Dennis Wilson and Lowell Tonding.

Members Absent: Bob Baldwin, John Butz, Kathy Byrd, Byron Craig, Carl Stephens, Dave Dudenhoeffer, James Wright, Jim Barnett, John Petersen, John Casey, Luge Hardman, Mark Boyer, Mike Distler, Randy Verkamp, Robert Vineyard, Robin Huskey, Shannon Grus, T.R. Dudley, Thomas Leasor, Travis Schwartz, Byron Baker, John Tracy, James Kleffner, Jeff Davis, Terry Palmer, Christopher Dickeneite, Ken Bassett, Russell Scheulen, Jan Haviland, Cheri Tune, Janet Walker, Bruce Sassmann, Marla Stevenson, Carol Carson, Jeff Clark, Robert Schaffer, Tony Floyd, Rosiland Pride, Keith Strassner, Ted Day, Nancy Montgomery, Butch Tucker, Richard Huse and John Greenlee.

Staff Present: Connie Willman and Maria Bancroft.

Guests Present: Jim Sowers (RCDC/RREC), Krista Snyder (Washington County IDA) and Dusty Cruise (Missouri Enterprise).

Welcome and Introductions: In Chairman Petersen's absence, Cyndra Lorey called the CEDS Advisory meeting to order at 12:18 p.m. Participants introduced themselves.

Approval of July 29, 2014 Minutes: Lorey presented the committee's minutes from the July 29, 2014 meeting. Connell made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Wilson. Motion passed.

Review of New Meeting Format: Willman updated the committee on the new meeting format that the committee adopted at the July meeting. Meetings will be held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 12 noon. She explained that this month's meeting was off one week because of staffing availability and was held on October 21st instead of the scheduled October 28th.

Economic Development Activities Across the Region: Participants were asked to answer the following questions for their local jurisdictions/organizations. Responses will be used by MRPC staff to develop/update the CEDS action plan. Willman noted that the CEDS Plan must be revised every five years but due to the nature of the information, changes in the action plan will occur annually. The following responses were shared with the group at the meeting:

o How does your jurisdiction/organization set its priorities for economic development?

- Pulaski County Growth Alliance–Wayne Morgan: A strategic plan is created with proposed goals identified at the beginning of the year.
- Missouri Enterprise–Dusty Cruise: Goals and priorities are established in a strategic plan based on the information provided by the Department of Commerce and the Missouri Department of Economic Development. Quantifiable information such as cost of sales, manufacturers 31 to 33 (NAICS) employment, etc. is utilized
- RREC–Cyndra Lorey: A work plan is created annually and updated quarterly for specific projects.
- City of St. James–Mayor Wilson: Priorities are determined with the aid and guidance of the Industrial Development Authority and other local economic partnerships.
- RCDC–Jim Sowers: RCDC works with RREC to help market local opportunities for economic development in the area.

A need identified for the area is having a facilitator educate communities on strategic planning best practices.

- **As an economic development organization, what kinds of support do you need from MRPC? From others?**

- Pulaski County Growth Alliance–Wayne Morgan: Would like specific study information such as workforce, to assist with providing data by county to share with potential businesses.
- Missouri Enterprise–Dusty Cruise: Would like MRPC to help build awareness of Missouri Enterprise resources for manufacturers/companies NAICS 31-33, technical assistance with supply chain management and workforce development tools. Also information on next generation studies on aging population and evolution of workforce.
- Create a study with local information through the RPC (funded by grants).

- **Do you feel you have a good handle on the financial resources that are available at local/state/federal level for business and industry? If not, what would help you the most? What types of local financing does your jurisdiction offer?**

- RREC–Cyndra Lorey: Share legislation changes and updates as they occur.
- Pulaski County Growth Alliance–Wayne Morgan: Most small communities do not have the resources or can offer local incentives to small business.

- **What problems do you encounter when working to promote new and assist existing business/industry in your area? Share some creative ways you promote new and assist existing business/industry.** *To be reviewed at next committee meeting.*

- **How is economic development financed in your jurisdiction?** *To be reviewed at next committee meeting.*

- **In what ways does your jurisdiction/organization promote entrepreneurship?** *To be reviewed at next committee meeting.*

- **In what ways does your jurisdiction/organization promote available economic opportunities for young people in order to retain their talents within the region and encourage young people to return talents to the region?** *To be reviewed at next committee meeting.*

Next Meeting: Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2015 at 12:00 noon.

Adjournment: Being no further business the committee meeting was adjourned at 12:58 p.m.

Approved by the board on _____, 2014.

John Petersen, Chairman