

**Meramec Regional Planning Commission**  
**Minutes**  
**Sept. 14, 2023**

**Call to Order**

Chairman Mary Heywood called the Sept. 14, 2023, meeting of the Meramec Regional Planning Commission to order at 7:39 p.m. The meeting was conducted via Zoom and in-person.

**Welcome**

Chairman Heywood welcomed everyone to the meeting. Board members participating by Zoom or conference call were Tammy Bruckerhoff and John Casey. Board members participating in person were Jason Ward, Gary Larson, John Smith, Vic Stratman, Steve Vogt, Ray Schwartz, Darryl Griffin, Tom Coots, Dan Knoell, Kent Bagnall, Sean Wilson, Bob Parsons, John Money, Shane Anselm and Mary Heywood. MRPC staff attending in person were Bonnie Prigge, Samantha Sherman, Linda Loughridge, Tammy Snodgrass and Linda Carroll. Donald Keeney and Caitlin Jones, MRPC, participated via Zoom. Jennifer Hoskins with Rep. Blaine Luetkemeyer's office participated via Zoom, and Grant Wilson with Rep. Jason Smith's office participated in person.

**Introduction of New MRPC Staff**

Bonnie Prigge introduced Dowanda Bullock, the new FSS Coordinator. She most recently worked for the Rolla Housing Authority and brings five years of HCV experience to MRPC.

**Consent Agenda**

The following consent agenda items were presented for approval:

- a. Minutes –Aug. 10, 2023
- b. Local Review  
None.
- c. State Review
  - 1. Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Jefferson City, MO  
15.916 – Outdoor Recreation Acquisition, Development and Planning  
29-01786 St. Francois State Park Campground  
Federal: \$2,000,000  
Total: \$2,000,000

The Office of Administration issues the Missouri Federal Assistance Clearinghouse grant reviews weekly. Staff is sharing 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

- Life House Youth Center  
Permission is requested for MRPC's chairman and/or executive director to enter into a technical assistance contract for grant writing for various grants as identified by Life House Youth Center, and for MRPC's chairman and/or executive director to sign any necessary documents.
- Gasconade Valley Enterprise Zone (GVEZ)  
Permission is requested for MRPC's chairman/executive director to sign a contract addendum with GVEZ for cost overruns for fiscal year running July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023.

- Meramec Local Emergency Planning District (MLEPD)

Permission is requested for MRPC's chairman/executive director to sign a contract extension with MLEPD for administration through June 30, 2023, and for MRPC's chairman and/or executive director to sign any necessary documents.

- Salem Housing Authority

Permission is requested for MRPC's chairman/executive director to sign a technical assistance contract for application preparation for general grant writing as identified by the client, and for MRPC's chairman and/or executive director to sign any necessary documents.

- Meramec Regional Planning Commission

Permission is requested for MRPC's executive director to submit an application to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources for a climate pollution reduction subgrant, and for MRPC's chairman and/or executive director to sign any necessary documents should the grant be awarded.

Darryl Griffin made a motion to approve the consent agenda with noted additions; Jason Ward seconded. The motion carried.

**Presentation:** Cybersecurity grant opportunity, by Wes Hester, Missouri Cybersecurity Center of Excellence (MCCOE), in Springfield, MO.

Mr. Hester provided an overview of the work done by the Missouri Cybersecurity Center of Excellence (MCCOE). He said there is a growing concern with cybersecurity and the lack of trained individuals to respond to those concerns. Mr. Hester explained that the MCCOE is a non-profit security operations center that brings together students, businesses, government agencies and communities. The center provides security services for business and agencies utilizing the skills and knowledge of the students admitted into the program.

Mr. Hester discussed the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP) funds that will be offered in October through the Missouri Department of Public Safety, Homeland Security Office.

He encouraged local governments to participate in the grant program to better understand their cyber vulnerabilities and to manage cyber risks by ensuring the following objectives are met:

- Objective 1: Develop and establish a Cybersecurity Plan.
- Objective 2: Identify assets and areas for improvement.
- Objective 3: Implement protections, detect who is monitoring and determine how to respond and recover.
- Objective 4: Appropriate training and exercises in cybersecurity for personnel commensurate with responsibility.

Mr. Hester reported that cybersecurity risks are increasing, and it is critical that organizations perform continuous risk management and strive to improve their cybersecurity measures. He went on to say that the cyber landscape is constantly evolving, resulting in a significant increase in costs and risks highlighted by the following six reasons:

1. Ransomware
2. Rising Response Costs
3. Increasing Replacement Costs
4. Inadequate Cybersecurity Hygiene
5. Lack of Incident Response Plans
6. Business Interruption

By implementing cybersecurity processes, tools, information sharing, exercise and training, an organization can reach its end-goal of enhancing the protection of its critical day and systems thereby reducing risks.

Bonnie put forth the following request to the board:

Permission is requested to submit a grant application involving interested local governments and to authorize the chair/executive director to sign all required documents, including a grant agreement, should a grant be offered.

Jason Ward made a motion to approve a grant application for State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program funds; Sean Wilson seconded. The motion carried.

### **Update from State and Federal Legislators:**

Jennifer Hoskins with Rep. Blaine Luetkemeyer's office:

Ms. Hoskins mentioned the Congressman has been traveling throughout the district meeting with residents.

She reported the Congressman has been appointed to a task force focusing on drug cartels at the Mexican border. He also introduced the Safeguarding American Farms from Foreign Influence Act. This legislation is aimed at preventing foreign countries from purchasing agricultural land in the United States.

Ms. Hoskins said the Congressman, along with Rep. Jason Smith and Congresswoman Ann Wagner, have coordinated a U.S. Military Service Academy Day to be held on Sept. 16 at Jefferson College.

Grant Wilson with Congressman Jason Smith's office:

Mr. Wilson mentioned that Congressman Smith had also been traveling throughout the district meeting with residents.

He reported the Congressman visited South Korea, Vietnam and Thailand and participated in trade discussions to encourage trade with the United States. Mr. Wilson also mentioned that the congressman took a delegation to Europe where they participated in discussion on global tax.

Grant reported on the following projects for the Congressman:

- Forming legislation to prevent foreign countries from purchasing land in the U.S. by imposing high taxes on them.
- Pushing for greater transparency in pricing, especially in the area of services at healthcare clinics.
- The farm tour recently wrapped up with the Congressman having visited 13 of the 18 counties in his district.
- He participated in a healthcare roundtable this week which included physicians, hospitals and nursing home administrators.
- He will take part in a field hearing in North Carolina next week where the main topic will be healthcare.
- The Congressman has been assigned to help lead the impeachment inquiry on President Biden.



Ms. Hoskins reported that the Washington County Ambulance District took part in the healthcare roundtable. She said they are working on mobile integrated healthcare and said she sees good things coming.

**Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC):** Bonnie Prigge, MRPC Executive Director  
Bonnie Prigge reported on transportation activities as follows:

The committee elected new officers. Elected were Steve Vogt, chairman; T.R. Dudley, vice chairman; and Charles Bassett, secretary.

The committee ranked TAP projects and a handout was provided to the full board. Below is the ranking as approved by the TAC.

<b>RANKING</b>	<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>PROJECT COST (Total Cost/ MoDOT Share)</b>
3	Dent County: Courthouse Square sidewalks	\$491,603.75/ \$393,283
7	Gasconade County: Rock Island Trail between Owensville and Soap Creek Bridge	\$584,965/ \$467,972
4	City of Hermann: Sidewalk replacement on 4th St., and ADA improvements along Gutenberg St.	\$290,494/ \$232,395.20
5	City of Owensville: 5ft. sidewalk connection from the Rock Island trail to Scenic Regional Library	\$621,143/ \$496,914.40
6	City of Potosi: Sidewalks along Citadel Dr., Mill St. & Jefferson St.	\$208,281/ \$166,624.80
8	City of Rolla: ADA improvements for 77 downtown sidewalk ramps	\$320,000/ \$256,000
1	State Tech: Sidewalk connections to campus	\$673,749.20/ \$500,000
2	City of Waynesville (1): 5 ft. sidewalk along Route 66 from Cash James Loop to Broadway Street	\$574,527.50/ \$459,622
9	City of Waynesville (2): 5 ft. sidewalk along Ichord Ave. to GW Lane	\$838,547.50/ \$494,746.03
10	City of Waynesville (3): 5 ft. sidewalk along GW Lane	\$677,595/ \$494,644.35

Vic Stratman made a motion to approve the TAP rankings as approved by the TAC; Bob Parsons seconded. The motion carried.

The committee received an update on Show Me Zero statistics. Since Jan. 1, 2023, there have been 74 fatalities in the Central District. Thirty of those were in the Meramec Region.

Staff informed the committee there will be a Central District for Coalition Roadway Safety meeting in October.



Steve Engelbrecht with MoDOT said they had received one TEAP application from the Central District. He reported the city of Hermann had submitted an application.

Bonnie said she informed the committee that county level meetings to discuss transportation will be starting in the upcoming months.

**External Relations Committee:** Darryl Griffin, chairperson

Darryl Griffin reported on External Relations activities as follows:

Staff reminded the committee of the need to reach out to area business for silent auction and door prize items. The committee was reminded that reservations for the annual dinner are due by Sept. 29.

Staff informed the committee that Laurel Boisonault Yahl has resigned her board position. She had been serving as the at-large for small business representative. The committee was asked for possible replacements.

Staff provided a copy of the State Priorities Survey that will be sent out to gather issues from board members.

Staff provided a handout on legislative updates.

**Operations Committee:** Sean Wilson, vice chairman

Sean Wilson reported on operations activities as follows:

The committee reviewed the MRPC/MRB preliminary year-end financial statements and MRPC/MRDC-RLF and IRP program financial statements for the fiscal year ended Aug. 31, 2023.

Sean Wilson made a motion to approve the preliminary year-end financial statements for the period ended Aug. 31, 2023; Ray Schwartze seconded. The motion carried.

The committee reviewed a proposal to defederalize the EDA Disaster Revolving Loan Fund.

Sean Wilson made a motion to approve a resolution to defederalize the EDA Disaster Revolving Loan Fund; Shane Anselm seconded. The motion carried.

Staff updated the committee on the recent onsite HUD Quality Assurance Division (QAD) Financial Review (FMR) for the Phelps County PHA. Linda Loughridge reported that the housing department received a high score on the review.

Staff reported the first dues investment committee was held on Aug. 30 and a second meeting is scheduled for Oct. 4 from 2:30-4:30 p.m.

Linda Loughridge reported she is working on an MRPC salary comparison.

**Planning Committee:** Vic Stratman

Vic Stratman reported on planning activities as follows:

The committee elected Adam Housewright as vice chairman, as the previous vice chairman had resigned from the board.

Bonnie provided an updated summary of county-level data gathered from the Missouri KIDS COUNT Data Book.

Bonnie reviewed the upcoming CEDS update timeline and new guidelines for 2024. Committee members were asked to review their county representatives for the CEDS Advisory Committee.

**Housing Board:** Vic Stratman, chairman

No report was given.

**Environmental:** Tammy Snodgrass, Assistant Executive Director

Tammy reported the Salems special collection had a good turnout and mentioned that the last special collection for the year would be on Oct. 7 in St. Robert.

Dates of importance she mentioned were:

- Oct. 10 – Ozark Rivers will be meeting to decide on grants.
- Nov. 7 – MLEPD will meet to review the training grant.
- Oct. 19 – HSOC will meet for its quarterly meeting.

A handout on environmental activities was provided.

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

Linda reported that of the eight loans pending, seven have been closed. She said that staff are working on additional projects that are in various stages. There are three potential SBA projects and four potential RLF projects.

A handout on loan activity was provided.

**Meramec Community Enhancement Corporation (MCEC):** Vic Stratman

No report was given.

**Meramec Regional Community Foundation (MRCF):** Bonnie Prigge

Bonnie reported the next MRCF meeting is scheduled for Oct. 17 and said that all scholarships have been distributed.

She mentioned that she and Maria Bancroft would be attending a CFO affiliate meeting in Springfield on Sept. 19.

**Executive Director's Report**

Bonnie reminded the board that Oct. 26 is the annual dinner. She said staff are working on the annual report, which is due to the printer a week from tomorrow.

She also reported that MRPC has been in discussions with Sen. Justin Brown and Rep. Don Mayhew regarding the need for an increase in funding for regional planning commissions. Both have agreed to sponsor legislation requesting a funding increase.

Bonnie mentioned that membership dues invoices have been mailed and thanked all those who've sent in their dues and contracts.

She recognized the housing department for receiving a high score on its recent HUD audit.

Board members were reminded that there would be no October MRPC meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Nov. 9.

Bonnie informed the board of the following upcoming events:

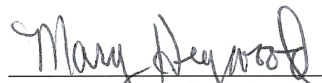
- Sept. 19 – There will be an opioid workshop primarily geared towards employers. Sam added the workshop will look at programs that can help employers with employees having use disorders. It will cover what substance use disorder and opioid use disorder is and what recovery looks like.
- Sept. 20 – Staff will be holding an EDA feasibility grant meeting in Pulaski County to discuss the Pulaski County Sports Complex project.
- Week of Sept. 25 - MRPC auditors will be on-site.
- Oct. 4 – Dues structure meeting.

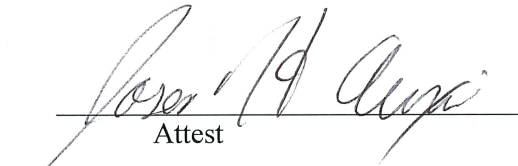
### **Chairman's Report**

No report was given.

### **Adjourn**

Ray Schwartze made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.; Vic Stratman seconded the motion. The motion carried.

  
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Mary Heywood, chairman

  
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Attest



