

MERAMEC COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT CORPORATION
MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, September 20, 2023

Members Present: Vic Stratman (Maries), Greg Edwards (Phelps)

Members Present on Zoom: Darryl Griffin (Osage), Christy Metzger (Maries), Brenda Johnson (Maries)

Members Absent: Gene Newkirk (Pulaski), Dave Sansegraw (Washington), Wayne Langston (Maries), Jerry Lairmore (Gasconade), Danny Brown (Crawford), Gary Hicks (Phelps County), Gary Larson (Dent), Bruce Cox (Gasconade),

Guests:

MRPC Staff Present: Kelly Sink, Bethany Ferrell, Jazmen Black

Call to Order and Introductions: Chair Greg Edwards called the meeting to order at 2:02 pm. He asked all in attendance and on Zoom to introduce themselves.

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

Business / Reports:

- A. MCEC Project Updates:** Kelly Sink discussed the two current projects. Naturally Meramec is continuing to progress. The recent Taste of Washington County/Farm to Table event was very successful. Staff continue to work with MU Extension on training opportunities. Orin Pogue has taken over the program duties with the departure of Mark Perkins. Orin will present an update to MCEC in December. MRPC staff just wrapped up the state funded Affordable Connectivity Program promotion grant. Caitlin Jones oversaw the program that was funded for a three-month period. The grant is over and staff have reported to the Missouri Department of Economic Development. Caitlin will present a summary of the program and its achievements to MCEC in December.
- B. MCEC Grant Updates:** Kelly Sink informed the board that the Department of Justice grant to serve children and families of those affected by substance use disorders (SUD) in the region is still pending. It is a grant of \$750,000 for

three years. The intended start date is October 1, but announcements have not yet been made. Kelly also informed the board that a grant application had been submitted to the Clif Family Foundation. The \$20,000 request is to provide the same services to non-DRA Naturally Meramec counties that are included in the DRA grant. Greg Edwards asked about match and Kelly added that no match is required. Vic Stratman made a motion to approve the submittal and subsequent award. Brenda Johnson seconded the motion. *Motion passed.*

Approval of preliminary year-end financials: Bethany Ferrell presented the preliminary year-end financials for June 2023. Greg Edwards asked about the line item for Audit since an audit was postponed. Bethany explained that this cost was for the FY21-22 audit that was delayed, and the cost for FY22-23 and FY23-24 will be in the new budget. Vic Stratman made a motion to approve, seconded by Darryl Griffin. *Motion was approved.*

Approval of financials: Bethany Ferrell reviewed the financials for the period ending August 31, 2023. She noted that the ACP grant is booked and now the grant is closed. Naturally Meramec DRA is on-going. Brenda Johnson made a motion to approve, seconded by Christy Metzger. *Motion was approved.*

Items of Interest:

A. Next Meeting: December 2023 meeting date will be determined and will be in-person with lunch.

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

Approved by the Board December 7, 2023



Dr. Greg Edwards, Chairman