

**MINUTES**  
**Meramec Local Emergency Planning District**  
**12:30 p.m.**  
**Wednesday, June 26, 2024**  
**MRPC Office**  
**4 Industrial Drive, St. James, MO 65559**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Kraig Bone called the June 26, 2024, meeting of the Meramec Local Emergency Planning District to order at 12:34 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Members participating in-person were Kraig Bone, Jeff Breen, and Steve Vogt. Jeff Arnold participated via Zoom.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Clyde Zelch, Doug Drewel, Scott John, Ron Hoffman, Kim Sallin, Linda Smith, Joshua Krull, Margaret Biolsi, John Marti, Wendy Squires, Joshua Pearson, Ron Jones, Mark Diedrich, Shawnee Douglas, John Lucas, Chuck Fisher, Floyd Haworth and Sarah Tary.

**STAFF & GUESTS PRESENT:**

MRPC staff present were Tammy Snodgrass, Linda Carroll, Kathryn Hawes, Bonnie Prigge and Linda Loughridge. Participating guests were Brett Hendrix with SEMA; Darren Dake, Crawford County; Tim Ware, Bourbon Fire Chief; and Crosley Welch and Cody Garner, Department of Natural Resources. Participating via Zoom were Mike Plank, Cuba Fire Chief; and Karen Eagleson and Lisa Jobe, MERC.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Jeff Breen made a motion to approve the agenda. Steve Vogt seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Jeff Arnold made a motion to approve the minutes. Steve Vogt seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

Linda Loughridge, MRPC, presented the financials for the month ending May 31, 2024. She reported with about 92% of the year complete, revenues are at about 43%. This doesn't reflect the TIER II funds, which have yet to be received. She said that once received, that percentage will increase to 83% which is still under budget. Linda informed the board that administration costs are showing at a slightly higher than percentage of year expired. She explained that a portion of the increase is due to extra work with the Missouri Emergency Management Commission (MERC) regarding missing TIER II funds.

Steve Vogt made a motion to approve the financials for the month ending May 31, 2024. Jeff Breen seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Linda presented the proposed budget for FY 2024-2025. She noted that funds for the HMEP Planning Grant were removed from revenues since MLEPC wasn't awarded that grant. She also said funds for an audit and D&O insurance were removed, per MERC's recommendation, and with the approval of this board.

Jeff Breen made a motion to approve the proposed budget for FY 2024-2025. Steve Vogt seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Report on Reauthorization of MERC Funding

Karen Eagleson with MERC reported that legislation authorizing CEPF funding would sunset this August, unless the Governor calls a special session asking legislators to vote on this issue. She said that after July 1, 2024 there is

funding earmarked for MERC and LEPCs so there is funding for one year. Ms. Eagleson informed the members it is a federal mandate to have a MERC and LEPCs, but they are unfunded. Lisa Jobe, also with MERC, encouraged members to reach out to their legislators and to the Governor, encouraging them to pass legislation extending the CEPF funding. Bonnie Prigge added that there needs to be a strong effort made to encourage passing of this legislation.

Tammy Snodgrass asked board members if they to send a letter in support of this legislation. The general consensus was yes. Chairman Bone said the letter needs to state that if the legislation fails to pass, it will result in an unfunded mandate. Tammy informed the board she discussed the funding issue at the June MRPC meeting and board members were concerned and in support of the legislation. She mentioned that in the early years of the organization dues were collected and asked if the board felt it should be considered again. Bonnie said she thought the dues were \$2,000 or \$3,000 per county. Tammy asked for thoughts on whether dues should be a short-term item or keep it constant. Jeff Breen indicated he thought it would be best to keep it constant. Mr. Breen also suggested providing options and details on what deliverables will be provided with the funds. Tammy said she would follow up with emails.

Bonnie suggested holding a meeting to discuss the funding concerns. Legislators from the region, other LEPCs, along with Rep. Tim Taylor and Sen. Brian Williams, could be invited to participate in the discussion. Rep. Taylor and Sen. Williams are both MERC commissioners. Chairman Bone liked the idea and Ms. Eagleson with MERC said she would participate.

Tammy said she would send a letter from the group and will provide a template to members who may want to send their own letter as well.

#### Presentation on RAPT

Cody Garner with MDNR reviewed the Resilience Analysis and Planning Tool (RAPT). RAPT can be accessed at <https://fema.maps.arcgis.com> and can provide information on infrastructure, weather, river gauges, location of hospitals and county indicators such as census data. He said the ArcGIS program isn't needed to access the site.

Mr. Garner also shared a handout on hazmat incidents since January. There have been 13 incidents in the Meramec Region.

#### Staff Activities

Hazmat Classes – Tammy provided handouts on upcoming classes.

#### Annual Training Survey

Tammy reported she has received training surveys from Dent, Crawford, Washington, Gasconade and Phelps counties. Maries and Osage counties haven't turned surveys in yet.

#### Membership

Tammy said although the board will be gaining five new members this month, she is still encouraging members to continue to think about someone they could recruit to help boost membership and attendance at meetings. She reported that representation is still missing in the areas of media and community organizations.

#### Exercise for 2024-25 (Train Derailment)

Tammy informed members there would be a Train Derailment Response Coordination tabletop exercise held at MRPC on July 31, 2024. She shared a flyer on the exercise and she said she would like to see good representation from all sectors. The committee approved the exercise via email when ratifying the June 24, 2024 meeting.

Military Installation Resiliency Review (MIRR) Tammy mentioned the MIRR grant that MRPC received, with Fort Leonard Wood, through the Department of Defense to conduct a tabletop exercise with hazmat. The goal is to improve coordination between Fort Leonard Wood and the surrounding area (Phelps, Laclede and Texas counties).

Darren Dake suggested that county coroners also be notified of all exercise opportunities as they were often left out. She indicated she would make sure to extend invitations to county coroners.

#### SEMA/MERC Grant Status

Tammy reported the hazmat technician class was held, and Linda Loughridge was getting the reimbursement finalized. She asked members to think about ideas for requesting/applying for future grants. Ideas must be hazmat related, she said.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

##### Approval of New Members

Members reviewed brief bios on six new potential members: Tim Ware, Matt Hart, Mike Plank, Doug Roberts, Derrick Marfitt and Darren Dake.

Jeff Breen made a motion to approve membership for all five. Jeff Arnold seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

##### Election of Officers for 2024-25

Current officers are Kraig Bone, chair; Jeff Breen, vice chair; and Wendy Squires, secretary/treasurer.

#### **REPORT FROM MERC REPRESENTATIVE:**

Lisa Jobe with MERC said her office was moving forward on getting HMEP funded classes completed.

#### **REPORT FROM SEMA REPRESENTATIVE:**

Brett Hendrix reported the SEMA Conference would be Aug. 26-29. He also mentioned his next quarterly meeting of emergency responders in Region I would feature a speaker from FEMA and would be held Sept. 5, 2024 at 10:00 a.m., Tentative location is Cuba's EOC.

#### **REPORT FROM MDNR REPRESENTATIVE:**

Crosby Welch, who works out of the MDNR Southeast Regional Office, introduced himself. He said he covers Washington and Crawford counties but helps out in others as needed.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENT OF UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

Aug. 21            Nov. 6

##### 2025 Meeting Dates

March 26            June 25            Aug. 20            Nov. 5

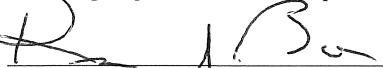
#### **MISCELLANEOUS:**

Bonnie Prigge said she would see if Marathon Pipeline would be willing to present at an upcoming meeting.

Jeff Breen thanked the new members for their interest and willingness to participate on the board.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

Jeff Breen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Steve Vogt seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.



Kraig Bone, Chairman

August 21, 2024  
Date

  
Attest

8-21-2024  
Date

