

**MERAMEC COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT CORPORATION**  
**ZOOM MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, February 20, 2024

**Members Present:**

**Members Present on Zoom:** Darryl Griffin (Osage), Greg Edwards (Phelps), Danny Brown (Crawford), Gary Hicks (Phelps County), Brenda Johnson (Maries), Erin Adamson (Phelps), Wayne Langston (Maries)

**Members Absent:** Gene Newkirk (Pulaski), Dave Sansegraw (Washington), Jerry Lairmore (Gasconade), Gary Larson (Dent), Bruce Cox (Gasconade), Christy Metzger (Maries), Vic Stratman (Maries)

**Guests:**

**MRPC Staff Present:** Kelly Sink, Linda Loughridge

**Call to Order and Introductions:** Chair Greg Edwards called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm. Having no guests or new members, introductions were not needed. A roll call of Zoom participants was conducted.

**Approval of Minutes from the December 7, 2023 meeting:** Minutes were sent prior to the meeting and Greg Edwards asked if everyone had a chance to review and approve. Darryl Griffin made a motion to approve the minutes. Danny Brown seconded the motion. *Motion passed to approve the minutes.*

**EPA Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grant:** Kelly Sink introduced this new funding request. MST has requested MCEC to be the lead applicant on an EPA grant requiring a 501(c)3 organization. The program will include adding electric buses to SMTS for two deviated fixed routes, plus solar charging. The program will also include replacing wood stoves/furnaces with heat pumps/solar. The objective is to improve the community while reducing air pollution. Estimated 3-year grant with a minimum of \$10 million. The focus area will be Rolla, St. James and Dent County due to socio-economic criteria in the grant. Darryl Griffin asked if such a large grant would be a burden on MRPC staff. Kelly noted that Bonnie Prigge had agreed to the partnership knowing that some current grants were ending soon and that would free up staff time to devote to this project. A motion was made by Gary Hicks to approve submittal of the grant with subsequent award acceptance with a second by Wayne Langston. Greg Edwards abstained due to his employment at MST. Motion passed.

**Business / Reports:**

**A. MCEC Project Updates:** Kelly Sink did not have any additional projects to discuss.

**B. MCEC Grant Updates:** No other grants were discussed

**Approval of financials:** Linda Loughridge reviewed the financials for the period ending January 31, 2024. She noted that the audit was paid 50% down and 50% at completion. Gary Hicks made a motion to approve, seconded by Wayne Langston. *Motion was approved.* Linda next reviewed the revised budget. She noted that the major deficit is from payment of the audit. She added that if MCEC were to get the EPA grant, the grant would cover audits during the project timeframe. Brenda Johnson made a motion to approve the revised budget, with a second by Gary Hicks. *Motion was approved.*

**Approval of audit:** Linda Loughridge presented the audit covering FY21-22 and FY22-23. It was a clean audit both years. Gary Hicks made a motion to approve, with a second by Wayne Langston. *Motion was approved.*

**Items of Interest:**

**A. Next Meeting:** June 2024 meeting date will be determined.

**Adjournment:** Wayne Langston made a motion to adjourn, with a second by Gary Hicks. Motion was approved and Greg Edwards adjourned the meeting.

Approved by the Board June 4, 2024

 6/4/24  
Dr. Greg Edwards, Chairman