

**MERAMEC COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT CORPORATION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
Tuesday June 4, 2024

**Members Present:** Vic Stratman (Maries), Gary Hicks (Phelps County), Gary Larson (Dent),

**Members Present on Zoom:** Darryl Griffin (Osage), Jerry Lairmore (Gasconade) Greg Edwards (Phelps),

**Members Absent:** Gene Newkirk (Pulaski), Dave Sansegraw (Washington), Christy Metzger (Maries), Brenda Johnson (Maries), Wayne Langston (Maries), Danny Brown (Crawford), Bruce Cox (Gasconade), Erin Adamson (Phelps)

**Guests:**

**MRPC Staff Present:** Kelly Sink, Orin Pogue

**Call to Order and Introductions:** Chair Greg Edwards called the meeting to order at 12:06 pm. He noted that there were no guests or new members to introduce.

**Approval of Minutes from the February 20, 2024, Zoom meeting:** Minutes were sent prior to the meeting and Greg Edwards asked if everyone had a chance to review and approve. Jerry Lairmore made a motion to approve the minutes. Gary Larson seconded the motion. *Motion passed to approve the minutes.*

**Election of Officers:** Officers were elected, per the bylaws. Officers were elected for a one-year term, and cannot serve more than three terms in a given office. Greg Edwards suggested keeping the current slate of two-term officers for one more year. Gary Hicks noted he has served in each on the officer positions. Gary Larson agreed to serve. Vic Stratman made a motion to accept each two-term member to their respective third term, move Danny Brown to Secretary for his first term, and add Gary Larson to a first term as Vice Chairman. Darryl Griffin seconded the motion. *Motion passed.* Officers and terms as follows:

Dr. Greg Edwards, Chairman	Term 3
Gary Larson, Vice Chairman	Term 1
Vic Stratman, Treasurer	Term 3
Danny Brown, Secretary	Term 1

**4. Annual Lease Agreement with MRPC:** The annual lease agreement between MCEC and MRPC on behalf of the Region I Homeland Security Oversight Committee (MRPC

HSOC) was presented. The agreement is for the lease of a cargo trailer. The amendment extends the lease term until June 30, 2025. Gary Larson made a motion to approve with second by Jerry Lairmore. *Motion passed.*

**5. Naturally Meramec DRA project:** Orin Pogue gave a report on the activities and milestones of the DRA funded program to benefit Naturally Meramec members. He updated the board on planned certifications, and classes. A livestock and produce composting class will be hosted by RGM Farms in Bourbon and conducted by MU Extension. The website update has been procured and CS Designs from Potosi, MO will be updating and improving the website. Facebook has now been set up so members can use it a food hub and promote products and purchase products from each other. He noted the upcoming Washington County Farm Tour and ‘Taste of’ event.

### **Business / Reports:**

**MCEC Project Updates:** Kelly Sink noted the only current project is the Naturally Meramec project that Orin just presented.

**MCEC Grant Updates:** Kelly Sink updated the board on the EPA application that MST has partnered with MCEC to apply for funds. 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 or mini-split heating and cooling. 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. MST continues to work with SMTS to develop a budget inclusive of all foreseeable costs.

**Approval of financials:** Kelly Sink presented April 2024 financials including the Revenue and Expense Report and Balance Sheet. She noted that the Naturally Meramec grant is currently in process and passes through. The main expense is the two-year audit that was recently completed. Gary Hicks made a motion to approve the Revenue and Expense report with second by Vic Stratman. *Motion was approved.* Gary Hicks made a motion to approve the Balance Sheet with a second by Gary Larson. *Motion was approved.*

**Approval of budget:** Kelly Sink noted that fiscal has been short staffed and has not yet completed the FY 24-25 budget. Once completed, a Zoom meeting will be scheduled to review and approve.

### **Items of Interest:**

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

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

Approved by the Board September 20, 2024

  
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Dr. Greg Edwards, Chairman