

Meramec Regional Planning Commission
Minutes
June 13, 2024

Call to Order

Chairman Mary Heywood called the June 13, 2024, meeting of the Meramec Regional Planning Commission to order at 7:40 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, Darryl Griffin, Joey Auxier, Tom Coots, Kent Bagnall, Sean Wilson, John Money, Jan Haviland, Shane Anselm and Mary Heywood. MRPC staff members participating in person were Bonnie Prigge, Tammy Snodgrass, Linda Loughridge, Caitlin Jones, Samantha Sherman and Linda Carroll. MRPC staff members Anne Freand and Donald Keeney participated via Zoom. Guests participating in person were Matt McCarter, Taisia Gordon, Taylor Blackwell with Sen. Josh Hawley's office and Grant Wilson with Rep. Justin Smith's office. Guest Jennifer Meyer with Rep. Blaine Luetkemeyer's office participated via Zoom.

Consent Agenda

The following consent agenda items were presented for approval:

- a. Minutes – May 9, 2024
- b. Local Review
 - 1. South Central Missouri Community Health Center, Rolla, MO
93.224 Health Center Program (Community Health Centers, Migrant Health Centers, Health Care for the Homeless, and Public Housing Primary Care) Four Rivers - Expanded Hours Project
Federal: \$500,000
Total: \$500,000
 - 2. Richland Medical Clinic Inc., Richland, MO
93.527 Grants for new and expanded services under the Health Center Program
Quality Improvement – Transitioning Care for justice Involved Populations
Federal: \$10,000,000
Total: \$10,000,000
- c. State Review
 - 1. Missouri Department of Public Safety Jefferson City, MO
16.742 – Paul Coverdell Forensic Sciences Improvement Grant Program
BIA FY 2024 Paul Coverdell Forensic Sciences Improvement Grant Program - Formula
Federal: \$368,261
Total: \$368,261
 - 2. Missouri Department of Public Safety Jefferson City, MO
16.593 – Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners
BIA FY 2024 Residential Substance Abuse
 - 3. Missouri Department of Public Safety Jefferson City, MO
16.738 – Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program
BIA FY 2024 Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program
Federal: \$3,136,343
Total: \$3,136,343

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

- Washington County IDA

Permission is requested for MRPC's chairman and/or executive director to approve and sign a technical assistance for grant writing for a USDA Rural Business Development grant, and for MRPC's chairman and/or executive director to sign any necessary documents.

- MCEC Lease Agreement

Approval is requested from the Meramec Regional Planning Commission board to extend the lease rate and the term of lease of a cargo trailer from the Meramec Community Enhancement Corporation for an additional year. All other covenants contained in the original lease, dated Sept. 14, 2010, remain in full force.

- Gasconade Valley Enterprise Zone (GVEZ)

Permission is requested for MRPC's chairman/executive director to sign a contract amendment with GVEZ to continue providing administration and fiscal services July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025.

- Central District Coalition for Roadway Safety/MODOT

Permission is requested for MRPC's chairman and/or executive director to submit an application to the Central District Coalition for Roadway Safety/MODOT for activities that discourage distracted/impaired driving, which includes outreach and education at community/school events and meetings, Project Graduation/Docudrama mini-grants, Buckle Buddy presentations, etc. and to sign all documents associated with this contract, should it be awarded.

- Gasconade County IDA

Permission is requested for approval of a contract with the Gasconade County IDA for technical assistance for the period July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, and for MRPC's chairman and/or executive director to sign all necessary documents.

Commissioner Joey Auxier made a motion to approve the consent agenda with noted additions; Commissioner Shane Anselm seconded. The motion carried.

Presentation: Title VI Plan Review, Bonnie Prigge, MRPC Executive Director

Ms. Prigge shared an update on MRPC's revised Title VI Plan, which is reviewed and updated every three years.

Ms. Prigge informed the board that this plan prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, and national origin in programs and activities receiving federal assistance. The plan also covers the process to be taken if someone believes they have been treated unfairly. MRPC is required to have an updated plan in place since the organization receives federal funding from MoDOT. The MRPC Title VI plan is currently in the public comment phase, and that will conclude on June 21, 2024. The draft plan can be found on MRPC's website under publications. Ms. Prigge requested the board take action to adopt the plan at the end of the comment period if no comments are received. If comments are received, the executive committee will be convened after June 21 to discuss and act on the plan.

Commissioner John Money made a motion to approve adoption of the Title VI plan at the end of the comment period if no comments were received; Commissioner Jason Ward seconded. The motion carried.

Presentation: FY-24-25 Budget Presentation, Linda Loughridge, MRPC Fiscal Officer
Ms. Loughridge reviewed the proposed budget for July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2024.

Ms. Loughridge said the FY 2024-2025 budget is a conservative budget. She said that although no new staff are specified in the budget, there is funding to add staff if new projects are awarded. MRPC currently has 30 employees, including five part-time temp employees and four part-time employees.

She reported that the current opioid grant ends at the end of August. If another grant opportunity comes to fruition, an employee could be hired to assist with that grant.

Ms. Loughridge also mentioned there are some issues with funds in the loan department. She said a review may be needed to see which loans have to be packaged. Some difficult decisions may have to be made as the portfolio size is not large enough to cover operation fees, she added.

The FY 2024-2025 budget includes updates to the Maries and Pulaski counties Hazard Mitigation plans.

Commissioner Joey Auxier asked about the difficult decisions that may need to be made if MRPC is unable to continue its loans program. Ms. Loughridge said the loans portfolio would be turned over to the SBA who would place it elsewhere. SBA loans are not limited to a specific area or amount.

Ms. Loughridge explained that the challenge is getting in front of loan officers and banks. She said workshops could be held here to help in getting the word out. She also said that with interest rates on the rise, it's a struggle to convince banks to partner with MRPC. For the program to be successful, buy-in is need from local banks, said Ms. Loughridge.

Ms. Loughridge also reviewed the proposed FY2024-2025 for MRB, MRPC's lease hold agency. She noted that leases are decreasing and that capital expenditures are slightly behind. She reported that MRB will be looking to replace two vehicles in the upcoming fiscal year. The Impala and the 2019 Equinox are both fully depreciated and will be replaced. Also in the budget are funds for replacing computers, laptops and the copier in the kitchen. Ms. Loughridge did add that funds have also been designated for replacement of the water heater and shredder.

Commissioner Jason Ward made a motion to approve the consent agenda with noted additions; Commissioner Jan Haviland seconded. The motion carried.

Update from State and Federal Legislators:
Jennifer Meyers with Rep. Blaine Luetkemeyer's office:

Ms. Meyers said the Congressman has been touring Missouri's counties and would be in Crawford County at Red Bluff Campground next Monday. She reported the Congressman would be in office through the end of the year. Anyone needing assistance was encouraged to contact the office.

Grant Wilson with Rep. Jason Smith's office:

Mr. Wilson reported the Congressman voted for the following two bills:

- HR8580 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act – This bill allows for fully funding the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- HR8467 Farm, Food and National Security Act of 2024 – Mr. Wilson said Congress is debating this bill. This bill includes some language from the Build It in America Act, which sets a ban on countries of concern such as China, Russia and Iran from owning land.

Mr. Wilson reported the tax cut and jobs act will be expiring in 2025. The Congressman has set up a link for stakeholders and individuals to submit comments on how the tax hikes will affect them. Once expired, the Congressman has said there will be a \$7 trillion increase in taxes.

Taylor Blackwell, mid-Missouri field representative for Sen. Josh Hawley’s office:

Ms. Blackwell reported that Sen. Hawley has introduced a bill to boost police recruitment and retention. She said many counties are struggling to fill vacancies in police departments and law enforcement agencies. Sen. Hawley has introduced the Educational Career Opportunities for Public Safety Act in an effort to solve the vacancy issues. The act would provide funding for higher educational opportunities for these officers, with the hope of recruiting them and retaining them under one employer.

Sen. Hawley opposes a proposed electric transmission corridor happening in northern Missouri. The corridor would be 780 miles long and five miles wide. In an effort to prevent setting a precedent, where the department of energy comes in and takes land from area farmers and landowners, the Senator introduced the Protecting Our Farmers from the Green New Deal Act.

Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC): Anne Freand

Anne Freand provided an update on transportation activities:

Ms. Freand reported seven Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) applications had been received for the Meramec Region. Committee members were asked to rank the applications in priority order. Below is the list of applications approved by the TAC.

RANKING	PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT COST (Total Cost/ MoDOT Share)
1 - 79	St. James R-1 School District: Sidewalk from elementary to football field	\$513,590/ \$410,872
2 - 74	City of Owensville: 5ft. sidewalk connection from the Rock Island trail to Scenic Regional Library	\$621,143/ \$496,914.40
3 - 66	City of Waynesville (1): 5 ft. sidewalk along Ichord Ave. to GW Lane	\$749,307.50/ \$599,446
4 - 63	City of Rolla: ADA improvements for 77 downtown sidewalk ramps	\$320,000/ \$256,000
5 - 58	Rosebud: Rock Island Trail through city	\$277,528/ \$222,022.40
6 - 51	City of Belle: First Street Sidewalk	\$285,757/ \$228,606
7 - 39	City of Waynesville (2): 5 ft. sidewalk along GW Lane	\$677,595/ \$542,076

Ms. Freand said these rankings will be presented to MoDOT next week.

Commissioner Joey Auxier made a motion to approve the TAP application ranking as presented; Commissioner Shane Anselm seconded. The motion carried.

Ms. Freand reviewed the FY 2024 Workplan that was submitted to MoDOT. Bonnie Prigge said a fourth task was added to better capture multi-modal needs in the region. She said the MRPC, in partnership with MoDOT, would be forming a multi-modal advisory committee. Ms. Prigge informed the board that MoDOT has provided a list a multi-modal contacts and will be providing \$16,500 in funding, with MRPC having a 20% match. She said MRPC would be reaching out to cities, counties and organizations for membership on the advisory committee. Ms. Freand reported the TAC recommended approval of the workplan for the entire year.

Commissioner Sean Wilson made a motion to approve the transportation planning workplan as presented; Commissioner Jason Ward seconded. The motion carried.

Other items covered in the TAC meeting included:

- A nominating committee was selected to present names for consideration as officers as the August meeting.
- Bonnie Prigge shared MRPC's revised Title VI plan.
- Staff provided an overview of updates to the Regional Transportation Plan.
- Staff reviewed the updated High Priority Unfunded Needs list, noting that Tiers 1, 2, and 3 remained the same.
- Staff updated the committee on active transportation plans for Bourbon and Caledonia.

Caitlin Jones, MRPC, provided an update on Show-Me Zero Arrive Alive. She reported that fatalities statewide are down, fatalities in the Central District are down slightly and fatalities in Troop F are down significantly. Ms. Jones informed the board that Gasconade County is the only county in the Meramec Region with no fatalities.

Ms. Jones also reviewed the roadway safety events held this year and those scheduled for next year. She mentioned there were Show-Me Zero/Buckle Up Phone Down banners available for those communities with digital billboards.

Preston Kramer, MoDOT, provided an update on highway projects. He mentioned that public meetings on the Forward 44 project will be held in August. Mr. Kramer also reported that although not yet approved by the Governor, there was \$727 million in the state budget for improvements to I-44/49, I-44/13 and I-44 Doolittle to St. James.

External Relations Committee: Darryl Griffin, chair

Commissioner Griffin reported on External Relations activities as follows:

The committee discussed the at-large vacancies for small business, agri-business and lending. There was one candidate, Taisia Gordon, presented to fill the small business position and one candidate, Matt McCarter, presented to fill the agri-business position.

Commissioner Darryl Griffin made a motion to approve Taisia Gordon as the small business representative and Matt McCarter as the agri-business representative; Commissioner Kent Bagnall seconded. The motion carried.

The committee reviewed site proposals, set a ticket price and selected the menu for the annual dinner. Two proposals were received Cub Creek near Rolla and Osage View in Linn. After reviewing the two proposals, the committee chose Osage View as the location for this year's dinner. It was suggested that next year the dinner could be held at Cub Creek.

Commissioner Darryl Griffin made a motion to hold the annual dinner at Osage View with a ticket price of \$40; Commissioner Gary Larson seconded. The motion carried.

The committee presented a recommendation for a change to the MRPC bylaws at the May board meeting. The committee is recommending changing the at-large minority title to at-large for the underrepresented.

Commissioner Darryl Griffin recommended changing the at-large minority title to at-large for the underrepresented; Commissioner Joey Auxier seconded. The motion carried.

The committee also reviewed and finalized award nominations.

Commissioner Darryl Griffin made a motion to approve the award nominations as determined by external relations; Commissioner Jason Ward seconded. The motion carried.

Staff provided a handout on legislative updates.

Bonnie Prigge said Tammy Snodgrass would be sending an email to those board members who submitted award nominations.

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 May 31, 2024.

Commissioner Jan Haviland made a motion to approve the financials for the period ending May 31, 2024; Jason Ward seconded. The motion carried.

Planning Committee: T.R. Dudley, chair

Anne Freand reported on planning activities as follows:

Staff reviewed the items discussed at the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) meeting held in May. The draft plan will be discussed at the July 19, 2024 CEDS meeting.

Kelly Sink, MRPC, provided an update on an EPA grant with MST. Proposed activities with the grant include adding electric buses to SMTS and replacing wood stoves/furnaces with heat pumps/solar in homes in Rolla, St. James and Dent County. The request has not yet been submitted to EPA.

The committee received an update on the Military Installation Resilience Report (MIIR) grant and recent Request for Proposals (RFP) process. The RFP is for completion of a study and proposals are due next week.

Preliminary information on a housing RFP to be submitted later this summer was shared with the committee. The RFP will request planning assistance for a housing study in the region.

Housing Board: Donald Keeney, Housing Program Manager

No report was given.

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

Tammy shared a flyer on a train derailment tabletop exercise and asked board members to share the information in their communities.

Tammy also reported that there was legislation to extend the sunset on Tier 2 funding that benefits the Missouri Emergency Response Commission and emergency management districts but said the effort failed. Without an extension beyond the end of 2024, there will be no funds to support the Meramec Emergency Response Commission or Local Planning Districts next fiscal year. She did say there will be funds for the next fiscal year for Local Emergency Planning Districts (MLEPDs). The issue will be discussed at the next MLEPD meeting on June 26, 2024. If the Tier 2 fund legislation is not extended, there will be no funds for hazardous materials planning or training, starting in FY 25. There will be no funds to update Hazmat plans, which is a federal mandate to counties.

Commissioner Jason Ward asked who should be contacted as this lack of funding is concerning. Tammy replied that SEMA is responsible for pushing it and that legislators have been contacted. She added that for the seven counties in the MLEPD, the funding received is approximately \$21,000 per year.

Commissioner Mary Heywood mentioned that city boards can be personally sued for any injuries, etc. when there are tragic events like train derailments.

A handout was provided.

Business Loans: Linda Loughridge, Fiscal Officer

Ms. Loughridge reported the next full board meeting for MRDC is tentatively scheduled for July 10, 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): Gary Larson

Commissioner Larson reported new officers were elected. Officers for the FY2024-2025 year are:

Chair – Dr. Greg Edwards

Secretary – Vic Stratman

Vice Chair – Gary Larson

Treasurer – Danny Brown

Orin Pogue gave an update on Naturally Meramec DRA projects and Kelly Sink gave an update on grants.

Meramec Regional Community Foundation (MRCF): Bonnie Prigge

No report was given.

Director's Report

Bonnie Prigge reported that MRPC was closing out the year. She also reminded board members there would be no meeting in July.

Chairperson's Report

Commissioner Mary Heywood said the executive committee met with Bonnie prior to the TAC meeting and reviewed her evaluation.

Adjourn

Jason Ward made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 p.m.; Sean Wilson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mary Heywood

Mary Heywood (Aug 22, 2024 10:17 CDT)

Mary Heywood, chairperson

Mary Heywood

Mary Heywood (Aug 22, 2024 10:17 CDT)

Seal Wilson

Attest






MRPC June 13, 2024 Minutes

Final Audit Report

2024-08-22

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