

**MERAMEC COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT CORPORATION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
Friday, July 29, 2022

**Members Present:** Vic Stratman (Maries), Greg Edwards (Phelps), John Meusch (Phelps), Gary Hicks (Phelps County) Darrell Skiles (Dent), Christy Metzger (Maries)

**Members on Zoom:** Darryl Griffin (Osage), Brenda Johnson (Maries), Jennifer Millard (Osage)

**Members Absent:** Gene Newkirk (Pulaski), Randy Verkamp (Phelps), Dave Sansegraw (Washington), Mark Wallace (Gasconade), Leo Sanders (Crawford) Jerry Lairmore (Gasconade), Danny Brown (Crawford), Wayne Langston (Maries),

**Guests:**

**MRPC Staff Present:** Kelly Sink, Samantha Sherman, Bonnie Prigge, Linda Loughridge (Zoom)

**Call to Order and Introductions:** John Meusch, Chairman, called the MCEC July 29, 2022, meeting to order at 12:09 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance on Zoom. Everyone present and on Zoom introduced themselves since there were new members present.

**Approval of Minutes:** John Meusch asked for approval of the April, 2022 minutes. Vic Stratman made a motion with second by Gary Hicks. *Motion passed.*

**Election of Officers:** John Meusch opened the floor for election of officers. The Treasurer position was termed out due to bylaws. Volunteers from those in attendance were sought for positions. John Meusch agreed to step down as chairman, if Greg Edwards still had interest in serving. Greg indicated he would so John nominated him to the Chairman position. Darrell Skiles then nominated Vic Stratman to fill the vacant Treasurer position. Gary Hicks made a motion to approve the nominations and extend the terms for Vice-chairman and Secretary. The motion would accept the slate of officer as follows:

Greg Edwards, Chairman	Term 1
Danny Brown, Vice Chairman	Term 2
Vic Stratman, Treasurer	Term 1
Gary Hicks, Secretary	Term 2

Vic Stratman seconded the motion. *Motion passed.*

**Annual Lease Agreement with MRPC:** John Meusch asked for approval of the annual

lease agreement between MCEC and MRPC on behalf of the Region I Homeland Security Oversight Committee (MRPC HSOC). The agreement is for the lease of a cargo trailer. The amendment extends the lease term until June 30, 2023. Gary Hicks made a motion to approve with second by Vic Stratman. *Motion passed.*

**Amerisource Bergen Opioid Prevention Program Summary:** Samantha Sherman provided a summary of the opioid program funded in part with the Amerisource Bergen grant. She noted that with the funds, MCEC was able to contract with Prevention Consultants to conduct drug use prevention activities in area schools, contract with Dr. Sean Siebert to conduct the Rehabilitation through Innovation program in area jails and other programs, purchase a drug incinerator for the Dent County Sheriff Office and purchase for distribution several types of drug storage containers for individuals.

#### **Business / Reports:**

- A. MCEC Project Updates:** Kelly Sink noted that the only project was the opioid program that Samantha Sherman summarized.
- B. MCEC Grant Updates:** Kelly Sink updated the MCEC board on several grants. The University of Missouri environmental education grant that MCEC had agreed to partner on was not funded. The USDA grant for Naturally Meramec that was presented in April was not submitted; however, staff did submit the same project to the Delta Regional Authority. Only the four DRA counties were included (Dent, Crawford, Washington and Phelps), but Naturally Meramec members in the other counties could benefit subsequently. The grant would include training for members, promotion/marketing and food hub partnership development. Darrell Skiles made a motion to approve the submittal and subsequent award. Second by Vic Stratman. *Motion passed.* Kelly informed the board that when the final guidelines for the State of Missouri's ARPA Workforce Development grant are released, an application for Naturally Meramec may be submitted for the same project, but inclusive of all eight counties. Greg Edwards made a motion to approve that submittal with second by Gary Hicks. *Motion passed.*

**Approval of financials:** Linda Loughridge presented preliminary year-end financials. Darrell Skiles made a motion to approve with second by Vic Stratman, *Motion passed.*


**Approval of budget:** Linda Loughridge presented the budget for fiscal year covering July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. John Meusch asked about the audit expense and Linda explained that MCEC could forego an audit if the budget is under a certain threshold, but if any of the grants applied for were funded – it would mean an audit would be necessary so it is budgeted. Darrell Skiles made a motion to approve with second by Gary Hicks. *Motion passed.*

**9. Items of Interest:**

**A. Next Meeting:** September 2022 meeting date will be determined. Gary Hicks asked for anew roster to be sent to MCEC board members and staff will complete this.

**Adjournment:** John Meusch adjourned the meeting

Approved by the Board September 28, 2022

  
Greg Edwards, Chairman