

MERAMEC COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT CORPORATION
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, June 7, 2023

Members Present: Danny Brown (Crawford), Vic Stratman (Maries), Greg Edwards (Phelps), Gary Hicks (Phelps County), Gary Larson (Dent), Bruce Cox (Gasconade),

Members Present on Zoom: Darryl Griffin (Osage), Jerry Lairmore (Gasconade)

Members Absent: Gene Newkirk (Pulaski), Dave Sansegraw (Washington), Christy Metzger (Maries), John Meusch (Phelps), Brenda Johnson (Maries) , Wayne Langston (Maries)

Guests:

MRPC Staff Present: Kelly Sink, Bethany Ferrell, Ann Feeler, Caitlin Jones, Mark Perkins

Call to Order and Introductions: Chair Greg Edwards called the meeting to order at 12:02 pm. He asked all in attendance to introduce themselves.

Approval of Minutes from the March 27, 2023, Zoom meeting: Minutes were sent prior to the meeting and Greg Edwards asked if everyone had a chance to review and approve. Danny Brown made a motion to approve the minutes. Vic Stratman seconded the motion. *Motion passed to approve the minutes.*

Election of Officers: Officers were elected, per the bylaws. Officers were elected for a one-year term, and cannot serve more than three terms in a given office. Greg Edwards suggested keeping the current slate of officers for one more year. Gary Hicks made a motion to that affect, with a second by Gary Larson. *Motion passed.* Officers and terms as follows:

Dr. Greg Edwards, Chairman	Term 2
Danny Brown, Vice Chairman	Term 3
Vic Stratman, Treasurer	Term 2
Gary Hicks, Secretary	Term 3

4. Annual Lease Agreement with MRPC: The annual lease agreement between MCEC and MRPC on behalf of the Region I Homeland Security Oversight Committee (MRPC HSOC) was presented. The agreement is for the lease of a cargo trailer. The amendment extends the lease term until June 30, 2024. Gary Hicks made a motion to approve with second by Danny Brown. *Motion passed.*

5. Naturally Meramec DRA project: Mark Perkins gave a report on the activities and milestones of the DRA funded program to benefit Naturally Meramec members. He updated the board on planned certifications, and classes. He mentioned upcoming Naturally Meramec consortium meetings and that the website was being reviewed for issues to be fixed when bid. He noted the upcoming Washington County Farm Tour and 'Taste of' event.

Business / Reports:

- A. MCEC Project Updates:** Kelly Sink noted the only other current project is the newly funded Affordable Connectivity Program promotion grant. Caitlin Jones provided an update on the activities completed to date to promote and market the program to the region. Staff will be attending events and dropping information at service locations across the region over the next few months. Greg Edwards asked how the results of the efforts will be tracked. Caitlin noted that staff will directly track all outreach activities and those personally served by staff. She will also be using a federal tracking site that shows ACP participation by county.
- B. MCEC Grant Updates:** Kelly Sink informed the board that the application to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) had been cancelled due to requirements of the program. Kelly introduced a new grant application to Department of Justice to serve children and families of those affected by substance use disorders (SUD) in the region. It is a grant of \$750,000 for three years. Gary Hicks made a motion to approve submitting the application and subsequent award, second by Vic Stratman.
Motion passed.

Approval of financials: Bethany Ferrell presented May 2023 financials including the Revenue and Expense Report and Balance Sheet. She noted that the Naturally Meramec grant had started incurring expenses. Greg Edwards asked about the audit expense and Bethany noted that this had been budgeted and booked for the year. Bruce Cox made a motion to approve, seconded by Gary Hicks. *Motion was approved.*

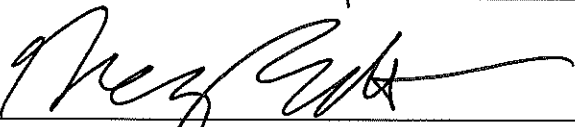
Approval of budget: Bethany Ferrell introduced the budget for July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024. She noted adjusted bank interest and that the budget included a 2-yr audit. Danny Brown made a motion to approve the budget with a second by Bruce Cox. *Motion was approved.*

Items of Interest:

- A. Next Meeting:** September 2023 meeting date will be determined and will be in-person.

Adjournment: Vic Stratman made a motion to adjourn, with a second by Bruce Cox.
Motion was approved and Greg Edwards adjourned the meeting.

Approved by the Board 9/20, 2023



Dr. Greg Edwards, Chairman