

Meramec Regional Planning Commission
Minutes
January 12, 2017

Call to Order

Chairman Ray Schwartz called the January 12, 2017 meeting of the Meramec Regional Planning Commission to order at 7:08 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions

Chairman Schwartz opened the meeting by welcoming Chris Nash who was recently appointed to represent the city of Cuba on the board. He also welcomed representatives from the offices of the district's federal legislators. In attendance were: Kristen Wright and Justin Klocke from Senator Claire McCaskill's office, Sarah Graff from Senator Roy Blunt's office, Jim McNichols from Representative Blaine Luetkemeyer's office and Bennie Cook from Representative Jason Smith's office.

Consent Agenda

The following consent agenda items were presented for approval:

- a. Minutes – Dec. 8, 2016
- b. Local Review
 1. Meramec Regional Planning Commission
10.762 – Solid Waste Grant Program - USDA Rural Development
Food waste reduction and composting education program for students in the Ozark Rivers Solid Waste Management district
Federal: \$50,995
Local: \$9,000
Total: \$59,995
- c. Statewide Grant Applications
 1. Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Jefferson City, MO
66.802 – Superfund State, Political Subdivision, and Indian Tribe Site-Specific Cooperative Agreements
Superfund Combined Cooperative program
Federal: \$1,143,912
State: \$31,183
Total: \$1,175,095
 2. State of Missouri, Jefferson City, MO
93.240–State Capacity Building
ATSDR's Partnership to Promote Localized Efforts to Reduce Environmental Exposure (APPLETREE) Program
Federal: \$420,000
Total: \$420,000
- d. Contracts
 - Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission
Permission is requested for the chair/executive director to enter into a contract with the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission for a public transportation

planning grant to update the Public Transit-Human Service Transportation Coordination Plan for the Meramec Region.

- Staff is requesting permission to submit a grant application for the Coover Charitable Foundation Regional Grantmaking Program for funding to continue marketing and trail creation efforts related to the *Naturally Meramec* project. Permission is requested for the chairman and/or executive director to sign all grant applications documents and grant agreement, if funded.

- Haven Manor of New Haven

Permission is requested for MRPC's chairman and/or executive director to enter into a contract for technical assistance with Haven Manor of New Haven for Federal Home Loan Bank renovation of Haven Manor in New Haven, MO, and to sign all related documents.

e. Grants

- USDA Rural Development – Solid Waste Grant

Permission is requested for MRPC's chairman and/or executive director to sign all paperwork necessary to submit a USDA Rural Development – Solid Waste Grant for food waste reduction/recycling education. Permission is also requested for the chairman and/or executive director to sign all paperwork and grant agreements should a grant be offered.

John Casey made the motion to approve the consent agenda as presented; Don Brackhahn seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Presentation: Idea Exchange with Federal Legislators

Legislators were given an opportunity to make some introductory remarks prior to discussions on priorities in the Meramec Region.

The legislators were given a copy of MRPC federal legislative priorities.

Kristen Wright noted that Senator McCaskill will be serving on the Homeland Security, Armed Services and Finance Committees. Overall, the senate has been working confirmations and Senator McCaskill believes that General Kelly is a good choice for Homeland Security. Looking ahead to the upcoming session, Kristen said that the fiscal year 2018 budget will be discussed in the spring and it's anticipated that some of the big issues will include healthcare and the tax code. Senator McCaskill will be focusing on national security, waste and fraud abuse, keeping promises to veterans and consumer protection.

Board members brought forth the issue of modernizing and updating our tax code noting that it is necessary in order to encourage job creation and employment.

Sarah Graff indicated that Senator Blunt's focus will be on healthcare and repealing Obama care. Currently the senate is in the process of confirming cabinet appointments. Overregulation will be a big topic through the spring and there are currently a half a dozen bills focusing on overregulation. She added that there is a push on infrastructure priorities but the funding source is a key issue. Senator Blunt will be serving on the Appropriations, Committee of Science and Transportation and Intelligence committees. He is also the chair of the Rules Committee and is on the Inauguration Committee.

Jim McNichols noted that he represents Representative Luetkemeyer in Jefferson and Franklin counties, while Matt Thompson normally represents the counties in MRPC's district. Matt was unable to attend as he was ill. Representative Luetkemeyer will be serving as the chair of the subcommittee on Finance and Consumer Credit. He will be heavily involved in any insurance regulations. There have been a package of bills passed including HR77, Providing Accountability through Transparency. Other areas Representative Luetkemeyer will be keeping an eye on are Environmental Protection Agency, Corp of Engineers, and Department of Agriculture.

Bennie Cook reported that Representative Smith held healthcare roundtables in six locations in his district. Input on healthcare issues was gained from 200 doctors, nurses, nurse practitioners, and city officials. There will be five tax reform roundtables that will be scheduled in the upcoming year. The first will be held on January 17 from 9:00-10:00 a.m. at the Havener Center in Rolla. Representative Smith will be serving on the Ways and Means Committee. It is expected that Representative Smith will be extremely busy with the new administration throughout the spring.

Bonnie Prigge explained the priority list that was created and noted that she, Ray Schwartze and Tammy Snodgrass would be traveling to Washington D.C. in March to present those priorities.

Jim Barnett brought up the issue of overregulation, especially with smaller banks (Dodd-Frank Legislation). It was noted that many have gone out of business due to overregulation. If some of the excessive regulations were eliminated, it would create jobs and stimulate the economy.

Ms. Prigge stressed that anything that can be done to put more money into infrastructure would be a great benefit to the district.

Board members also brought up the issue of internet availability stating that economic growth depends on internet being available in smaller rural communities.

Larry Miskel brought up the issue of farmers feeling that the EPA is overregulating them. Farmers are the best conservationists as they won't do anything to their land that would harm it.

Ray Schwartze brought up the issue of subsidy payments to landowners. He noted that it is important to have some regulations but stated that there is a time when both regulations and subsidies must be cut back. That money could be put toward our highways.

Ms. Prigge stated that with Senator McCaskill serving on the Homeland Security Committee they obviously know that Fort Leonard Wood is a huge economic engine for this region and our state. It's also very important to national security. She added that we're always very watchful of what's happening at the fort and participating with sustainable Ozarks Partnership and Fort Leonard Wood Institute and several other organizations to show support and recognize the importance of the fort and helping others realize that as well.

Randy Verkamp suggested looking at Fort Leonard Wood as a municipality as they have their own police and fire departments. The financial impact on the nearby economy is phenomenal. There is room for growth at the fort with no impact to the surrounding area.

Jan Haviland brought up the issue of prevailing wage and the difficulties it places on businesses in smaller communities.

Bennie Cook reported that the Trump administration asked Representative Smith about putting together a letter stating his thoughts on what should be put to rest. The letter is now under review.

Bonnie Prigge stated that healthcare will be a big issue. Related to healthcare would be the issues of keeping pre-existing conditions, lifetime maximums, and the need to go national for competitive pricing. The general consensus was that the ACA needs fixed but not eliminated.

Sarah Graff agreed that healthcare is going to be the number one issue and that there will be some focus on overregulation.

Bonnie Prigge brought up the administrative rate for Section 8 housing stating that the need to see that rate increase to cover the cost of program so that it can continue. Jim McNichols requested Bonnie send him an email with details and he would share it with the folks in Washington D.C.

Randy Verkamp asked about marketplace variance and Sara Graff indicated that they haven't heard anything about it yet but that Senator Blunt would back it.

External Relations Committee: Darrell Skiles, chairman

Vice Chairman Don Brackhahn reported on External Relations Committee activities as follows:

The at-large for-profit for Dent County and at-large labor positions are still open, and the committee is still looking for volunteers to serve. State priorities were approved last month and will be taken to the Capitol on January 24, 2017. Anyone planning to make the trip is asked to let MRPC know so that they can get a count for the lunch. Plans are to leave from MRPC at 8:30 a.m. The committee reviewed and ranked the federal priorities list which will be taken to Washington, D.C. in March. The only change to the priorities was to add a fourth place in the economic development category.

Ron Kraettli made a motion to approve the federal priorities as presented; Jan Haviland seconded. The motion carried.

Don Brackhahn also reported that the committee reviewed the MRB By-laws and there were a few minor changes. These changes will be sent out for review prior to being approved at the next MRB board meeting.

Operations Committee:

Committee Chairman Marvin Wright reported on Operations Committee activities as follows:

The committee reviewed the MRPC/MRB and MRPC/MRDC-RLF and IRP program financial statements for the period ending December 31, 2016

Marvin Wright made the motion to accept the financials for the period ending December 31, 2016; Randy Verkamp seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The committee reviewed the MRPC/MRB and MRPC/MRDC-RLF and IRP revised budgets and MRPC/MRB revised leased agreements for the fiscal year 2016-2017.

Marvin Wright made the motion to accept the revised budgets and lease agreements for the fiscal year 2016-2017; Don Brackhahn seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Committee members also reviewed a title change for the Mobility Manager position. Since it is not a management position, approval is requested to change it to Senior Mobility Coordinator.

Marvin Wright made motion to approve the title change; Randy Verkamp seconded. The motion carried.

Linda Loughridge, fiscal manager, passed out conflict of interest annual statements for signatures from those board members not in attendance at the December meeting.

Planning Committee:

Committee Chairman James Morgan reported on planning activities as follows:

Committee members reviewed the federal legislative priorities and concurred with the rankings as listed. Members also reviewed and discussed the committee make-up of the CEDS Advisory Group. Staff provided an overview of the Annual CEDS Progress Report which was submitted to EDA in December, 2016. The committee was also presented with an overview of a study commissioned by the Missouri Department of Agriculture and the Missouri Farm Bureau which showed agriculture is still the top economic industry in the state. James Morgan stated that he hadn't realized how much impact agriculture has in Missouri.

Housing Advisory Board: Leo Sanders, chairman

Vice Chairman Larry Miskel reported on housing activities as follows:

The committee approved the financials and budget for fiscal year 2016-2017. Linda Hollandsworth, housing manager, introduced housing's new employee, Sydney Feeler.

Transportation Advisory Committee:

No report given.

Environmental:

Tammy Snodgrass provided the board with a handout covering environmental updates as well as updates on Meramec Region Emergency Planning and Homeland Security Oversight Committee activities.

Ms. Snodgrass reported that the American Red Cross has inventoried the trailers purchased with funds from the Region I Homeland Security grant. They are replacing the old cots with larger, heavier duty cots. Emails have gone out to Emergency Medical Directors and other emergency response agencies inquiring about their interest in receiving a donation of the old style cots. When asked about acquiring the new style cots, Ms. Snodgrass noted that interested agencies should contact Donna Zeilmann with the American Red Cross.

Meramec Regional Emergency Planning Committee: Kraig Bone, at-large representative for emergency management.

No report given.

Business Loans: Marla Stevenson, at-large representative for banking

In Maria's absence, Bonnie Prigge reported there is money to lend in both the RLF and SBA programs. There is approximately \$257,000 in RLF and SBA is pretty much unlimited. If anyone knows of any businesses in need of gap financing, we ask that you please send them our way.

Workforce Development: T.R. Dudley

No report given.

Meramec Community Enhancement Corporation:

Marvin Wright reported that MCEC's next meeting will be in March.

Meramec Region Community Foundation:

Bonnie Prigge reported that the local grant program has opened. There will be six grants of \$250 awarded for a total of \$1,500. Grant applications will be reviewed in February. We will be holding a training session for the MRCF board members and will likely invite other board members to participate. Ms. Prigge informed the board that Give Ozarks Day will be held in May. This is a one day, on-line giving for non-profits to bring in new donors.

Chairman Report:

Ray Schwartze encouraged board members to participate in MRPC’s day at the capitol. He noted that he attended the governor’s inauguration and found it to be enjoyable. Chairman Schwartze said he is looking forward to serving a few more months as chair, unless members voted him in longer.

Director Report:

Bonnie Prigge informed the board that Holly Kreinenkamp has turned in her resignation. She is starting her own transit business.

Ms. Prigge reminded the board about the on-site septic program available to citizens in their communities. If they know of anyone needing assistance she suggested they refer them to MRPC as we might be able to help them with funding.

Ms. Prigge informed the board that she will be making a presentation at the MAC Conference on what regional planning commissions are and the work that they do.

Board members were reminded that the next MRPC meeting will be February 16.

Ms. Prigge reported that she, Chairman Schwartze and Tammy Snodgrass would be traveling to Washington, D.C. to present our federal legislative priorities on March 19-22, 2017.

Board members were informed that due to the expected weather conditions, the office would be closed tomorrow. Staff will be taking work home.

Ms. Prigge concluded her report by updating the board on contracts signed by the executive director and pointing out where the information can be found on the agenda.

Adjourn

Marvin Wright made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 p.m.; Don Brackhahn seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Ray Schwartze, chairman

James Morgan, secretary