

**Meramec Regional Planning Commission**  
**Minutes**  
**March 14, 2019**

**Call to Order**

Chairman Larry Miskel called the March 14, 2019, meeting of the Meramec Regional Planning Commission to order at 7:30 p.m.

**Welcome**

Chairman Miskel welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made around the room.

**Consent Agenda**

The following consent agenda items are presented for approval:

- a. Minutes – Feb. 21, 2019
- b. Local Review
  1. Community Health Center of Central Missouri, Linn, MO  
93.527 Grants for New and Expanded Services under the Health Center Program  
Eugene New Access Point (Osage and Meramec counties)  
Federal: \$650,000  
Program Income: \$426,000  
Total: \$1,076,000
  2. Missouri Department of Public Safety, Jefferson City, MO  
16.953 Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners  
FY 2019 Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) Program  
Total: \$0
  3. State of Missouri, Jefferson City, MO  
81.042 Weatherization Assistance for Low Income Persons  
Weatherization Assistance Program for Low Income Persons  
Federal: \$6,876,381  
Total: \$6,876,381
  4. Missouri Department of Agriculture, Jefferson City, MO  
10.025 Plant and Animal Disease, Pest Control, and Animal Care  
The purpose of this agreement is to provide Federal financial assistance to  
conduct activities for Forest Pest Outreach in Missouri  
Federal: \$80,000  
Total: \$80,000
  5. Missouri Department of Agriculture, Jefferson City, MO  
10.025 Plant an Animal Disease, Pest Control, and Animal Care  
The purpose of this agreement is to provide Federal financial assistance to  
conduct activities for Walnut Twig Beetle/Thousand Cankers Disease Survey
  6. South Central Missouri Community Health Center, Rolla, MO  
93.527 Grants for New and Expanded Services under the Health Center Program  
New Access Point – Steelville  
Federal: \$650,000  
Program Income: \$511,732  
Total: \$1,161,732

c. Statewide Grant Applications

1. Missouri Department of Social Services, Jefferson City  
93.671 – Family Violence Prevention and Services/Domestic Violence Shelter and Supportive Services  
Domestic Violence Shelter and supportive Services  
Federal: \$1,978,846  
Total: \$1,978,846

The Office of Administration issues the Missouri Federal Assistance Clearinghouse grant reviews weekly. Staff will share reports in between meetings with board members. If you have questions about grants listed, you can call MRPC staff or the Office of Administration as listed on the reports.

d. Contracts

- State Technical College of Missouri  
Permission is requested for MRPC's chairman and/or executive director to enter into technical assistance contract for grant writing for a U.S. Economic Development Administration Grant (EDA Grant) and to sign all documents associated with this contract.
- Country Bob's Diner, LLC  
Permission is requested for MRPC's chairman and/or executive director to enter into technical to package a loan request for Travis and Alexis Holt, dba Country Bob's Diner, LLC and to sign all documents associated with this contract.

T.R. Dudley made a motion to approve the consent agenda with the noted additions; Mark Boyer seconded; the motion carried.

**Presentation: State Technical College of Missouri – Dr. Shawn Strong, President**

Dr. Shawn Strong updated the board on activities at State Technical College, statistics related to enrollment and the school's proposed Utility Village.

Dr. Strong noted that State Tech is the only public state technical college in Missouri and it is funded and run like a university. The college only offers technical degrees, although there are some certificate programs available. He also noted that 10 years after graduation, State Tech students earn a higher average salary than do four-year degree graduates.

Out of 700 schools, State Tech ranks first in the country for graduation and retention and second in the country for gaining employment after graduation.

Dr. Strong informed the board that the next big project for State Tech is the proposed Utility Village. The village would consist of housed with underground utilities for training purposes. A Utility Technology Center would house a lab with 50 foot tall ceilings and a dirt floor where students could install utility poles as part of their training. He reported that with assistance from MRPC, a \$2 million dollar grant request has been submitted to the Economic Development Association for funding to construct the Utility Village.

In the three years he has been with State Tech, Dr. Strong says a welding and a health science building have been added to the campus. With the addition of the health science program, the ratio of male to female students is now 50/50. Prior to that, the student population was 85 percent male.

Current enrollment is stands at approximately 1,500 students with the expectation of an increase to over 2,000 in five years. Dr. Strong says that he sees the college continuing to grow and contributing to the area economy and thanked MRPC for its assistance with the grant application.

### **Presentation II: NADO's AliceAnn Wohlback Innovation Award for MRPC's Rehabilitation through Innovation project – Bonnie Prigge and Dr. Sean Siebert**

MRPC was selected for a NADO Innovation award for its Rehab to Innovation program. Bonnie Prigge explained that the Rehabilitation through Innovation project was part of a grant through Delta Regional Authority (DRA) and focused on workforce development. The project encompassed Crawford, Dent, Phelps and Washington counties and focused on getting these counties certified as workforce ready through work keys testing and business profiling. Ms. Prigge reported that it was noticed that the transitioning workforce, the unemployed, were not coming in to be tested. In order to encourage testing of transitioning workers (those unemployed), Dr. Siebert revamped his innovation program and with the help of Crawford County, Sheriff Darin Layman, took the Rehabilitation through Innovation into the Crawford County jail.

For their work on this project, Ms. Prigge presented plaques to Dr. Sean Siebert, Crawford County Sheriff Darin Laymen and Alan Galindo and Trish Rogers with the Central Workforce Investment Board.

Dr. Siebert thanked everyone stating it was really a MRPC project. He stated that to be receiving a national award two years after the start of the program is amazing. Individuals in the jails, who participated in the program, are finding their way back.

Sheriff Darin Layman stated that the program was life changing. Individuals in the jails had the opportunity see law enforcement in a different light. They were shown that those in law enforcement do care about them. He added that it's been amazing. Out of 36 in the program, only two have been back and those were old charges that came back, prior to their going through the program.

Dr. Siebert thanked Alan Galindo and Trish Rogers as well as MRPC for their work. Alan Galindo applauded Dr. Siebert for all of his passion, saying he was very instrumental and motivational in getting the program off the ground.

### **Legislative Guests**

Morgan Corder from Senator Roy Blunt's office reported on some highlights from recent activity including:

- Vote on Emergency Declaration – The President has indicated he would be vetoing the declaration. This declaration, if passed, would pull funding from the military budget to be used to build the wall. This would affect projects like the hospital at Fort Leonard Wood and the Geospatial building in St. Louis. Mr. Corder also state that Senator Blunt supports getting additional funding for the border wall, but not with the particular course of action.
- Excellence in Mental Health Act – Began as a pilot program in 2017, the program is coming to an end. Senator Blunt wants to see it extended to continue to collect data and expanding it into 19 states. Mr. Corder also noted that Senator Blunt would like to see the Act tie in with some addiction problems, specifically opioids.
- Hire Vets Act – Mr. Corder reported that the Senator initiated this Act to award employers based on their contributions to veteran employment. Employers that meet criteria designed to encourage veteran-friendly businesses would receive a Medallion Award.

Ray Bozarth from Senator Josh Hawley's office reported on recent activity with the Senator. Mr. Bozarth noted that he would be assisting the Senator in Phelps County and that his office would be located in Columbia. Other office sites include:

- Cape Girardeau – serving Crawford, Dent and Washington counties

- Springfield – serving Pulaski County
- Columbia – serving Gasconade, Maries and Osage counties

He also noted that Senator Hawley is serving on the judicial, armed services and homeland security committees. Military sites such as Fort Leonard Wood and Whiteman are very important to Senator Hawley as is infrastructure issues.

Mr. Bozarth add that Senator Hawley’s office wants to be as helpful as they can and stated both he and the Senator look forward to working with MRPC.

Donna Hickman with Representative Jason Smith’s office in Farmington reported that Representative Smith was working on getting his voice and issues heard. Representative Smith is a member of the budget committee and work is progressing there. Recently the Representative visited Midwest Textiles in Washington County and discussed the importance of both broadband and infrastructure. Ms. Hickman informed the board that Washington County is served by the Farmington office. Crawford, Dent, Gasconade, Maries, Osage, Phelps and Pulaski are served by the Rolla office.

**External Relations Committee:** Darrell Skiles, chairman

In the absence of the chairman, Vice Chairman Don Brackhahn reported on External Relations Committee activities as follows:

The committee reviewed a nomination for the for-profit position for Pulaski County. Presiding Commissioner Gene Newkirk nominated Michael Dunbar for the position. The committee approved the nomination. Ron Kraettli made a motion to approve the nomination; Luge Hardman seconded. The motion carried.

Staff presented a draft of the Request for Proposals for the location of the annual dinner, and it was approved. Jim White made a motion to approve the RFP; Shane Anselm seconded. The motion carried. Copies will be sent out. Members were encouraged to seek out proposals. Vice Chairman Brackhahn mentioned that the dinner hasn’t been held in Pulaski or Washington County recently. Luge Hardman said she’d love to have the dinner in Waynesville and that she would work on that.

Caitlin Jones reviewed the MRPC website with committee members and pointed out areas she’d like the cities and counties to review to be sure they reflect current information.

Ray Schwartze brought up concerns on closed primaries and reducing the number of legislators. He would like to visit Jefferson City with a message saying that all eight counties in the Meramec Region oppose these issues. Shane Anselm made a motion to agree with these concerns being bad for the region; Jim White seconded. The motion carried.

A report was provided by staff on state and/or federal legislative issues that occurred since the last board meeting.

**Operations Committee:** Steve Vogt, chairman

Chairman Steve Vogt reported on operations activities as follows:

The committee reviewed the MRPC/MRB and MRPC/MRDC-RLF and IRP program financial statements for the period ending Feb. 28, 2019.

Chairman Vogt made a motion to accept the financials for the period ending Feb. 28, 2019; Randy Verkamp seconded. The motion carried.

Staff reported that an update on the salary comparison policy and procedure and timeline for the next comparison process should be available within the next couple of months.

Staff also reported that that hope to have the Accountant position filled soon.

**Planning Committee:** T.R. Dudley, chairman

Chairman T.R. Dudley reported on planning activities as follows:

Samantha Maddison, MRPC, provided an update on Meramec Rural Opioid Program grant. It's a three-year HRSA, \$735,000 grant for education, prevention, rehabilitation and recovery. County health departments will conduct health needs assessments. The program will provide information on where Narcan and Suboxone are available and how they can be acquired. The grant will also provide funding for a survey on how well the programs worked. The grant covers Crawford, Dent, Maries and Phelps counties.

Ms. Maddison also updated the committee on a new grant from the Amerisource Bergen Foundation and how MCEC will utilize these funds as part of a regional effort related to the Meramec Rural Opioid Program. This \$100,000 one-year grant will provide education and disposal information and will cover Gasconade, Osage, Pulaski and Washington counties.

**Housing Advisory Board:** Larry Miskel, chairman

Chairman Miskel reported that the board approved the financials and the one-year plan.

**Transportation Advisory Committee:** Ray Walden, chairman

No report was given.

**Environmental:**

The board was provided with a handout, covering environmental updates as well as updates on Meramec Regional Emergency Planning and Homeland Security Oversight Committee activities.

**Meramec Regional Emergency Planning Committee:**

Updates were included on the environmental handout that was provided.

**Business Loans:** Linda Loughridge, Fiscal Officer

Linda Loughridge reported that there is almost \$335,000 to loan out to small businesses.

Other highlights included:

- Staff is working on closing an SBA approved loan in Phelps County and working on a new SBA loan request.
- There are two IRP projects which will hopefully close in April.
- Staff is working on three potential RLF projects that are in various stages.

Ms. Loughridge also mentioned that MRPC is hosting a free public seminar on Friday, March 15 provided by the Missouri Department of Economic Development offered through MO STEP-UP exporting program. The STEP program is available to help small business enter and succeed in the international marketplace.

Ms. Loughridge also reported that staff is partnering with the SBA St. Louis District office to bring SBA workshops to local communities.

Anyone needing additional information was encouraged to contact MRPC.

**Workforce Development: T.R. Dudley**

T.R. Dudley said that as board chair of the Central Regional Workforce Development Board and as state co-chair of the regional advisory board for the Delta Regional Authority, it does his heart good to see those awards (referring to the awards for the Rehabilitation for Innovation project). A mandate of the workforce development office was to partner, so this is a great example.

Alan Galindo stated that his office has been really busy. Job centers were recently opened in Eldon and Versailles.

Mr. Galindo also mentioned the Skill Up Program which provides up to \$10,000 per individual to get them into training and into a job. Participants have to be on food stamps to be eligible for this program.

Mr. Galindo noted that the Summer Job League would be running May 1 to Aug. 30 for youth ages 14 to 24, although 18-24 is better.

Other items highlighted by Mr. Galindo included:

- The Department of Labor is working on putting together a youth certified program.
- There are a lot of hiring events taking place.
- There is a move to expand services from brick and mortar job centers to areas where customers and clients are already there. Looking to bring job centers into the prisons and maybe vo-techs.
- Workforce is moving under the Department of Education. No further specifics at this time.

Mr. Dudley noted that there are hundreds of jobs going unfilled due to lack of skills.

A request was made for more information on the Summer Job Program. Mr. Galindo will get the information to Bonnie Prigge who will forward it to all board members.

**Meramec Community Enhancement Corporation: Vic Stratman**

Vic Stratman reported that a meeting was held on March 12. Staff presented information on the opioid program and a \$250 grant that was awarded to the Duke Fire Department. The next meeting is in June.

**Meramec Region Community Foundation (MRCF):**

Bonnie Prigge reported that MRCF met this week. Grant award recipients received their grants of \$250 each at the meeting. Receiving grants were:

- Richwoods R-I School
- Belle Elementary
- Chamois School
- MCEC for Duke Fire Department
- Bourbon Boosters
- Ozark Actors Theatre

Brian Fogle, Executive Director of Community Foundation of the Ozarks, spoke on how to promote the foundation.

Steve Vogt reminded board members that the Maries County R2 Schools Foundation scholarship dinner and auction is this Saturday in Belle. Ms. Prigge added that this event helps generate scholarships for Maries R-II schools.

**Chairman Report:**

Chairman Larry Miskel noted that he would be going to Washington, D.C. next week along with Bonnie Prigge and Tammy Snodgrass.

He encouraged board members to mention MRPC’s website in their communities as a way letting people know what MRPC does.

**Director Report:**

Bonnie Prigge informed members that the next Meramec Morning will be March 27 at 9:00 a.m. in Bland.

Ms. Prigge reported that a Community Development Specialist has been hired. Mark Perkins will be starting next week. She also noted that final interviews are being conducted for an Environmental Specialist.

The final day for Linda Hollandsworth, Housing Program Manager, will be April 30. She will stay on for about four hours a week for training.

Funding through MACOG has been received to conduct a housing study in Chamois. Mayor Elise Brochu and City Clerk Dorcus Ruff are compiling a list of houses for the study.

A second meeting with MoDOT on STIP will be held this week. Kelly Sink-Blair and Anne Freand will be attending. There has been a lot of interest in Highway 63. A what if we had more dollars planning exercise will be held.

The Missouri Highway Commission will meet in Rolla in June and Ms. Prigge stated she has requested time to make a presentation on TAC priorities.

With the April elections coming up, there may be some changes in city government leadership. Two cities have uncontested mayoral races and have already reached out.

The executive director, assistant director and board chairman will be meeting with the staff for all of our legislators while in Washington, D.C., March 17-20. The senators and representatives will be on break and out of the office during our visit.

On a final note, Ms. Prigge went over the dates for Meramec Mornings.

- April 24 – Irondale in Washington County
- May 29 – Dixon in Pulaski County
- June 26 – Freeburg in Osage County
- July 31 – Cuba in Crawford County

**Adjourn**

Steve Vogt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 p.m.; Elise Brochu seconded the motion. The motion carried.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Larry Miskel, chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Attest