**Members Present:** In person: Jared Niederer (Gasconade County), Ashley Harris (Maries), Randy Becht (Pulaski), Richard Cavender (MRCF At-Large), Gary Larson (MRPC A-Large), Bonnie Prigge (MRPC At-Large), and Steve Vogt (MRPC At-Large). By Zoom: Tony Hayden (Osage.

**Guests Present:** Luge Hardman

**Staff Present:** Bobbie Bailey.

**Call to order and Pledge of Allegiance:** Chairman Niederer called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. and led the group with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of Minutes:** The board reviewed the meeting minutes from July 16, 2024. Cavender made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Vogt. Motion passed.

**Missouri’s Plans for Route 66 Centennial Celebration:** Luge Hardman, member of the Governor’s MO Route 66 Centennial Committee, provided information on the state’s plans for the 100-year anniversary of Route 66 and funding opportunities for the Route 66 initiatives. Information is on <https://celebratemo66.com>. The board discussed ways to promote Route 66 as a region instead of individual cities/counties to give tourist many options and how <https://naturallymeramec.org> has many of the options already available. They would like to see the websites linked.

**Board Terms and Vacancies:** Crawford (no recommendation yet), Dent (a couple of prospects that need to be approached), Phelps (Sherry Stites, Brandon Beeley, and Bob Collins are prospects) and Washington (TR Dudley is willing to serve) Counties continue to have vacancies, and the board discussed people who could help them find members. Cavender made a motion to appoint TR Dudley to Washington County, seconded by Becht. Motion passed. Prigge will reach out to Sherry Stites and see if she is interested. If not, she will talk to Brandon Beeley.

**MRCF Goals and Action Plan Updates:** At the July meeting the board identified two focus areas: Growing scholarships and filling board vacancies. The board discussed strategies for possible scholarships and growth opportunities. Prigge will reach out to CFO and see what they use to get the word out to others about starting scholarships and update our brochure to hand out to potential donors.

**MRCF Community Updates:** Board members shared information on philanthropy efforts related MRC occurring in their communities and region. Prigge shared the Phelps County Community Foundation is doing to partner with the Letters Program for all Phelps County Schools to increase reading scores. Harris reported that Belle is hosting a Fall Festival and car show, YaYa’s Battle of the Bulls, Christmas Event, Outkast Baseball Grant for new indoor and outdoor facility, and World’s Largest Cow Bell. Bland is having a Fall Festival with Truck and Tractor Pull. Becht discussed Gasconade County grant for the trail to go city limit to city limit, Fair Foundation has $1,000,000 project released for bids for Youth and Ag Education Center on the fairgrounds, Rock Island grant will start on east side of Owensville and go as far as possible.

**Closing Remarks & Adjournment**:

**Next MRCF board meeting** – Tentatively set for October 17, 2024 @ 1:30 p.m., MRPC large conference room.

Vogt made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Cavender. Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:00 a.m.

**Approved by the board on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 2024.**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Jared Niederer, Board Chair**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Attested by Secretary or other MRCF Officer**