

**Meramec Regional Planning Commission**  
**Minutes**  
**November 14, 2024**

**Call to Order**

Chairman Mary Heywood called the Nov. 14, 2024, meeting of the Meramec Regional Planning Commission to order at 7:31 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, Erik Lowes, Gary Larson, Vic Stratman, Steve Vogt, Ray Schwartz, Steve Smyth, Darryl Griffin, Joey Auxier, Dawn Bell, Kent Bagnall, Matt McCarter, Shane Anselm, Taisia Gordon and Mary Heywood. Board members participating vis Zoom were Tammy Bruckerhoff, John Casey, T.T. Dudley, Rich Eisterhold, Patricia Heaney, Tai Kimes, and Anita Ivey. MRPC staff members participating in person were Bonnie Prigge, Tammy Snodgrass, Linda Loughridge, Caitlin Jones and Linda Carroll. MRPC staff members Anne Freand and Donald Keeney participated via Zoom. Guests participating via Zoom were Sydney Roberts from SEMA and Payton DeBroeck with Rep. Mark Alford's office.

**Consent Agenda**

The following consent agenda items were presented for approval:

- a. Minutes – Sept. 12, 2024
- b. Local Review  
None.
- c. State Review  
None.

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

- Clear Water Therapy

Permission is requested for MRPC/s chairman and/or executive director to enter into a technical assistant contract for grant writing for various grants as identified by Clear Water Therapy, 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 enter into a technical assistant contract for grant administration for a CDBG Wastewater grant, and for MRPC's chairman and/or executive director to sign any necessary documents.

- St. James Caring Center

Permission is requested for MRPC/s chairman and/or executive director to enter into a technical assistant contract for grant writing for a USDA Community Food Projects Competitive Grants Program, and for MRPC's chairman and/or executive director to sign any necessary documents.

Sept. 27, 2024: MRPC Executive Director entered into a technical assistance contract with Frisbee Engineering for an asbestos inspection at 1000 Hospital Rd., Waynesville, MO.

Presiding Commissioner Gary Larson made a motion to approve the consent agenda with noted additions; Commissioner Ray Schwartze seconded. The motion carried.

**Presentation: Risk Map Program,** Sydney Roberts, Floodplain Engineering and Mapping Section Manager for the Missouri State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA).

Ms. Roberts provided an overview of the Risk Map program, which is developing new, updated floodplain maps, and provided updates on the process for the counties in the Meramec Region. She mentioned that with her was SEMA's contractor, Steve Noe, and if anyone had any technical based questions at the end of her presentation, he would be able to answer those questions.

Risk Map is a program led by FEMA that provides communities with flood risk data and tools to assist in the planning and decision making process, she said. Key goals of the program are:

- Increase community resilience
- Improve public safety
- Support sustainable development
- Enable effective mitigation actions
- Enhance collaboration and communication

Ms. Roberts also explained that there are six steps in the Risk Map Life Cycle:

- Pre-discovery – research begins to understand the needs, resources and capabilities to support the community.
- Discovery – gathering of local information about the community's natural hazards and associated risks begins.
- Data development – data collection and model development begin. Draft flood map is complete and presented at Flood Risk Review meeting.
- Preliminary – preliminary maps are distributed to the communities for comment and appeal.
- Post-preliminary – open houses are held at the request of the community. Administrative checks and final quality reviews take place.
- Effective – data is transferred from the Outreach portal to the Public Awareness portal.

She informed the board she believes Dent and Washington counties are already effective counties and have what is called BLE, or base level engineering models. Those are already in effect and on the effective website. Ms. Roberts said that some BLEs do not go through the regulatory process. They essentially stop at the data development phase and don't move on to preliminary or post-preliminary activities. Counties going through the 2D remapping process will go through all six life cycle steps. She said the 2D models have more comprehensive data than the 1D models, which helps when building terrain and developing digital elevation models.

Ms. Roberts gave an overview of how SEMA handles the modeling process, which is essentially defining the description for the ground. It includes building the terrain and developing digital elevation models, as well as looking at and developing those domains in hydrology.

Ms. Roberts said that SEMA uses a combination of the USGS hydrologic unit codes (HCUs0 and the Missouri hydrologic unit codes (MUCs). Once the ground is defined and domains are identified, the next step is developing the mesh and adding in break lines (roads) and hydro connectors (bridges and culverts). She explained that this helps the model see the flow of water

and simulate that flow under those crossings. Once the mesh is created and refinements are made to the model, the model will be calibrated with rainfall information and the final mapping product will be developed. Ms. Roberts said SEMA is using lidar to collect more detailed information per mesh cell. It also helps to better establish existing conditions and enhances the assessment of the volume of runoff or retention per future changes.

She said the products SEMA is developing are not standard FEMA products but are supplemental products that will further help SEMA to communicate risk in your communities. SEMA will be collecting lidar footprints for any structure that's 500 square feet or larger, she said. By creating an intersection between those building structures and the floodplain, it will show what structures will be impacted by the special flood hazard area. Information will also be provided for the highest and lowest adjacent grade, as well as the water surface elevation. There will also be depth grids developed that show high deep the water is going to be at any point along the road.

Ms. Roberts also said there are what SEMA calls freeboard boundaries. How stable does that floodplain look? What would happen if those boundaries were increased by 1, 2, or even 3 feet? A digital elevation model is also included so the ground surface elevation can be viewed.

Other than Dent and Washington counties which are in the effective step, Ms. Roberts provided the status of the other counties in the Meramec Region. Maries County went into the preliminary step this past month. Osage, Gasconade, Pulaski, Phelps and Crawford are currently in the data development phase. She said she anticipates all of these counties are going to move into the preliminary map production process in spring 2025.

This will be the final step before the maps move into the stricter due process phase, said Ms. Roberts. Comments can typically be accepted at any time throughout the process, but once the maps get closer to the 90-day comment and appeal period, it gets increasingly more difficult to implement those changes. She added that she's anticipating that Maries County will likely initiate that 90-day comment and appeal period around February or March of 2025.

Ms. Roberts encouraged those board members who haven't interacted with SEMA's project outreach site in the past to do so. She suggested they get engaged with the data, especially from the planning perspective and utilize the available information in potential future planning projects. An additional resource she mentioned was the floodplain user's portal. Any local engineers or planners working on projects can go here to submit project data submissions or headgrass model requests.

She said there is also a public awareness portal that will house the final project. This portal will also house the building footprints, the water surface elevation rasters, depth, and freeboard boundaries. Ms. Roberts provided her and her staff's contact information for any member wanting more information.

Sydney Roberts, <a href="mailto:Sydney.Roberts@sema.dps.mo.gov">Sydney.Roberts@sema.dps.mo.gov</a>	573-526-9383
Patrick Lower, <a href="mailto:Patrick.Lower@sema.dps.mo.gov">Patrick.Lower@sema.dps.mo.gov</a>	573-526-9229
Jacob Wornson, <a href="mailto:Jacob.Wornson@sema.dps.mo.gov">Jacob.Wornson@sema.dps.mo.gov</a>	573-526-9371

Anne Freand, MPRC Planning Manager, asked if the portal was going to be separate from FEMA's existing map portal and would it be specific to Missouri. Ms. Roberts said the public awareness portal is going to be specific to Missouri. She said the reason they have it there is because the map service center does have its issues from time to time. By helping to really crop that data into our scale, it'll be much quicker to access. For any effective products, she still encouraged members to go to the MAP service center because she said this website is essentially going to be used for research purposes.

Bonnie Prigge, MRPC Executive Director, asked Ms. Roberts if the portal was available now. She replied it was and that there are nine counties currently in the portal now, with an additional four that will be added shortly.

Bonnie asked board members that were affected by the recent flooding to share what occurred in their areas.

Presiding Commissioner Gary Larson, Dent County – He said parts of the county had 15-19 inches of rain and multiple roads were washed out. The county also lost a \$60,000 bridge that was just built, he said. Montauk State Park was hit hard, and work has begun on repairs. He said FEMA has already been to the office and the county has been declared a disaster area. The hardest part will be dealing with the FEMA paperwork because there are two new commissioners coming in that are new to dealing with this sort of event and the FEMA paperwork that will be required.

He said that the south part of the county got hit harder than the north, which is nearly back to normal. In the south, he said crews are photographing and documenting the damage.

Presiding Commissioner Joey Auxier, Phelps County – He reported that most of the damage was in the southern part of the county in the direction of Beulah and Edgar Springs. A box bridge had some damage, but crews added a bunch of gravel. It's not back to normal, but it's open, he said. He added that everything's back open and said he thinks the county will hit its disaster mark where it'll be eligible for some funding. He said road crews are tracking materials used in repairs and are documenting all work. He said the county was fortunate in that its road superintendent has been through FEMA twice so submitting to FEMA won't be as difficult as it will be for Dent County. In addition to that, Phelps County didn't have as much damage as Dent County did.

Presiding Commissioner Steve Black, Crawford County – There were numerous county roads washed out, bridges destroyed and flash flooding through the middle of Steelville and six county buildings took on water. Flood waters have forced the county assessor and collector out of their offices. The county has had SERVPRO in removing everything in these offices, rugs, drywall and equipment. Computers and all kinds of electrical equipment were destroyed, and several vehicles were a total loss. Nothing got in the courthouse, but the old extension office had about three and one half feet of water in it. That building may be a total loss as it wasn't in very good shape. He said Brett Hendrix with SEMA was on sight early Tuesday morning and then I believe he was planning on heading to Salem.

Chairman Mary Heywood – Bourbon sits on a ridge so there were no issues there, unless you wanted to go north or south.

Presiding Commissioner Vic Stratman, Maries County – He reported the county only got about 3.5 to 5 inches of rain and the ponds all held a lot of the water. He said he thought there were only a few ponds that even filled. There was some road damage close to the river and the river did almost cross Highway 63.

Commissioner Jason Ward, Steelville – The majority of the civil business had some flooding issues. He said water did get into the city's utility shed. He reported that SERVPRO was there when he went to work Tuesday morning with an army to start the cleanup process.

Pulaski County – Ms. Prigge reported that the Roubideaux River got a little wild around the Waynesville area. She said she was in a meeting with Mayor Wilson earlier today and he mentioned that most of the Little Heroes Park was lost. The pads and other items were several feet down the river.

Ms. Prigge explained that MRPC provides floodplain management services for a few of the jurisdictions in the Meramec Region and asked Tammy Snodgrass, as floodplain manager, to share what her and her staff found as they went out and conducted damage assessments.

Tammy reported that she and Chuck Cantrell have been out conducting damage assessments. She explained that it's a requirement if you're a member of the NFIP to do formal damage assessments of all properties located with the floodplain. She said they found there were a lot of properties outside the floodplain that got wet. She added that sometimes it's hard to tell, but said they were trying to concentrate on the properties in the floodplain since that's what the requirement is. We found that probably the majority of the flooding in residential homes was basements and lower levels. She said they weren't seeing too many homes with substantial damage. Ms. Snodgrass said it was worse along the Meramec River because it got wilder than the Gasconade River. She added there was at least one home in Crawford County that was totaled.

Water in basements was the issue for residences in Salem and Phelps County, she said. Maries County probably had the least amount of damage. Ms. Snodgrass said it could have been a lot worse and said she really expected to find a lot of substantial damage in homes. A lot of people got wet in the unmarked floodplains and had no insurance, so some are having really big hardships.

Presiding Commissioner Gary Larson reported that Dent County did lose a couple of houses down near Montauk. He said there are some cabins down there where only the foundation remains, and one house was up on stilts, and it's now turned sideways.

Ms. Prigge said there was some damage down at Meramec Springs as well. Commissioner Jason Ward mentioned he drove by Meramec Springs on Tuesday evening and said it's the first time he's seen what was literally road water. It was just water as far as he could see, he said. The rafting company floods every time you turn around, but to see Meramec Springs State Park was just crazy.

Ms. Prigge said we'd just wait and see where everything falls and if any more counties get disaster declarations and then go from there.

Presiding Commissioner Larson asked Presiding Commissioner Darryl Griffin if Osage County had seen any flooding issues. He said not that he knew of and said they only got a total of 5 inches. He said the ground soaked it up pretty quick.

Ms. Prigge asked Commissioner T.R. Dudley, who attended virtually, if Washington County had any issues. He reported the firehouse flooded and was inaccessible. In addition, there were a lot of flooded basements, street closures, water over bridges and closed highways. None of which he said he'd call really substantial damage other than some residential flooding.

Ms. Prigge also asked Tricia Heaney with the city of Hermann, who also attended virtually, if Hermann had any flooding. Commissioner Heaney said her heart goes out to all who were impacted because Hermann has obviously seen some of that before but this time the city didn't have any flooding.

**Update from State and Federal Legislators:**

Payton DeBroeck with Rep. Mark Alford's office:

Ms. DeBroeck reported there wasn't much in the way of a legislative report tonight but did mention that everyone went back into session this week.



She said the past couple days have been filled with caucus elections, both on the Democrat and Republican side as far as she knows. Congress is trying to get the leadership set for the Republican party, as they get ready to think about what the next congress is going to look like. She said that as far as she understands, the next item that everybody will start to tackle is the budget, as that does need to be done before Christmas as she believes Dec. 30th is the deadline.

Ms. DeBroeck said she has not heard anything about the farm bill, which expired in September. She said the congressman has been hopeful something would get done before the end of the year but said she has not heard any word on if it'll come to the floor before the end of the session in the next couple of weeks.

She said she did get married, so her last name finally matches her business cards if anyone has one of her new ones. Ms. DeBroeck informed the board her email isn't changing. It will remain the same: [Payton.Ruddy@mail.house.gov](mailto:Payton.Ruddy@mail.house.gov). As always, she encouraged members to reach out to her if they needed assistance.

Ms. DeBroeck said her heart goes out to those with damage by all that flooding. Seeing those pictures come in, she said she can only imagine what the counties are dealing with to get it all that fixed. If there's ever anything we can do as you guys are navigating FEMA, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. She said the office is more than happy to help as much as they can if anyone is hitting any snags getting through the FEMA funding process.

Presiding Commissioner Darryl Griffin asked Ms. DeBroeck if the Congressman had any plans to visit this area. She said she didn't know what the district travel looked like for the rest of the year but would definitely add it to the list.

#### **Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC): Anne Freand**

Anne reported on transportation activities as follows:

The TAC did have a meeting in October, she said. Ms. Frean highlighted some of the issues from that meeting:

- Forward 44 project – Preston Kramer, MoDOT engineer, gave an update on the project and said the final results should be available in April.
- Transportation Engineering Assistance Program (TEAP) – There were three projects submitted and two of those are moving forward. One of those projects was in Phelps County.
- County unfunded needs – Ms. Freand said that she, Bonnie and Preston have visited six of the eight counties in the Meramec Region to discuss unfunded needs. She said meetings with Pulaski and Gasconade counties will take place in the next week or two.
- Multi-modal TAC – The first meeting was held on Sept. 20. This committee is comprised of representatives from transit, bike and pedestrian, rail, ports and airports. There is a meeting tomorrow where the group will be working on a list of needs for each of those different modes of transportation. In February, the regular TAC and the multi-modal TAC will hold a joint meeting to discuss the high priority unfunded needs.
- Safe Streets for All grant – She said she and Orin Pogue, MRPC, have visited seven of the eight counties in the region and although the public turnout was lower than anticipated, there are public surveys for each of the counties. Osage County's meeting will take place next Wednesday. Ms. Freand reported that information on the grant has been shared on social media and in area newspapers and said the public's input is important.
- Show-Me Zero Fatalities – Caitlin Jones gave an update on fatalities in the region which are holding steady. She also gave some updates on the Show-Me Zero Conference and shared information on some education resources and traffic gardens.

- BRO program – Joanie Prenger with MoDOT reminded the board that the deadline for BRO applications is tomorrow, and that announcement of selected projects will be made mid-January.

Ms. Freand mentioned that MoDOT has appointed Ed Hessinger as its new director. Ms. Prigge said that Mr. Hessinger has been with MoDOT for at least 40 years and had worked with Director McKenna for the last seven or eight years that Director McKenna was there. She said MRPC has worked with him on projects before, so he knows who we are and where we're at, which doesn't hurt.

Ms. Prigge reminded the board that December's TAC meeting will be the one where road and bridge projects are prioritized. She said the committee will also be taking a look at BRO projects and prioritizing those. She said MRPC will be meeting on BRO for the Central District on Dec. 19. Ms. Freand asked anyone that's identified a new priority that wasn't on the list last year to provide pictures of that new priority. She also reminded everyone that December's TAC meeting will start at 3:30 p.m.

**External Relations Committee:** Shane Anselm, chair

Commissioner Anselm reported on External Relations activities as follows:

The committee reviewed the results of the state legislative survey and there were several edits and suggestions made. Once staff has reviewed any suggestions from the other two committees and updated the survey, it will be sent out for prioritization. The committee also discussed the federal legislative priorities survey, which is due tomorrow. Participation is key and Commissioner Anselm encouraged members to submit their surveys if they haven't already.

Due to technical difficulties, the committee wasn't able to review the results of the annual dinner survey. If you attended the dinner and haven't already filled out an evaluation either on-line or a hard copy, he encouraged members to take the time to do so. Hard copies were available, he said. Results of the evaluation will be provided at the December meeting.

If you haven't gotten a copy of the Annual Report, there are copies available. Commissioner Anselm also mentioned that if any county or city noticed its information is incorrect on the MRPC website, Caitlin is in the process of updating that information.

Staff provided a handout on legislative updates.

**Operations Committee:** Jason Ward

Commissioner Ward reported on operations activities as follows:

The committee reviewed MRPC/MRB and MRPC/MRDC-RLF and IRP program financial statements for the period ended Oct. 31, 2024.

Commissioner Jason Ward made a motion to approve the financials for the period ending Oct. 31, 2024; Ray Schwartze seconded. The motion carried.

Staff updated the committee on MRDC and the SBA 504 loan program.

A proposed procurement policy revision was tabled, and the committee discussed the state legislative priorities.

**Planning Committee:** Joey Auxier, chair

Presiding Commissioner Auxier reported on planning activities as follows:

The committee focused its discussion on Goal One of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Commissioner Auxier said there was going to have to be some more elaboration on benchmarks to measure economic success in the region.

The committee reviewed the state legislative priorities and will be submitting any suggestions to Tammy.

**Housing Board:** Steve Black

Commissioner Black reported on housing activities as follows:

Donald Keeny reviewed two recent notices sent to landlords by the Phelps County Housing Authority (PHA) regarding inspection and unit changes. The first notice said smoke alarms must be either hardwired or have a 10 year non rechargeable battery, which is sealed and tamper resistant. Also, additional locations throughout the units will need to have working smoke alarms. The second notice sent out to the landlords informed them that as of Dec. 31, 2024, the use of unvented fuel burning heaters is no longer allowed due to the risk of carbon monoxide exposure. And then Donald updated the board on the current lease, lease up rates, the current waiting list, and the number of families searching for housing by county.

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

Ms. Snodgrass reported that the special collection held on Sept. 28 in Vienna collected 70 tons of waste and said approximately five tons of that was tires. Thirty-nine cars came through the collection. In St. Robert on Oct. 26, approximately three tones of e-waste, appliances and tires was collected from 70 cars that came through the collection.

She informed the board that the Ozark Rivers Solid Waste Management District made final decisions on grants on Nov. 12. The district awarded \$143,768.17 in grants for recycling and waste reduction projects.

On the floodplain management, Ms. Snodgrass said she and Chuck Cantrell think they have covered most of the jurisdictions that MRPC has contracts with.

She said Chuck had indicated there were couple of instances where county roads were closed in Crawford County. Commissioner Black said he believes that as of Tuesday, there might have been one or two still shut down, but he wasn't sure. They're still in very bad shape though, he said.

Ms. Snodgrass told the commissioner she may check with his office before going out to try those last areas to make sure she and Chuck can get through to look at the properties. She also mentioned the state has pushed down a couple of documents that they want developed for all the cities and counties in the NFIP. Once we get the flood issues taken care of, she said she would contact each of the counties about a damage assessment plan that they want as well as a procedural document set up for county floodplain activities.

She mentioned that Ozark Rivers will hold its award banquet on Dec. 10 at the MRPC offices. A short business meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. followed by the banquet.

A handout was provided.



**Business Loans:** Linda Loughridge, Fiscal Officer

Ms. Prigge reported on the joint meeting between the executive committee of MRPC and the executive committee of the Meramec Regional Development Corporation (MRDC) that was held yesterday to discuss the future of the SBA 504 loan program.

Over the course of the last several months, we've talked about the deficit that MRPC has incurred with MRDC. Basically, MRPC has a professional services contract with the MRDC, which is a standalone 501c3 that is a certified development company that packages 504 SBA loans. It's gap financing done in partnership with banks for those businesses that cannot secure the financing on its own, she said.

You may remember in our annual report, you see that MRPC had an \$89,000 deficit as of June 30, 2024. \$37,000 of that was a subsidy to MRDC. Basically, that means that we provided \$37,000 worth of services that MRDC could not pay for. MRPC has subsidized this program to the tune of about \$98,000 over a five year time period, said Ms. Prigge.

She said the only way they really have to generate revenue is through the packaging fees on loans and the servicing fees that can that go with that once the loan is closed. Those fees have, have dropped from about \$90,000 to about\$ 36,000, over the course of the last five to seven years. That basically means we're not making more we're not making the loans, then when a project fails, it's foreclosed on, or it's liquidated, we no longer get the servicing fee, she said.

Ms. Prigge explained that in the midst of that, we've also had SBA Smart Reviews, which are compliance reviews. There was a review in 2014 which was still being dealt with in 2016, then another in 202 and one in 2024. She said there was a new component in this last review where they really delved into the loan files. So, in addition to all the procedural policies and risk assessment policies and bylaws, they were delving into the loan files to see what was there and what wasn't there. SBA on those loans had to be documented, and sometimes that documentation wasn't there. They had to be provided to SBA in order to get the loan.

But if they weren't in the file, then we were dinged and we dealt with that. On Nov. 6 we got a follow-up letter on the smart review. It's 30 pages long of things they want us to do, said Ms. Prigge. They want a corrective action plan within 45 days, and they want everything resolved to SBA satisfaction within 120 days, which is a huge amount of time, said Ms. Prigge. She added that it took about 3 months to pull everything together just for their initial request. So, because we're pretty much a one person show in that area, if we're dealing with the smart review, then we're not making loans in partnership with banks and we're not marketing the program, she said.

Ms. Prigge reported that on top of that, Bobbie Bailey, MRPC's primary business loan specialist, submitted her resignation and I totally understand why. It's a very stressful situation for her, especially just trying to learn the program. She's been here since February and the budget has not allowed us to send her to professional training on SBA specifically. With SBA, we are a member of the National Association of Development Organizations, but their training is very costly and usually on the East Coast or the West Coast.

If Bobbie leaves, the smart review will fall on primarily Linda Loughridge as a supervisor. Any loans that might happen would fall on her as well, said Ms. Prigge. Ms. Loughridge was hired to do fiscal and that's where she's needed as fiscal is already shorthanded.

Ms. Prigge reported it was a good meeting between MRDC and MRPC and said she believes everybody's prepared. She said her recommendation during that meeting was that MRPC give MRDC 60 days' notice that we are exiting the professional services contract. The goal would be to complete the work the two organizations agree on by January 15th. That would include closing out

one loan project and completing the annual report that is due December 31st for the June 30th year end. That includes the audit. But we would not do the independent loan review, which is about another \$1,000 that we would have to contract out, said Ms. Prigge. She added that MRDC would not answer the smart review and just let SBA have the documents. The next step would be to look at an exit strategy. The MRDC executive committee asked us to go ahead and contact SBA and find out what that process is. She said the committee looked up the code of federal regulations, which was very vague, but did say that SBA has to agree to whatever is proposed.

Ms. Prigge explained what would happen with MRDC's loan portfolio and nonprofit status.

- The loan portfolio would be transferred to another certified development corporation and MRDC could make a recommendation on that, but SBA would make the final decision.
- MRDC would maintain its 501c3 nonprofit status in the event future programs in economic development could benefit from that nonprofit status.
- MRDC would continue to be the loan committee for the RLF loans. The bankers said they saw some value in that and would like to continue with those loans. She said most of the revolving loan funds are owned by MRPC so that program will continue. Working with the EDA is a lot less cumbersome than working with SBA, she said.

Ms. Prigge said she feels like this has really placed a heavy drain on MRPC's financials and it's going to continue to do so this year. MRPC is about \$20,000 down, as of October, she said. Some funds will be freed up with Bobbie leaving, but there are still things that will fall to Linda and I to do.

So, but that is my recommendation to the board. I believe the executive committee of both MRPC and MRDC are in agreement with that, but I would let some of the executive board members who were there, some of the officers that were there yesterday, take it from there.

Chairman Heywood said she believe she speaks for the rest of the executive committee when saying the committee decided that it's run its life. She said when the program was started, there were not very many entities in our area that were doing SBA loans. But over the years, there's larger and, more efficient, people doing those types of loans. I know it's time to get out, she said. She added that MRDC just hasn't had the loan volume because there doesn't seem to be as much need for the service as in the past. Ms. Prigge added that there were two loans last year and the program is expensive to operate for just two loans a year.

Chairman Joey Auxier made a motion to terminate the SBA contract with MRDC; Commissioner Jason Ward seconded. The motion carried.

Ms. Prigge concluded her report by informing the board there is RLF money to loan. RLF funds can be used as working capital loans, so there are loan opportunities available.

**Meramec Community Enhancement Corporation (MCEC): Gary Larson**

No report was given.

**Meramec Regional Community Foundation (MRCF): Bonnie Prigge**

Ms. Prigge reported there is a meeting on Nov. 25. Winter Grant, CRO's new executive director, will be attending as will Judy Cantoni. On the agenda will be a discussion about grant criteria. MRCF's grant program will open in January and the board will be looking at what that will look like this year.

She mentioned the group is looking for representatives from Crawford, Phelps and Dent counties. Commissioner T.R. Dudley agreed to represent Washington County.

### Chairman's Report

Chairman Heywood reminded board members to complete the legislative priorities survey and turn it in to Tammy Snodgrass by tomorrow.

### Director's Report

Ms. Prigge pointed out several funded or awarded projects since the last MRPC meeting. Projects she mentioned included:

- City of Salem – The city received a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to upgrade its wastewater treatment facility.
- City of Rolla – The city secured a Land and Water Conservation grant for improvements to Ber Juan Park.
- Washington County – The Delta Regional Authority (DRA) funded two low water crossing bridges and some smaller, but important, projects.
- City of Meta – The city received a Land and Water Conservation grant for improvements at the new Meta Elementary Memorial Park.
- City of St. James – The city secured a Land and Water Conservation grant for improvements to the outfields of Courtney Field and West Field.
- Washinton County – received a Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Non-Playground Scrap Tire grant.

She also congratulated Commissioner Dawn Bell on being selected for the DRA Leadership Institute. An intense training program that takes place over the course of nine or ten months. Nichole Zielke, MRPC grant writer, just finished the course and found it rewarding, said Ms. Prigge. Kelly Sink, MRPC Project Development Manager, also went through the program.

Other topics she touched on included:

- Naturally Meramec program – This project has come to an end, but the website will continue to be maintained under MRPC's EDA grant to continue to promote tourism and agricultural businesses. The site is currently undergoing some updates.
- Fort Leonard Wood Military Installation – Work continues on this project.
- The RFP for the housing study will be released soon. This is a four county study which includes Phelps and Pulaski counties.

### Adjourn

Shane Anselm made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Ray Schwartz seconded the motion. The motion carried.

  
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Mary Heywood, chair

  
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Attest

