

Gasconade Valley Enterprise Zone

encompassing portions of Gasconade, Maries and Osage counties of Missouri

MEETING MINUTES

November 18, 2025

The Gasconade Valley Enterprise Zone met at 2:00 p.m. at the White Mule Winery, Owensville.

The meeting was called to order by President Larry Kliethermes at 2:00 p.m.

Members Present: In person - Dolores Grannemann (Gasconade), Tim Schulte (Gasconade), Randy Blaske (Gasconade), Ray Schwartz (Maries), Vic Stratman (Maries), Darryl Griffin (Osage), John Deeken (Osage), and Larry Kliethermes (Osage).

Guests Present: Patricia Heaney (Hermann), Erica Smith (Belle), Ron Hoffmann (Linn), Ron Hardecke (Owensville), Dr. Jerri Kay Hardy (Owensville), Drew Biddle (Linn), Lori Greer (Linn), Steve Smyth (Chamois), Mark Mehmert (Chamois) Steve Duncan (Chamois), Dolores Grannemann (Hermann).

Member Absent: Gene Gillispie (Maries).

Staff Present: Bonnie Prigge

Minutes: After review by the board, Stratman made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 21, 2025, meeting, seconded by Schwartz. Motion approved.

Financials: Prigge presented financials. Revenues stood at \$19,853, as of Oct. 31, 2025, with expenses at \$13,426, with a revenue over expenses of \$6,427 with two months left in the year. Balance sheet showed assets of \$77,033.92, including \$41,799.97 in the restricted Osage EEZ fund. There was discussion on how the restricted funds were invested. They are in an interesting bearing checking account at Legends Bank. It was suggested that if this money was not going to be used, to consider investing in a CD or something paying a higher interest rate. After review by the board, Deeken made a motion to approve the financials, seconded by Schwartz. Motion approved.

Proposed Budget: Bonnie Prigge presented a 2026 proposed budget of \$21,150, based on historical costs with expenses at \$19,965, with a revenue over expenses of \$1285. After review, Stratman made a motion to approve the 2026 budget, seconded by Schwartz. Motion approved.

EEZ Update: Each county EEZ provided an update on the meeting, held prior to the GVEZ meeting. Chamois Area EEZ: Steve Duncan, chair. There are no potential projects in Chamois and the group would like to revise the EEZ requirement of a company being required to provide health insurance and paying 51% of the cost. Maries County: Vic Stratman, chair. Maries EEZ members are willing to continue to serve. There are a couple of new businesses in Belle: Chocolate Dippery. American Family Insurance has a new agent and Maries County R-2 plans to build an Early Childhood Center. Gasconade County: Tim Schulte, chair. Hermann is getting some new housing. Owensville Chamber has land for sale. No changes recommended to the incentive package offered by the EEZ. Osage County: Darryl Griffith, chair. There are no new projects and members are willing to serve. Osage Industries is working on some minor projects.

The group then discussed the health care provision and agreed to re-open EEZ meetings to discuss removing the requirement of company paid insurance as a requirement of receiving the benefit.

Certified Work Ready Communities: Prigge provided an update of the Work Keys application for testing in schools. All three county grant requests were funded, however the Legislature changed the funding mechanism for the testing. For this fiscal year, the funding will come from the new gaming/betting tax, which will be collected starting Dec. 1, 2025. The tax must generate roughly \$6 Million dollars before funds are diverted to education purposes, and it is those funds that would cover the Work Keys program. \$5 Million is dedicated to gambling addiction programs and one \$1 Million for administration. Dr. Jeri Kay Hardy pointed out that the Work Keys testing helped them with MSIP, so it was important.

Missouri Location 1: Prigge provided an overview of Missouri Location 1 and asked if there were any buildings that should be listed. Vienna Pointe in Vienna was mentioned. Status of the lot unknown. Chamois representatives mentioned Lions Club Land and Chamois LLC, that owns the former electric plant. Erica Smith mentioned the Dinner Belle property in Belle. MRPC staff will follow up.

Community/Economic Development Update/ Board Member Reports: No board members reported a most information had already been mentioned.

Next Meeting: GVEZ/Annual EEZ meeting scheduled for 1:30 p.m., January 22, 2026, tentatively at First State Community Bank, Owensville.

Adjourn: Having no further business, Schulte made a motion to adjourn at 2:30 p.m., seconded by Blaske. Motion approved. EEZ board resumed meeting to discuss health insurance requirement.

President		Date	1-22-2026
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Attest		Date	1-22-2026
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