

**Meramec Regional Planning Commission
Minutes
December 11, 2025**

Call to Order

Chair Darryl Griffin called the Dec. 13 2025, meeting of the Meramec Regional Planning Commission to order at 7:30 p.m. The meeting was conducted in person and via Zoom.

Welcome

Chair Griffin welcomed everyone to the meeting. Board members participating in person were Steve Black, Jason Ward, Gary Larson, Shawn Bolerjack, Tim Schulte, Steve Vogt, Ray Schwartz, Steve Smyth, Darryl Griffin, Joey Auxier, Dawn Bell, Kent Bagnall, Sean Wilson, T.R. Dudley, Marla Stevenson, Matt McCarter, John Money, Jan Haviland, Shane Anselm, Taisia Gordon, Aimee Campbell and John Casey. Board members participating via Zoom were Duane Kraettli 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 with MRPC participated via Zoom. Grant Wilson, with Rep. Jason Smith's office, participated in-person.

Consent Agenda

The following consent agenda items were presented for approval:

- a. Minutes – Nov. 13, 2025
- b. Local Review
None.
- c. State Review
 - 1. Missouri Department of Public Safety, Jefferson City, MO
97.067 – Homeland Security Grant Program
FIFA World Cup Grant Program (FWCGP)
Federal: \$59,522,190
Total: \$59,522,190
 - 2. Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Jefferson City, MO
66.961 – Superfund State and Indian Tribe Combined Cooperative Agreements (Site-Specific and Core)
Superfund Combined Cooperative Agreement
Federal: \$1,128,939
State: \$46,618.00
Total: \$ 1,175,557

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
 - Economic Development Administration
Permission is requested for MRPC to apply to the Economic Development Administration (EDA) for a two-year grant to add a Disaster Coordinator to the MRPC staff and authorization is requested for the executive director and/or MRPC's chairman to sign the application and required match commitment letter. Permission is also requested for the executive director and/or chairman to sign a grant agreement, and any related documents should the grant be funded.

- **USDA Rural Development**

Permission is requested for MRPC to submit a grant application to USDA Rural Development on behalf of the Ozark Rivers Solid Waste Management District (ORSWMD), and authorization is requested for the executive director and/or MRPC's chairman to sign the application. Permission is also requested for the executive director and/or chairman to sign a grant agreement, and any related documents should the grant be funded.

- **Maries County**

Permission is requested for MRPC's chairman and/or executive director to approve and sign a Maries County Floodplain technical assistance contract for the period Jan. 1, 2026, to Dec. 31, 2026, and for MRPC's chairman and/or executive director to sign any necessary documents.

- **Crawford County**

Permission is requested for MRPC's chairman and/or executive director to approve and sign a Crawford County Floodplain technical assistance contract for the period Jan. 1, 2026, to Dec. 31, 2026, and for MRPC's chairman and/or executive director to sign any necessary documents.

- **Missouri Office of Homeland Security**

On Nov. 12, 2025, Region I HSOC reviewed and selected the following projects for funding. The HSOC officially recommends this funding allocation and requests MRPC's concurrence. With MRPC's approval, permission is requested for MRPC's chairman and/or executive director to enter into a grant agreement with Office of Homeland Security for the FY25 Region I HSOC grants and sign all necessary paperwork. Permission is also requested for MRPC's chairman and/or executive director to allocate Region I HSOC grant funds based on the recommendations from the Region I HSOC board and to sign the necessary paperwork to enter into subaward agreements with grant recipients.

Organization	Title	Requested Funds	Score	Awarded	Requested Items
Rolla Fire and Rescue, City of	2025 All Hazard Response Team	\$ 37,729.60	49.00	\$ 34,371.64	Respirator Fit Test System; MultiRae Monitor; 3 level A encapsulating suits; 8 pairs of boots
Rolla Fire and Rescue, City of	2025 Search and Rescue	\$ 7,979.40	49.00	\$ 7,979.40	6 Drysuits; 6 PFD; 6 Rope/throw bags
Rolla Fire and Rescue, City of	FY-2025 Command Post & Communications	\$ 8,220.00	47.75	\$ 8,220.00	1 yr. Subscriber services/maintenance
Meramec Regional Planning Commission	2025 SHSP Region I Planning and Training	\$ 15,000.00	46.20	\$ 15,000.00	Staff salary; benefits; travel; indirect; badging supplies; misc. supplies; contractual for trainings
Phelps Health	Phelps Health EMS Equipment	\$ 38,988.19	42.40	\$ -	Defibrillator
Salem Memorial District Hospital	Salem Memorial Hospital - Communications	\$ 68,631.56	41.50	\$ -	4 Mobile Radios w/Install & Key; 4 Repeaters w/Install & FCC; 6 Portable Radios
Pulaski County, Sheriff's Office	45859 - FY 2025 State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) Region I	\$ 144,722.16	39.20		9 Mobile Radios; 6 Portable Radios; 1 Drone with shipping/warranty & 10 person training

Waynesville Police Department	State Homeland Security Program 2025	\$ 131,424.65	36.80	3836.60	1 Repeater
	Requested Total:	\$ 452,695.56		\$ 70,693.38	
	Estimated Award:	\$ 70,693.38		\$ 0.00	

- Bourbon Economic Development Group

Permission is requested for MRPC's chairman and/or executive director to enter into a technical assistance contract for application preparation for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and for the MoDED NAP Tax Credit, and for MRPC's chairman and/or executive director to sign any necessary documents.

- Midwest Recycling Center

Permission is requested for MRPC's chairman and/or executive director to enter into a one-year renewal contract with Midwest Recycling Center to provide e-waste collection services at four locations within the district as part of an ORSWMD funded project, and for MRPC's chairman and/or executive director to sign all documents associated with this contract.

- East Central College

August 29, 2025: MRPC Executive Director entered into a technical assistance contract with East Central College for grant-writing/application assistance.

- City of West Plains

Dec. 10, 2025: MRPC Executive Director entered into a technical assistance contract with the City of West Plains for asbestos inspection of one house, which is a part of the West Plains CDBG Disaster 4317 residential buy-out.

- City of Willow Springs

Dec. 10, 2025: MRPC Executive Director entered into a technical assistance contract with the City of Willow Springs for asbestos inspection of four houses, which is a part of the Willow Springs CDBG Disaster 4317 residential buy-out.

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

Presentation: The Missouri Department of Economic Development's Office of Entrepreneurship, Taisia Gordon, Director

The Missouri Department of Economic Development recently formed the Office of Entrepreneurship within its Strategy and Performance Division. Taisia Gordon, the department's first director and MPRC board member, discussed the new office and the work it will do.

Taisia opened her discussion with some statistics about small businesses in Missouri. She mentioned that 99% of Missouri businesses are small businesses with a total of about 1.1 million employees. About 44% of Missouri employees are in the private sector, she said.

Taisia informed board members that the Missouri Office of Entrepreneurship was established through the Right to Start Act 2024 and it officially launched in October 2025. She said the office aims to support entrepreneurship across the state by acting as a liaison for entrepreneurs, promoting pro-entrepreneur policies, expanding access to capital and resources, and collaborating with stakeholders. She also outlined plans to publish an annual state entrepreneurship report, conduct listening sessions and surveys, and identify opportunity areas and gaps in the ecosystem. Taisia invited feedback from small business owners and support organizations through surveys and encouraged collaboration with the office to improve startup-friendly policies in Missouri.

Taisia discussed the entrepreneurial support initiatives in various states, highlighting Nevada's two-year-old program and Indiana's approach, which focuses on policy and outreach. She emphasized the need for a multi-pronged strategy to support entrepreneurs, including funding, education, and storytelling to make Missouri a more welcoming environment for startups. She also mentioned the importance of restoring funding for Missouri Technology Corporation and the potential for an angel incentive tax credit. Taisia suggested coordinating with small business development centers and hosting listening sessions in different regions, including Washington County, to gather input from small business owners.

Updates from State and Federal Legislators:

Grant Wilson provided updates on Congressman Jason Smith's efforts, including his support for Missouri's Rural Health Transformation Program. Mr. Wilson mentioned that the Congressman sent a letter on Nov. 24 to Secretary Kennedy and Dr. Oz, fully supporting Missouri's application for the Rural Health Transformation Program funding. He explained that was the funding that came with the one big, beautiful bill that Congressman Smith co-authored to make sure that funding was provided for our rural hospitals. Mr. Wilson said the Congressman has also sent subsequent letters as well to Secretary Kennedy and Dr. Oz, making sure that the money from the big, beautiful bill is actually going to truly rural area hospitals, such as Phelps Health or Salem Memorial Hospital, and the other hospitals and medical clinics that are in the MRPC region.

He reported that Congressman Smith had several bills that actually passed out of the House last week that had to do with children who may have had their social security numbers stolen. It will help create a single contact at the Social Security Administration to help if your identity's been stolen, and then lastly, making sure that we're able to rein in rogue IRS agents.

Mr. Wilson said that last night, the committee passed bills out of the committee that end improper payments to deceased people. He also mentioned strengthening taxpayer protections, so their privacy isn't in jeopardy, and removing the firearm tax on tasers.

He informed board members that the Secure Rural Schools Act passed out of the House and is on its way to the President's desk. This program provides critical resources for counties and schools that are near publicly owned land and unable to generate property tax revenue. Mr. Wilson said it will provide payments for the previous fiscal years, as the funding had ceased after fiscal year 23.

Bonnie Prigge mentioned ongoing work on federal transportation funding and hazard mitigation plans, emphasizing the need for alternative funding sources.

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.

Commissioner Anselm reported that the annual dinner was successful with more attendees than normal, raising \$2,841.50. Tammy Snodgrass shared final numbers for the event.

The committee discussed the results of the state legislative priorities survey and selected the top priorities to include in the state report. Commissioner Anselm informed the board that the four-laning of Highways 63 and 50 was still a top priority and Tammy shared the committee's top selections with the full board.

Commissioner Anselm reported that only one response had been received on the federal legislative priorities survey and said more participation is needed. Tammy said that with only one response having been received, staff added in issues from last year. She extended the deadline for the survey to Tuesday, Dec. 16. Commissioner Anselm reported that the MRPC Day at the Capitol would be Jan. 27, 2026 with a backup date of Feb. 10. More information to follow.

Bonnie Prigge, MRPC Executive Director, mentioned that Rep. Bennie Cook and Rep. Tara Peters would be hosting a Maries and Phelps County Day at the Capitol on Feb. 3, 2026. She said she would share more information as it becomes available.

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 Nov. 30, 2025.

Commissioner Ward made a motion to approve the financials for the period ending Nov. 30, 2025; Commissioner Ray Schwartz seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The committee reviewed a proposed personnel policy revision to the holiday leave policy which would allow all part-time employees to earn holiday pay if the holiday fell on their normal workday. The policy would be retroactive to July 1, 2025.

Commissioner Ward made a motion to approve the personnel policy revision; Commissioner Shane Anselm seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The committee reviewed the RLF loan portfolio oversight report and discussed each loan's appropriate rating per classification system and the marketing strategy for the program.

Commissioner Ward made a motion to approve the RLF loan portfolio oversight report; Presiding Commissioner Joey Auxier seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The committee conducted its annual review of the conflict-of-interest policy, per policy, to determine if an update is needed. It was determined that no update was needed, and members were asked to sign their conflict-of-interest form prior to leaving.

Commissioner Ward made a motion to approve the conflict-of-interest policy as it currently reads; Mayor Sean Wilson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The committee briefly reviewed the list of federal issues drafted by staff and tabled a discussion until January on an EDA RLF loan modification request.

Planning Committee: Joey Auxier, chair

Presiding Commissioner Auxier reported on planning activities as follows:

Presiding Commissioner Auxier reported that the committee reviewed Goal 2 in the CEDS and discussed infrastructure that occurred over the last year.

He said the committee continued its discussion on planning activity items for the FY26 MRPC Board Retreat which is scheduled for April 1, 2026 and will include discussion of the membership dues structure. Request for proposals for a site to host the retreat will be going out within the next month or so.

Presiding Commissioner Auxier also stated the committee took a brief look at the federal legislative priorities.

Housing Advisory Board: Vic Stratman, secretary

No report was given.

Transportation Advisory Committee: Anne Freand, MRPC Planning Manager

The TAC reviewed the transportation needs of each county that were determined during the recent meetings held with the county commissions.

The committee updates its top two regional priorities with Highway 63 being number one by one vote; followed by Highway 50. The committee also updates its county list of priorities with Highway 63 and 28 South intersection near Vichy Airport in Maries County being the top priority.

A complete list of transportation needs and ranking can be found at the end of these minutes.

Commissioner T.R. Dudley made a motion to approve the transportation needs as presented; Commissioner Steve Vogt seconded. The motion carried.

Anne also reported that all Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) applicants received funding.

Bonnie provided crash statistics which showed an increase in fatalities in the region compared to last year.

Environmental: Tammy Snodgrass, Assistant Director Environmental Programs Mana

Tammy reported the Ozark Rivers Solid Waste Management District held its annual awards banquet on Tuesday and recognized four individuals from the region: Ryan Davis-Argyle Catering, Argyle for food waste reduction; Emily Young (Stream Teams United), Pulaski County for environmental education; Matt Williams, Pulaski County for reusing glass in his art projects; and Janice Morgan, Maries County for her volunteer efforts on illegal dump cleanups and promoting the district.

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 remaining Phelps County Disaster Relief Funds have been distributed with final funds going to:

- Dream Center/Phelps County Faith Distributions (\$1,000)
- Phelps County Fair Board (\$7,800)
- Redeemer Lutheran Church (\$10,000)

She mentioned that discussions have begun regarding establishing a trade scholarship and MRCF's grantmaking fund will open Dec. 15 through the end of January and will be offering two \$1,000 grants. Community Foundation of the Ozarks (CFO) scholarships will open in January.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Griffin wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Director's Report

Bonnie informed board members that the board retreat will include a discussion of the MPRC membership dues structure and that a committee will be formed to review the current structure prior to the April retreat. If anyone is interested in participating on that committee, she asked them to let her know.

Other items Bonnie touched on included:

- EDA Peer Review with the Southeast Regional Development Agency was completed successfully.
- Delta Regional Authority (DRA) has announced grants for Edgar Springs, Caledonia and the Washington County Hospital.
- State Aid to Regional Planning Commissions-two bills have been filed to increase the cap to \$50,000.
- Christmas Donations-monetary donations were provided to a food pantry in each county in the district, a family with foster children, a veteran at the Missouri Veterans Home and two animal shelters in the region.
- CDBG-a project has been funded for Caledonia.


Bonnie mentioned the need for communities interested in working with Dr. Schumann's Engineering Management class on projects for their community. She stated that projects can lead to grant opportunities and community initiatives.

Mayor Sean Wilson shared his experiences with student projects in Waynesville. He said that nearly 97 students presented projects for Waynesville. Projects included designs for a walking bridge near Route 66 and a mountain bike trail. Mayor Wilson noted that previous student projects have provided valuable information that is still used today.

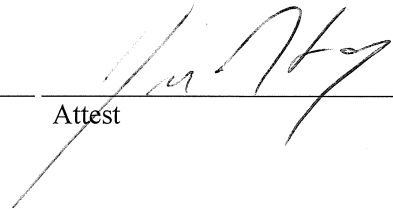
Commissioner T.R. Dudley mentioned that projects with MS&T students led to a new amphitheater in Potosi.

Adjourn

Commissioner Jason Ward made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Presiding Commissioner Joey Auxier seconded the motion. The motion carried.



Darryl Griffin, chair



Attest

MRPC Transportation Priorities FY26

Prioritized by the TAC on Dec. 11, 2025

Priority	Votes	Ranking	County #s	COUNTY	Impr or Exp	DES	RTE	Location Description	Need Description	Area Engineer Comments
Regional	MRPC-1	1	MRPC-1	Phelps, Maries, Osage	I	US	63	Major Project: US 63 from US Hwy 50 in Osage County to the Phelps/Texas County line	Corridor improvements including widening to 4-lane. Shoulders and horizontal alignment improvements as well. (or any project that will advance the 4-laning of the corridor)	Considered Expansion Project. Section 1 in STIP, Section 4 on Tier 1 Needs List. Section 3 on proposed Tier 3 Needs List. Remaining Sections Ranked in order @ 12/9/21 TAC Meeting (1-Sec. 2, 2-Sec. 5, 3-Sec. 7 and 4-Sec. 6)
	MRPC-2	2	MRPC-2	Gasconade and Osage	I	US	50	Major Project: US HWY 50 from about one mile west of Linn to the Gasconade/Franklin County line	Corridor improvements including widening to 4-lane. Shoulders and horizontal alignment improvements as well. (or any project that will advance the 4-laning of the corridor)	Considered Expansion Project
High	69	1	M-428	Maries	I	RT	63	Rt 63 & 28 south intersection	at Vichy Wye/airport - Turn lanes on 63 (SB left turn lane)	
	60	2	C-127	Crawford	I	MO	19	Bridge No. K0199 over Cherry Valley Branch	Safety Improvements - narrow on a curve	5-5-5 (Fair Condition). 2-lane. No load posting. 24-ft. wide roadway surface over bridge built in 1934 In for SCOPING FY25
	58	3 (tie)	Ph-642	Phelps	E	IS	44	Near Jerome	Flooding Closes Interstate	Raise I-44 (raise road to bridge level)
	58	3 (tie)	D-210	Dent	I	RT	TT	Bridge No. R0808 over Crooked Creek	bridge need (flooding concern) / replace culvert with bridge	Condition "5" Box Culvert. Fair condition. Debris concerns along Crooked Creek -- a low-profile span wouldn't work here. \$1.2M to build bridge (2015 est.). MDC would partner (\$200k). Other partnerships for Forest Service? In Scoping - On Central District Tier 3 of High Priority Unfunded Needs SCOPING FY25. Applied for FLAP funding in FY26.
	56	5	Ph-652	Phelps	I	IS	44	44/72 Interchange	Improvements to interchange and roundabouts	Dog bone roundabouts at capacity In SCOPING FY25
	51	6	O-502	Osage	E	US	50	Major Projects: System Expansion	Corridor improvements from CR 604 W of Linn to Rte. 89 E of Linn	In Scoping
	47	7	G-326/327	Gasconade	I	RT	100	East of Hermann @ Bluff btwn Reserve St. & the farm / West of Frene Creek Bridge near Fire Dept.	Flooding Concerns	Road needs to be raised/flood mitigation needs for Hermann
	46	8	C-107	Crawford	I	MO	19	Intersection at Lindburg Road	Need for left turn lane to turn onto Lindburg. Accident history southbound, turning left onto Lindburg.	Limited accident history. Possible County project or partnership project to add southbound left turn lane in future? Currently evaluating. Tier 3 on HPUN State List
Medium	43	9 (tie)	G-334	Gasconade	I	RT	100	Bridge L0321 over Bailey Creek	Bridge Need/Flooding Concerns	3-5-5 (Serious Condition). Built 1948. Likely Replacement
	43	9 (tie)	W-851	Washington	I	RT	U	Bridge No. N0168 over Wallen Creek	Bridge Need	4-4-5 (Poor Condition) In SCOPING FY25
	40	11	M-405	Maries	I	US	63	Hwy 63/28 Intersection (North Junction)	Safety improvements at the 'Y' intersection	Signing improvements recently completed. No more low-cost options at this location.
	39	12	W-844	Washington	I	RT	21	Northbound Left Turn Lane @ Purcell Dr.	Intersection improvements	Cost-share project
	38	13	D-207	Dent	I	MO	19	Intersection of MO 19 and Roosevelt Street	Safety need (dangerous intersection due to sight limitations)	Possible addition of turn lanes and Crosswalk. Overlay on Rt. 19. Northbound right turn lane possible.
	34	14	W-857	Washington	I	RT	21	Hwy 21 and Diamond Dr/Kingston School District	Intersection improvements	Safety improvements/multiple accidents. Possible turn lanes and access management needed.
	33	15 (tie)	Ph-630	Phelps	E	US	63	Entire Route in Phelps County	Corridor improvements including widening to 4-lane.	
	33	15 (tie)	Pu-730	Pulaski	I	RT	H	Bridge S0888 over Roubidoux Creek	Bridge Needs	4-6-5 (Poor Condition). 1-lane. Load posted. Built in 1955. Traffic will increase. 1 of 2 remaining bridges in region built as a one-lane.
	28	17	O-504	Osage	I	US	63	Functional Needs	Safety improvements to intersection of Rte E/63.	Started engineering work, not funded for construction.
	26	18	G-312b	Gasconade	I	RT	19	From 28 Junction to Industrial Park	Safety concerns at industrial park entrance.	Costs depend on number and location of turn lanes. Limited accident history. Partnership project in future?
	22	19 (tie)	C-109	Crawford	E	IS	44	Junction of Route FF	Convert overpass to interchange for economic development & safety	Cost-share opportunities w/ private industry and West Sullivan. Tier 3 on HPUN State List
22	19 (tie)	G-333	Gasconade	I	RT	19	Bridge A4480 over Bourbeuse River	Bridge Need	6-7-3 (Serious Condition). Built 1988.	
21	21	C-122	Crawford	I	MO	19	Intersection of Glassy Rd and Heyer Rd	Safety need (sight distance concern)		
Low	20	22	M-412	Maries	I	MO	28	Entire County	Safety improvements (add shoulders).	
	18	23 (tie)	Ph-631	Phelps	I	Rt	F	Bridge No. R0523 over Earle Creek	Bridge Need	4-4-5 (Poor Condition). 2-lane. Load posted. Built in 1964.
	18	23 (tie)	Pu-745	Pulaski	I	RT	28	Bridge over I-44 / 163 Overpass	Intersection Improvements	Congestion at Dixon Exit & Bridge Height needs raised
	17	25	O-511	Osage	E			Near Chamois	New Missouri River Crossing connect Hwy 94 to Hwy 100.	
	16	26	M-406	Maries	I	MO	42	Hwy 42/133 intersection	Safety improvements at the 'Y' & "T" intersection	
	13	27	Pu-742	Pulaski		Rt	U	Tavern Creek Bridge	Safety/Flooding concerns	
	11	28	W-854	Washington	I	RT	8	Intersection of Rt 8 & Ameren Dr, also @ Industrial Dr.	Intersection improvements	Possible turn lanes / Cost Share w/ Ambulance Dist. Involvement
	9	29	D-219	Dent	I	RT	119	Entire Route	Safety improvements - shoulders	
	7	30	D-209	Dent	I	RT	B	Entire Route	Safety Improvements - Shoulders	
	6	31	Pu-723/744	Pulaski	I	RT	C/133	Between Hwy 28 and Hwy 133 near Dixon / Humps/hills on road coming out of Richland to Swedeborg	Safety Improvements	Highest volume lettered route in county (3,000 vehicles). Hills/humps on roadway w/ fatalities
4	32	O-545	Osage	I	US	50	Hwy 50 @ Rt 100 intersection	Safety concerns and traffic calming measures		

