

**Meramec Regional Planning Commission
Minutes
November 13, 2025**

Call to Order

Chair Darryl Griffin called the Nov. 13, 2025, meeting of the Meramec Regional Planning Commission to order at 7:32 p.m. The meeting was conducted in person and via Zoom.

Welcome

Chair Griffin welcomed everyone to the meeting. New board members were introduced and a brief discussion about a Christmas donation was held. Board members participating in person were Shane Anselm, Joey Auxier, Steve Black, Shawn Bolerjack, Earl Brown, Aimee Campbell, Tom Coots, T.R. Dudley, Darryl Griffin, Mary Heywood, Gary Larson, Ray Schwartze, John Smith, Steve Smyth, Paul Stratman, Vic Stratman, Marla Stevenson, Steve Vogt and Jason Ward. Board members participating via Zoom were Taisia Gordan and Patricia Heaney. MRPC staff members participating in person were Bonnie Prigge, Tammy Snodgrass, Linda Loughridge, Caitlin Jones and Linda Carroll. Donald Keeney, Anne Freand and Kelly Sink with MRPC participated via Zoom. Jerry Martin, Jr. with the Small Business Development Center at Missouri S&T was a guest speaker and participated in-person.

Consent Agenda

The following consent agenda items were presented for approval:

- a. Minutes – Sept. 11, 2025
- b. Local Review
None.
- c. State Review
 - 1. Missouri Department of Conservation, Jefferson City, MO
 - 15.608 – Fish and Wildlife Management Assistance
 - 2025 Missouri State Aquatic Nuisance Species Grant
 - Federal: \$86,250
 - State: \$28,750
 - Total: \$115,000

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

- MO Dept. of Safety—State Emergency Management Agency
Permission is requested for chair/executive director to sign a revised contract with SEMA for Pulaski County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update that includes a revised due date and change in compensation, and also sign any other documents associated with this contract.
- Missouri Department of Transportation
Permission is requested for the director/chair to sign an updated Master Agreement with the Missouri Department of Transportation as it relates to transportation planning activities.

Nov. 7, 2025: MRPC Executive Director entered into a technical assistance contract with Gene Mitchell and Sons Contracting for an asbestos inspection at 2021 Industrial Park Dr., Rolla, MO 65401

Commissioner T.R. Dudley made a motion to approve the consent agenda with noted additions; Commissioner Vic Stratman seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Presentation I: Small Business Development Center at Missouri S&T-Jerry Martin, Jr., Associate Director of Technology Transfer & Economic Development and Missouri SBDC Director of Innovation at Missouri S&T

Mr. Martin shared information on the work of the center and how it can help small businesses as they start up and expand.

He explained that the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) is SBA-funded, with services provided at no cost to businesses with 500 or fewer employees and \$50 million or less in revenue. Mr. Martin highlighted services including business counseling, strategic planning, funding assistance, and specialized help with SBIR/STTR no-dilutive funding.

Mr. Martin said his office serves all of the counties in the Meramec Region with the exception of Osage County and can help businesses from startup through growth and succession planning. Services provided by the SBDC include business planning, strategic planning, funding assistance, intellectual property guidance and disaster preparedness. He emphasized the SBDC can also help with international trade. Commissioner T.R. Dudley asked if they still encourage students to develop projects. Mr. Martin confirmed they do but added they now focus more on intellectual property and funding aspects. He encouraged board members to refer small businesses in their communities to SBDC for assistance.

Presentation II: Tammy Snodgrass, Environmental Programs Manager/Assistant Director

Tammy provided an overview of solid waste management in Missouri, focusing on the Ozark Rivers Solid Waste Management District and its programs. Ozark Rivers serves seven of MRPC's eight counties. (Osage County is served through the Mid-MO RPC).

The district is beginning the update of its solid waste management plan, and Tammy discussed what information and involvement is needed from local governments. She explained that due to legal changes and a lawsuit, the district's solid waste plan needs to be rewritten with all original requirements.

She described the district's goal to reduce trash going to landfills by 40%, noting it's currently at 30% in the region. Tammy outlined the current programs including local grants, household hazardous waste collection, illegal dump cleanup and special waste collections. She mentioned that the district collected over 47 tons of materials at special collections this year. When asked what happens to collected materials, she confirmed that they were recycled, not sent to landfills. There was a question about landfill space in the region, and Tammy indicated the region has adequate landfill space with two facilities, but metropolitan areas are feeling pressure.

Tammy said the district needs a complete comprehensive solid waste plan by July 1, 2026 to submit to DNR. She said input is being sought from communities via surveys and planning meetings. The next Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting is Dec. 3, 2025 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at the MRPC office.

Updates from State and Federal Legislators:

No reports were given.

External Relations Committee: Shane Anselm, chair

Commissioner Anselm reported on External Relations activities as follows:

The committee discussed the need to fill the vacant at-large position for underrepresented and asked the board to send any suggestions to Tammy.

He reported that the annual dinner survey came back with positive feedback but said only 13 responses had been received. Chair Anselm mentioned that the silent auction raised \$1,488 and the 50-50 raffle raised \$1,146, half of which was returned to the raffle winner.

The committee also reviewed the state priority survey and informed the board it will be sent out for prioritization within the next two weeks.

Operations Committee: Jason Ward, chair

Commissioner Ward reported on operations activities as follows:

The committee reviewed the MRPC/MRB and MRPC/RLF program financial statements for the period ending Oct. 31, 2025.

Commissioner Ward made a motion to approve the financials for the period ending Oct. 31, 2025; Commissioner Ray Schwartz seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The committee reviewed the state priorities and Commissioner Ward reported the committee would like to submit an additional priority. He said the committee would like to propose adding villages to legislation that allows people outside city limits to serve on boards. The commissioner said it currently only applies to fourth-class cities.

Planning Committee: Joey Auxier, chair

Presiding Commissioner Auxier reported on planning activities as follows:

Presiding Commissioner Auxier reported that the committee continued their discussion on planning activity items for the FY26 MRPC Board Retreat and Training and reviewed the state priorities.

Staff presented information on population growth, workforce demographics and employment numbers.

He mentioned that the committee reviewed the first couple of items in the CEDS report.

Housing Advisory Board: Vic Stratman, secretary

Presiding Commissioner Stratman reported on planning activities as follows:

The board approved financials for month ending Oct. 31, 2025.

Donald Keeney, Housing Program Manager, provided an update on the waiting list and voucher closure list. He said the housing program is down 92 families from this time last year and there are 308 on the waiting list.

Environmental: Tammy Snodgrass, Assistant Director Environmental Programs Mana

Tammy reported the Ozark Rivers board meet in October to make grant funding decisions for 2026. The district had \$175,657.99 available for district grants and requests for \$253,682.45. Nine of the 14 grants submitted were funded. She also mentioned that the board would hold its annual awards program on Dec. 9, 2025.

She informed the board the next Homeland Security meeting is scheduled for Jan. 29, 2026.

Tammy mentioned that Pulaski, Phelps and Gasconade counties have hazard mitigation plans expiring in 2026. Funding has been secured for the Pulaski County plan, but SEMA is still trying to find funds for Phelps and Gasconade County plans.

A handout of environmental activities was provided.

Meramec Community Enhancement Corporation (MCEC): Vic Stratman

No report was given.

Meramec Regional Community Foundation (MRCF): Bonnie Prigge

Bonnie reported the next MRCF meeting is scheduled for Nov. 18. Items to be discussed include the allocation of the \$19,000 of remaining tornado funds, the establishment of a trades scholarship and grant criteria for the regional MRCF grantmaking, which opens on Dec. 15.

Chairman's Report

No report was given.

Director's Report

Bonnie reported the federal government reopened, allowing work to resume with federal agencies.

She mentioned work on an EDA disaster recovery grant to hire a coordinator and an EDA Peer Review.


Bonnie touched on the transportation meetings that are taking place in the counties. She mentioned discussions have been held in all but two counties. Meetings are still to be held in Washington and Pulaski counties. She said that projects will be ranked at the Dec. 11 TAC meeting before being sent to MoDOT.

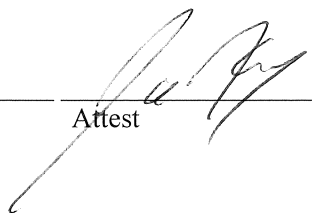
Board members were updated on the critical minerals project with Missouri S&T, which could bring mining jobs back to the region. Bonnie said EDA opened that application which had fewer components than the previous application. The goal of the project is to develop a way to process minerals in Missouri rather than sending them over to Asia for processing and then coming back. Construction of a test bed facility would allow students and companies to conduct research in a cost effective way-without building a separate testing facility. EDA should announce fended projects by the end of the year.

Bonnie briefly explained the continued work with federal highways on the BUILD grant for the Rock Island Trail planning project.

Adjourn

Commissioner Steve Vogt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 p.m. Presiding Commissioner Vic Stratman seconded the motion. The motion carried.


Darryl Griffin, chair


Attest