

MINUTES
Meramec Local Emergency Planning District
12:30 p.m.
Wednesday, March 26, 2025
MRPC Office
4 Industrial Drive, St. James, MO 65559

CALL TO ORDER:

Jeff Breen called the March 26, 2025, meeting of the Meramec Local Emergency Planning District to order at 12:35 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Members participating in-person were Darren Dake, Jeff Breen, John Marti and Chuck Fisher. Steve Vogt and Jeff Arnold participated via Zoom.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Tim Ware, Mike Plank, Derrick Marfitt, Clyde Zelch, Doug Drewel, Scott John, Ron Hoffman, Kim Sallin, Linda Smith, Joshua Krull, Margaret Biolsi, Wendy Squires, Joshua Pearson, Ron Jones, Mark Diedrich, Doug Roberts, Shawnee Douglas, John Lucas, Kraig Bone, Floyd Haworth, Sarah Tary and Matt Hart.

STAFF & GUESTS PRESENT:

MRPC staff present were Tammy Snodgrass, Bonnie Prigge, Samantha Sherman and Bethany Ferrell. Guest Steve Runnel with the National Weather Service was also in attendance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

John Marti made a motion to approve the agenda. Jeff Arnold seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

John Marti made a motion to approve the minutes. Darren Dake seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Bethany Ferrell, MRPC, presented the financials for the month ending Feb. 28, 2025. She reported that from October to February, revenues exceeded expenditures by \$4,753. A new grant and miscellaneous revenue contributed to this. Accounts receivable totaled \$13,514, which included Phelps County CEPF funds and the Vesper Grant. She mentioned that administration for the LEPC was over the year-to-date budget at 111% and that remaining grant funds and miscellaneous revenue would be used to cover extra administrative costs.

Steve Vogt made a motion to approve the financials for the month ending Feb. 28, 2025. Chuck Fisher seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

Legislative Report on Reinstating Tier II Fees

Tammy Snodgrass provided an update on the legislation to reinstate fees, mentioning two bills: HB70 and SB10. HB70, if passed, would eliminate the year without funds and funds would again be collected beginning in January 2026, she said. SB10 would eliminate the sunset on MERC funds and several other types of funds. The committee expressed optimism that something would get passed, but there were concerns about the potential gap year without funds.

Bonnie Prigge mentioned she had a conversation last week with MRPC's State Association lobbyist about the potential combination of two options, including a no sunset provision, and the possibility of attaching an amendment to a Public Safety Bill.

Tammy mentioned the concern of businesses not reporting due to the lack of fees. The Firefighters Association provides updates on bills, and Tammy expressed concern about the risks of combining bills. She also shared that most counties ignored their request for funding, with only Maries County and Phelps County responding negatively. Tammy discussed the need for updating plans, advertising for community right-to-know, and maintaining Tier IIs on file. She also mentioned receiving more Tier II information than usual and the need to organize and input the data.

Discussion on Priorities if Funding is not Reinstated for 2025

With the uncertainty surrounding funding for the upcoming fiscal year, Tammy suggested the group wait until June for more information before making decisions. She proposes updating only the Tier II information in the plan, which is crucial for emergency response personnel. Tammy also recommended considering the use of reserve funds and exploring the possibility of incorporating Hazmat aspects into existing tabletop exercises or planning hands-on exercises to meet requirements. She mentioned an upcoming exercise at the airport that could potentially be used for this purpose, noting that pre-approval from the customer would be necessary.

Report on Staff Activities

Tammy discussed the approval of a \$2,500 grant from Vesper Energy. She also mentioned a pipeline exercise that resulted in a windfall of \$500 for the MLEPD. The SEMA MERC Grant was secured for training, with five classes approved, but due to scheduling issues, only four classes were offered, she said. She expressed her struggle in getting Chamois Fire to respond and the need to schedule the remaining classes.

Tammy also mentioned a grant for gas meters, which were requested by fire departments. She said she was able to purchase fifteen meters and discussed the distribution of the meters to the fire departments, emphasizing the need for training and maintenance agreements. Tammy mentioned that the equipment would be ready by mid-May and said she planned to have everything in hand by the end of April. She also mentioned the need for a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the gas meters. Tammy expressed optimism about meeting the grant deadline of May 15.

The group discussed the need for more representatives from various sectors and counties. Tammy provided an update on grants and training and mentioned the search for a new executive director for the MERC.

NEW BUSINESS:

Steve Runnel, National Weather Service, highlighted recent severe weather events, including tornadoes and wildfires, and explained available weather services such as hotspot notifications and spot forecasts.

REPORT FROM MERC REPRESENTATIVE

No report was given.

REPORT FROM SEMA REPRESENTATIVE

No report was given.

REPORT FROM MDNR REPRESENTATIVE

No report was given.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF UPCOMING MEETINGS

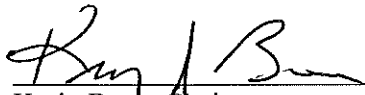
June 25 Aug. 20 Nov. 5

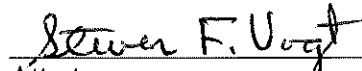
MISCELLANEOUS

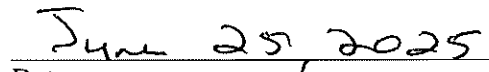
Jeff Breen reported no significant hazmat incidents from the recent tornado, and the group briefly discussed a previous tanker incident before adjourning the meeting.


ADJOURNMENT:

John Marti made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Steve Vogt seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.


Kraig Bone, Chairman


Attest


Date


Date

