

# Gasconade Valley Enterprise Zone

*encompassing portions of Gasconade, Maries and Osage counties of Missouri*

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## Gasconade Valley Enterprise Zone Board Meeting

The Gasconade Valley Enterprise Zone met at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 20, 2015, at the Osage County Administration Building, Linn.

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by President Ray Schwartze.

Members present: Jerry Lairmore, Ray Schwartze, Dave Dudenhoeffer, Byron Baker, Mark Wallace, Lloyd Honse

Board members absent: Larry Backes, Jim Decker

Guests: Elias McDonald, city of Hermann

**Review and approval of minutes** Jerry Lairmore made a motion to approve the April 28, 2015, minutes; seconded by Dave Dudenhoeffer; Minutes approved.

**Financials and Administrative Report:** Bonnie Prigge updated the board on events since the April meeting. The financial report was presented. Motion by Byron Baker to accept the report as prepared; seconded by Dave Dudenhoeffer; motion carried. The group discussed a need for a board member in Osage County to replace Larry Backes, who has asked to be replaced. Bonnie will reach out to Dr. Claycomb at State Technical College to see if someone at the college would be interested in serving. The board reviewed MRPC's proposed contract for July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2016. The caps on administration and fiscal agent stayed the same. Byron Baker made a motion to continue the contract; seconded by Lloyd Honse. Motion was approved. Board discussed annual dinner meeting. Byron Baker suggested contacting White Mule Winery about having meeting and dinner at that location on Dec. 2. Bonnie will follow up and schedule.

### Fund-raising Campaign

The GVEZ board reviewed donations received to date. Dave Dudenhoeffer agreed to contact Three Rivers Electric and State Technical College of Missouri. Bonnie will follow up with those companies that will receive tax benefits this year. As of July 31, \$3,350 in private donations were received while county contract contributions added another \$2,000, for a total of \$5,350. Contributions were budgeted at \$10,000.

### Enhanced Enterprise Zone update

Bonnie reviewed claims. In Maries County, Wieberg Concrete and Brewer Science have been completed, approved to county and delivered to assessor. In Gasconade County, Bonnie is working with Thistle in Owensville to complete its claim. Notices of intent have been completed by Moore Gear (Hermann), Quaker Window (Maries) and Thistle (Gasconade-Second project) with construction underway.

Byron Baker expressed interest in a value added ag grant that the Osage County unrestricted funds could be used as leverage for such a grant or as seed money for a project. Bonnie will look at opportunities through state and federal programs.

**Certified Work Ready Communities:** Staff updated the board on each county's progress. Maries County is at 65 percent complete; Osage at 52 percent and Gasconade at 51 percent. All three counties are lacking the emerging workforce holding the National Career Ready Certificates. Osage and Gasconade are also missing transitioning workers (those that are unemployed and looking for work.) Bonnie shared that Missouri Department of Economic Development had just announced a grant program to cover testing costs of

emerging workers (students). She asked permission to apply for funding for Gasconade, Maries and Osage counties with GVEZ covering staff time for the application. She said she would check with the schools involved to see if they were willing to do the testing. Byron Baker made a motion to submit grant requests for Gasconade, Maries and Osage counties for Certified Work Ready Communities funding for testing. Motion was seconded by Jerry Lairmore. Motion carried.

**Community/Economic Development Update/ Board Member Reports:** Board members reported on events in their communities. Elias McDonald of Hermann, director of tourism, also updated the board on work in Hermann.

Jerry Lairmore made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Lloyd Honse seconded motion. Meeting adjourned at approximately 2:30 p.m.

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