

Meramec Regional Planning Commission
Minutes
May 9, 2024

Call to Order

Chairman Mary Heywood called the May 9, 2024, meeting of the Meramec Regional Planning Commission to order at 7:34 p.m. The meeting was conducted via Zoom and in-person.

Welcome

Chairman Heywood welcomed everyone to the meeting. Board members participating in person were Steve Black, Jason Ward, John Smith, Duane Kraettli, Kevin McFadden, Tim Schulte, Vic Stratman, Steve Vogt, Darryl Griffin, Joey Auxier, Dawn Bell, Kent Bagnall, Sean Wilson, T.R. Dudley, Donald Claycomb, John Money, Jan Haviland, Ray Schwartze and Mary Heywood. MRPC staff members participating in person were Bonnie Prigge, Tammy Snodgrass, Linda Loughridge, Anne Freand, Caitlin Jones, Samantha Sherman and Linda Carroll. MRPC staff member Donald Keeney participated via Zoom. Guest Payton Ruddy with Rep. Mark Alford's office participated via Zoom.

Consent Agenda

The following consent agenda items were presented for approval:

- a. Minutes – April 11, 2024
- b. Local Review
 1. Meramec Regional Planning Commission
93.912 – Rural Health Care Services Outreach, Rural Health Network
Development and Small Health Care Provider Quality Improvement
Meramec Area Recovery Alliance
Federal: \$3,000,000
Total: \$3,000,000
- c. State Review
 1. Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Jefferson City, MO
15.252 – Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation (AMLR)
FY2024 Mid-Continent Region Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Program
Reclamation projects for abandoned mine land across the State of Missouri
Federal: \$2,829,000
Total: \$2,829,000

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

- Meramec Regional Development Corporation
Permission is requested for MRPC's chairman and/or executive director to approve and sign addendum #1 for professional services by and between Meramec Regional Development Corporation and Meramec Regional Planning commission for the SBA 504 loan program for Fiscal Year 2022-2023.

- Meramec Regional Development Corporation
Permission is requested for MRPC's chairman and/or executive director to approve and sign addendum #2 for professional services by and between Meramec Regional Development Corporation and Meramec Regional Planning commission for the SBA 504 loan program for Fiscal Year 2023-2024.
- Meramec Regional Development Corporation
Permission is requested for MRPC's chairman and/or executive director to approve and sign addendum #3 for professional services by and between Meramec Regional Development Corporation and Meramec Regional Planning commission for the SBA 504 loan program for Fiscal Year 2024-2025.
- Phelps County Floodplain
Permission is requested for MRPC's chairman and/or executive director to approve and sign a Phelps County Floodplain technical assistance contract for the period July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, and for MRPC's chairman and/or executive director to sign any necessary documents.
- Meramec Local Emergency Planning District
Permission is requested for MRPC's chairman and/or executive director to enter into a contract with MLEPD for administrative and technical assistance for the period July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, and for MRPC's chairman and/or executive director to sign any necessary documents.
- City of Salem
Permission is requested for MRPC's chairman and/or executive director to approve and sign a city of Salem floodplain technical assistance contract for the period of July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, and for the MRPC chairman and/or executive director to sign all necessary documents.
- City of Meta Floodplain
Permission is requested for MRPC's chairman and/or executive director to approve and sign a city of Meta Floodplain technical assistance contract for the period July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, and for MRPC's chairman and/or executive director to sign any necessary documents.
- State Technical College of Missouri
Permission is requested for MRPC's chairman and/or executive director to approve and sign a technical assistance contract with State Technical College of Missouri to complete a NEPA environmental review for the new Ag Demonstration Building to be built on campus, and for MRPC's chairman and/or executive director to sign any necessary documents.
- University of Missouri Extension
Permission is requested for MRPC's chairman and/or executive director to submit a Subrecipient Commitment Form to MU Extension for funding to complete an Active Transportation Plan in one community each in Crawford and Washington counties. Permission is also requested for MRPC's chairman and/or executive director to sign a subrecipient agreement and all other required documents, should funding be offered through the Missouri High Obesity Project (HOP) grant.

- **HRSA RCORP**

Permission is requested for MRPC's chairman and/or executive director to submit a grant application and resolution for the HRSA (Health Resources Services Administration) RCORP (Rural Communities Opioid Response Program): Impact Grant for funding to complete opioid education and recovery efforts for the Meramec Region Recovery Network. Permission is requested for the chairman and/or executive director to sign all grant applications documents and grant agreement, if funded.

Joey Auxier made a motion to approve the consent agenda; Jason Ward seconded. The motion carried.

Introduction of new Employee: Bonnie Prigge, MRPC Executive Director
Bonnie introduced Cindy Davis, the newest addition to MRPC's fiscal department.

Presentation: MRPC's Work in Roadway Safety, Caitlin Jones, MRPC Communication Manager

Caitlin provided an overview and update on MRPC's work in roadway safety, including involvement in Central District Coalition for Roadway Safety, Arrive Alive community engagement activities, docudrama planning efforts, Buckle Buddy program and bike/ped safety efforts this fiscal year.

Caitlin gave an overview of Missouri's Show-Me Zero Plan, which focuses on four emphasis areas: occupant protection, distracted driving, speed and aggressive driving and impaired driving. The plan outlines strategies by categories including families and individuals, business and corporations, counties and cities, law enforcement agencies and more.

She provided a comparison of fatalities in Missouri and in the Meramec Region for the time period of 2019 to April 2024. The comparison showed that fatalities have declined. Some other statistics Caitlin provided were fatalities by focus area and by region.

MRPC has a partnership with the Central District for Roadway Safety, and Bonnie Prigge serves on the statewide Coalition for Roadway Safety Advisory Committee. This partnership provides support for roadway safety efforts in the Meramec Region. These efforts include:

- Promoting safe driving habits, including Buckle Up, Phone Down, through safety/health fair events.
- Coordinating regional sub-district coalition meetings.
- Coordinating a mini-grant program to encourage safe driving habits during prom and graduation season.
- Delivering Buckle Buddy presentations.

The Mini-Grant Program provides two types of grants, said Caitlin. The Project Graduation Grant and Docudrama Grants. For fiscal year 2023-2024, Project Graduation Grants were awarded to Potosi, Owensville, Bourbon, Cuba, Crocker, Linn, St. James, Steelville and Fatima High Schools. Docudrama Grants were awarded to Vienna and Fatima High Schools.

Caitlin said MRPC staff provide community engagement through health and safety events. At these events, staff promote safe driving habits including Buckle Up, Phone Down. The Buckle Buddy program is available for pre-K through second grade. Buddy travels to schools with a storybook and a song to teach kids the importance of booster seats and buckling up.

She informed the board that MRPC can assist schools statewide with docudramas through the Statewide Coalition for Roadway Safety and Highway Safety. These events involve a coordinated

effort between students, teachers, parents and local first responders. Caitlin said that MRPC Offers four scenarios: mock crash simulation, emergency room simulation, grim reaper and alcohol poisoning/overdose.

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Program is only available in the Meramec Region and targets pre-K through 12, said Caitlin. This program teaches students the proper techniques of riding/walking on the road and hand signals. She added that staff are working with colleges in the region to spread this information.

Other roadway safety planning efforts Caitlin touched on included:

- Active Living Community Plans – These plans are designed to assist communities in identifying active transportation policies and plans that make a community more walkable and safer and encourage connectivity to everyday destinations.
- Safe Streets for All – This is a regionwide safety planning effort for high-incident areas.
- Road Safety Audits – These are studies conducted to identify improvements to high traffic crash areas with low-cost efforts such trimming trees and better signage.
- Social Media Efforts – MRPC has increased its social media presence with increased digital messages to spread the word.
- Signage Available – MRPC has stencils and paint for parking lots, yard signs, and metal signs (T-post not provided).

Caitlin provided some suggestions on how cities, counties, businesses, government agencies and individuals can help promote roadway safety.

- Be a good role model.
- Consider passing primary seatbelt and hands-free ordinances in your cities and counties.
- Adopt policies within your business or agency that require employees to use seatbelts and be hands-free while conducting official business.
- Reference the Show-Me Zero Plan for specific suggestions for businesses, government agencies and as individuals.

She said the Show-Me Zero Plan could be found on the MoDOT website (www.modot.org) or at www.savemolives.com/mcrs/show-me-zero.

The various programs can be presented to schools, civic groups, 4-H clubs, girl scouts or boy scouts. She said MRPC has contacts with the Highway Patrol and can arrange to borrow its seatbelt convincer or rollover simulator and with MoDOT to borrow its crash vehicle with signage.

Caitlin said if anyone was interested in one of the roadway safety programs, they should reach out to her.

Update from State and Federal Legislators:

Grant Wilson with Rep. Jason Smith's office:

Mr. Wilson reported on six bills dealing with healthcare in rural areas that passed out of the Ways and Means committee. Those bills are:

- HR8261 – Preserving Telehealth, Hospital and Ambulance Act: preserves Medicare access to telehealth and extends essential Medicare programs that sustain rural hospitals.
- HR7931 – Preserving Emergency Access in Key Sites Act: aligns Medicare's ambulance policy with existing Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) and clarifies that Medicare will pay the CAH rate for CAH-owned ambulances located a 15-mile drive away in mountainous areas or areas accessible only by secondary roads.

- HR8245 – Rural Hospital Stabilization Act: establishes grants for rural hospitals to stabilize their finances.
- HR8244 – Ensuring Seniors’ Access to Quality Care Act: provides more training opportunities for nursing aides.
- HR8235 – Rural Physician Workforce Preservation Act: allows for medical students to complete their residencies in rural hospitals.
- HR8246 – Second Chances for Rural Hospitals Act: brings back emergency and out-patient care to rural areas that have lost their hospitals.

Payton Ruddy with Rep. Mark Alford’s office:

Ms. Ruddy said the Congressman led a Missouri delegation in a letter to Washington, D.C. concerning the flights of illegal aliens into the United States. She said the letter was asking what procedures are in place to track foreign aliens through the parole program.

She informed the board that the Congressman launched two new caucuses this week, the Congressional Real Estate Caucus and the Bipartisan Long Range Strike Causes. The Congressman co-chairs both caucuses, said Ms. Ruddy.

Ms. Ruddy reported the Congressman would be hosting a Fentanyl Forum in Sedalia on Monday, May 13 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Bonnie Prigge said at the recent SOP meeting, the group heard that Congressman Alford had partnered with another congressman on a letter to the Department of the Army regarding some of the larger army decisions and restructuring that is being done. These decisions could have a direct impact on Fort Leonard Wood by possibly reducing the Military Police School, the CBRN School and the 5th Engineer Battalion, she said. Bonnie thanked the Congressman for that effort and said MRPC is most interested in how that works out. She said those decisions would basically turn Fort Leonard Wood into a training base and remove some of those special missions that were received when other bases were closed. She said she thought the Congressman had issued a letter asking that the impact of those decisions on Fort Leonard Wood be considered in those decisions.

Small Business Update from MRPC Commissioner Jan Haviland

Commissioner Haviland provided information on a Manufacturing Roundtable that will be taking place at the end of May to discuss ways of creating more manufacturing jobs within our area. She also mentioned the new overtime rule saying small businesses will find it hard to meet these new rules. Handouts were provided for both the Manufacturing Roundtable and the overtime rule.

Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC): Anne Freand

Anne provided a brief update on transportation activities:

Anne updated the board on the Forward 44 project which is the interstate improvements along 44 from the Franklin/St. Louis County line to the Oklahoma state line. She said there are two consultants conducting the study and they have requested any specific traffic safety data and information on any future development such as large manufacturing facilities, large retail or housing development in the communities along the 44 corridor. Anne asked board members to share that information with MRPC who will package that information and forward it on. Communities can email or call either herself or Bonnie. More information on the Forward 44 project can be found on MoDOT’s website, said Anne.

Anne also mentioned the draft STIP for FY25-29 is out for public comment through May 31. The final draft, after public comment, will go to the transportation commission in July. More information and a copy of the draft STIP can be found on MoDOT’s website, she said.

She also provided a brief update on the Safe Streets for All planning grant. County level meetings will be held in September and October. Anne said staff is needing assistance in identifying individuals in different sectors in the communities. She said MRPC wants to invite everyone from first responders to pedestrian or cycling groups to participate. Anne said MRPC would try to set up a booth at county fairs this summer where a public survey would be available for fairgoers to complete.

Education Update from Commissioner Donald Claycomb

Commissioner Claycomb reported there were some major education issues coming up. He mentioned a bill that would raise the minimum teacher's salary and one that would allow the establishment of charter schools in Boone County.

External Relations Committee: Darryl Griffin, chair

Commissioner Griffin reported on External Relations activities as follows:

The committee discussed the MRPC board vacancies for at-large for small business and at-large for lending. Staff reported that Bob Parsons, at-large for agri-business had resigned so that position is also vacant.

The committee finalized the slate of MRPC officers for FY2024-2025. The slate is as follows:

Mary Heywood, chair	Joey Auxier, secretary
Darryl Griffith, vice chair	Sean Wilson, treasurer

There being no other nominations, Commissioner Darryl Griffin made a motion to approve the slate of officers as presented; Tim Schulte seconded. The motion carried.

The committee also finalized the slate of MRB officers for FY2024-2025. The slate, which will be voted on at the June MRB meeting, is as follows:

Steve Vogt, chair	Vic Stratman, vice chair	Tim Schulte, secretary/treasurer
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The committee presented a recommendation for a change to the MRPC bylaws at the April board meeting. After the meeting, it was noticed there was one change that got overlooked. The committee is recommending changing the at-large minority name to at-large for the underrepresented. A vote will be taken at the June MRPC meeting.

The committee discussed the appointments of at-large commissioners whose terms are expiring and those who were re-appointed by the counties. All have graciously agreed to serve another term.

Commissioner Darryl Griffin made a motion to approve the at-large commissioners whose terms are expiring and those re-appointed by the counties; Steve Vogt seconded. The motion carried.

Erik Lowes, Crawford for Profit	Jan Haviland, Industry
John Smith, Dent for Profit	John Casey, Transportation
Duane Kraettli, Gasconade for Profit	

The at-large small business and ag-business positions are due for re-appointment, but are currently vacant.

Commissioner Griffin reminded board members to complete Bonnie's evaluation and return it to Tammy by May 24. He also reminded members to send in their award nominations for the annual dinner.

Staff provided a handout on legislative updates.

Operations Committee: Jan Haviland, chair

Commissioner Haviland reported on operations activities as follows:

The committee reviewed MRPC/MRB and MRPC/MRDC-RLF and IRP program financial statements for the period ended April 30, 2024.

Commissioner Jan Haviland made a motion to approve the financials for the period ending April 30, 2024; Jason Ward seconded. The motion carried.

Linda Loughridge, MRPC Fiscal Officer, reported that MPRC is operating in a deficit position and MRPC will finish the year in a deficit position. She said there are plans to move staff from projects in deficit areas to other project areas. Linda also mentioned not replacing some of the staff that have left. She added that there are reserves to cover the shortfall. MRB has a small surplus. For the RLF and IRP programs, one has a slight surplus and the other a slight deficit, said Linda.

The committee reviewed the SBA Smart Review and non-compliance letter and discussed the requests for information and impact on budget. Linda said the SBA requires a Smart Review about every four years. Its purpose is to review the program to ensure that everything is in line and that the funds are being utilized for the purpose they were intended for. She reported SBA is requesting a large number of documents, and she has asked for an extension due to lack of staffing.

Planning Committee: T.R. Dudley, chair

Commissioner Joey Auxier reported on planning activities as follows:

Staff provided an update on recent activities including the Opioid Disbursement Fund meetings and job fairs to help with reentry into society. The committee also reviewed the workplan proposal submitted for a new HRSA RCORP (Rural Communities Opioid Response Program) Impact grant that was submitted in early May.

Staff reviewed the items discussed at the April Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) meeting in April and discussed upcoming items for the July meeting. The CEDS draft will be completed in July, presented to the MRPC board in August and sent to the Economic Development Administration (EDA) in September.

Anne Freand, MRPC Planning Manager, provided an overview of MRPC's badging system, which is available for CERT trainers, police departments, first responders, fire departments and associated organization volunteers. The layout of the badges is NIMS compliant, said Anne. This opportunity is made possible through a grant with the Department of Public Safety: Office of Homeland Security (DPS:OHS).

Housing Board: Donald Keeney, Housing Program Manager

No report was given.

Environmental: Tammy Snodgrass, Assistant Executive Director/Environmental Programs Manager

Tammy reported the next HSOC meeting will be Aug. 22 at 10:00 a.m. The committee will be reviewing grant applications, which are due by 5:00 p.m. on June 14.

A handout was provided.

Business Loans: Linda Loughridge, Fiscal Officer

Linda reported the next full board meeting for MRDC would be June 12, 2024, at noon. She stated that loan rates are on the rise.

A handout was provided showing a summary of the current loans portfolio.

Meramec Community Enhancement Corporation (MCEC): Vic Stratman

No report was given.

Meramec Regional Community Foundation (MRCF): Bonnie Prigge

Bonnie reported that it is scholarship season and presentations were made at Hermann High School on Friday and at Belle High School yesterday. Approximately \$44,000 in MRCF scholarships has been provided to students this year.

Chairperson and Director's Report

Bonnie reported that MRPC is working on the Title VI Plan that is required by MoDOT. This plan is updated every three years and will be presented at the June meeting for approval.

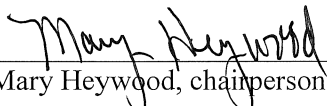
Other topics she mentioned included:

- High Priority Unfunded Needs – These transportation issues will be discussed in May. She said the list has already been compiled and will be provided to MoDOT.
- June TAC meeting – The committee will be prioritizing TAP applications and the following week, a meeting will be held with Central District MoDOT to make the selections.
- CDBG – The program is open and if anyone is interested, they should reach out to Kelly Sink. She said two years of funding is available.
- At-large agri-business position – Bob Parsons has resigned so MRPC will be looking for a replacement.
- Executive Director Evaluation – The executive committee will meet in June, just prior to the TAC meeting, to review the evaluation with her.
- Military Installation Resiliency Review (MIRR) – The kickoff was last week in St. Robert.
- Hermann – Work will begin on Hermann's comprehensive plan next week.

Bonnie referred board members to the grants submitted report provided and the hour allocation report. She reminded them that those hours will end as of June 30 and a new set of hours will be available in July.

Adjourn

Joey Auxier made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 p.m.; Ray Schwartze seconded the motion. The motion carried.



Mary Heywood, chairperson



Attest