

**Meramec Regional Planning Commission**  
**Minutes**  
**February 16, 2017**

**Call to Order**

Vice Chairman Marvin Wright called the Feb. 16, 2017 meeting of the Meramec Regional Planning Commission to order at 7:25 p.m.

**Welcome and Introductions**

MRPC Executive Director Bonnie Prigge welcomed Matt Thompson from Representative Blaine Luetkemeyer's office. Mr. Thompson provided a brief legislative update.

**Consent Agenda**

The following consent agenda items are presented for approval:

- a. Minutes – Jan. 12, 2017
- b. Local Review  
None
- c. Statewide Grant Applications
  1. Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Jefferson City, MO  
66.034 – VA Grants for Adaptive Sports Programs for disabled Veterans and Disabled Members of the Armed Forces  
Fine Particulate Matter Ambient Air Monitoring Network  
Federal: \$573,154  
Other: \$66,272  
Total: \$639,426
  2. Missouri Department of Social Services, Jefferson City, MO  
93.671 – Family Violence Prevention and Services/domestic Violence Shelter and Supportive Services  
Federal: \$1,917,928  
Total: \$1,917,928
  3. State of Missouri, Jefferson City, MO  
93.270 – Adult Viral Hepatitis Prevention and Control  
State of Missouri viral hepatitis surveillance  
Federal: \$242,857  
Total: \$242,857
  4. State of Missouri, Jefferson City, MO  
93.521 – The Affordable Care Act: Building Epidemiology, Laboratory, and Health Information Systems Capacity in the Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for Infectious Disease (ELC) and Emerging Infections Program (EIP) Cooperative Agreements; PPHF  
PPHF 2016 Epidemiology, Laboratory and Health Information Capacity for Infectious Disease  
Federal: \$767,297  
Total: \$767,297

d. Contracts

- Dent County Fire Protection District

Permission is requested for MRPC's chairman and/or executive director to enter into a contract for technical assistance for a grant application for Dent County Fire Protection District to upgrade the fire station, and to sign all related documents.

- Rolla Housing Authority

Permission is requested for MRPC's chairman and/or executive director to enter into a contract for technical assistance with the Rolla Housing Authority for completion of a HUD statutory checklist, and to sign all related documents.

- Delta Regional Authority

Permission is requested for MRPC's chairman and/or executive director to enter into a memorandum of agreement with Delta Regional Authority to serve as the Local Development District, and for MRPC's chairman and/or executive director to sign any necessary documents.

e. Grants

- USDA Rural Development Farmers Market Promotion Program

Permission requested for staff to submit a grant application for the USDA Rural Development Farmers Market Promotion Program for funding to complete Phase II of 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.

- USDA Rural Development Local Foods Promotion Program

Permission requested for staff to submit a grant application for the USDA Rural Development Local Foods Promotion Program for funding to complete a food hub feasibility study for 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.

- USDA Rural Development Rural Business Development Grant

Permission requested for staff to submit a grant application for the USDA Rural Development Rural Business Development Grant for funding to complete training and technical assistance for the *Naturally Meramec* Consortium. Permission is requested for the chairman and/or executive director to sign all grant applications documents and grant agreement, if funded.

T.R. Dudley made the motion to approve the consent agenda as presented; Randy Verkamp seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Presentation: Richard and Sherry Hashhagen, Camp Brim Shire, St. James, MO**

Richard Hashhagen opened by explaining how the camp for special needs children came into existence. The Hashagens were living in St. Louis when they started Camp Brimshire near St. James with \$100 and an idea. The first grant they received was a \$10,000 grant for an in-ground pool. There was a Ronald McDonald type house and trail for the blind, including a wildlife trail. The camp is staffed entirely by volunteers and in 1996, the Hashagens retired and moved to St. James. Mr. Hashhagen stated that in the early years, the camp hosted 1200 children per year and by 1998 that number increased to 4000. He noted that these numbers do not include veterans, scouts or seniors. Last March, the camp started fundraising efforts for a new pool with wheelchair access. Cost for the new pool with wheelchair accessibility is \$155,000 and so far they have

raised all but \$50,000. He indicated that they have set up a GoFundMe account. Mr. Hashhagen asked the council to spread the word about the work being done at the camp. It was noted that the fee for using the camp facilities is \$2.00 per person per day for groups that are not disabled and free for those that are disabled. If a group wants to use the facilities for events such as a family reunion, the fee is \$3 per person per day.

Bonnie Prigge thanked him for all they do and for presenting to the board this evening.

**External Relations Committee:** Darrell Skiles, chairman

Chairman Darrell Skiles reported on External Relations Committee activities as follows:

The committee considered the nomination of Shane Anselm as the representative for at-large labor. He is the business agent for the Carpenters Union in Rolla. He is also a St. James city alderman.

Darrell Skiles made a motion that Mr. Anselm be approved to serve as the at-large for labor representative. T.R. Dudley seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The at-large for-profit for Dent County position is still open and the committee is still looking for a volunteer to serve.

The committee reviewed the Day at the Capitol. Mr. Skiles noted that although the legislators were really busy that day, members did have a chance to visit or touch base with all those representing the Meramec Region.

Mr. Skiles reported that the committee had the chance to review a draft of the Federal Priorities and all members felt that Caitlin Jones did a good job and created a nice looking draft.

The committee reviewed changes to the MACOG bylaws as shared in advance with the board. Mr. Skiles made a motion to approve the proposed changes to the bylaws. T. R. Dudley seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Also reviewed by the committee were changes in the MRPC bylaws. Mr. Skiles made a motion to approve those changes. Don Brackhahn seconded. The motion carried. MRPC bylaws changes will be shared with the board tonight and voted on at the March meeting.

Committee members were presented with two possible dates for the 2017 Annual Dinner, October 26 and October 19 with the preferred date being October 26.

Staff provided legislative updates with an emphasis on State Aid to the Regional Planning Commissions, Delta Regional Authority cost allocation assessments and the possible elimination of the Economic Development Administration. Mr. Skiles asked Bonnie Prigge to elaborate a little bit on these issues for the board.

Bonnie Prigge reported that Governor Greiten's has zeroed out the funding for state aid to regional planning commissions. Ms. Prigge presented to the senate appropriations committee and house sub-committee on behalf of the regional planning commissions. She added that the legislators were very complimentary of the work the commissions do. The aid that is received from the state is used to match our EDA grants. Ms. Prigge requested that if any board member had the opportunity to have a conversation with Senator Brown or Representative Alferman that they voice their concerns regarding the elimination of state aid to the regional planning commissions.

Ms. Prigge also spoke on the proposed reduction associated with the Delta Regional Authority (DRA) cost allocation assessments. Crawford, Phelps, Dent and Washington counties are part of the DRA. States involved with the DRA pay a portion of the administrative costs. Missouri pays 11 percent of the cost which is approximately \$130,000. This funding is part of the Department of Agriculture's budget. This program allows communities in those states to participate in grant funding and various training opportunities. The last several years Missouri has been fortunate enough to receive \$2-3 million. This funding was in two different line items in the budget and the governor eliminated the one line item which was listed as membership dues. Ms. Prigge went on to say that the Department of Agriculture found money elsewhere in its budget and will pay Missouri's cost allocation by February 24<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Prigge also reported that President Trump has targeted several agencies for elimination including the Department of Commerce-Economic Development Administration. MRPC receives an annual federal planning grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration to provide planning assistance to local governments and to develop the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Many of the industrial parks in the Meramec Region got their start with infrastructure grants from EDA and they house hundreds of jobs today. Most recently, the city of Rolla secured an infrastructure grant for Brewer Science to expand and a grant was secured to build a parking lot for the Delbert Day Cancer Institute. She added that this issue will be on MRPC's radar and there may come a time when board members will be contacted and asked to send an e-mail or make a phone call and voice their concerns to their legislators.

T.R. Dudley added that in its over 16 years of existence, the DRA has leveraged three billion dollars for the delta region and almost one million of that was put into projects in Potosi over the past 10 to 12 years.

Mr. Skiles also asked Ms. Prigge to elaborate on planned MRPC outreach activities. Ms. Prigge indicated that MRPC is planning on reaching out to those smaller communities that aren't regular attendees at MRPC's monthly board meetings. One of the suggested names for these gatherings that would take place in the communities is "Muffins with Meramec". The idea is to meet informally with local leaders, non-profits and city council members to learn about the needs in their community and see what kind of assistance they may need and discuss how we might be able to assist them. Ms. Prigge indicated that she is open to other names for this event.

### **Operations Committee:**

Larry Miskel 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 January 31, 2017.

Mr. Miskel made the motion to accept the financials for the period January 31, 2017; Dave Dudenhoeffer seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Staff presented amendments regarding introductory period and pension plan eligibility criteria. Mr. Miskel made a motion to change the pension plan eligibility period from six months to one year. Don Brackhahn seconded. The motion carried.

Options were discussed to fund correction to individual accounts as a result of vesting errors. Mr. Miskel made a motion to fund the corrections. Mary Heywood seconded. The motion carried. This will cost approximately \$2000.

Linda Loughridge informed the committee that the Intermediary Relending Program (IRP) is looking at a new direction. She stated that a unique opportunity to loan dollars to a public entity has been presented. They meet the criteria for lending and will lead to the creation of jobs. This opportunity would help to build our portfolio to support administration costs for servicing loans and it will provide less risk to MRPC. The IRP is actually a loan through USDA and any funds lost through loan defaults must be repaid.

Ms. Loughridge note that there have been 16 loans made from IRP and RLF programs totaling approximately \$1.2 million. Those loans have created the equivalent of 154.5 full-time jobs.

**Planning Committee:**

Committee Chairman James Morgan reported on planning activities as follows:

The first CEDS Advisory meeting has been scheduled for March 28, 2017.

Staff discussed four disaster resiliency planning projects that MRPC will be working on.

Committee members discussed President Trump's targeting of the EDA for elimination. Members were encouraged to let their legislators know of the importance of projects and what regional planning commissions do for the communities and counties in their region.

**Housing Advisory Board:** Leo Sanders, chairman

No report given.

**Transportation Advisory Committee:** Committee John Casey reported on transportation activities as follows:

Preston Kramer from MoDOT covered how transportation is funded. On the MoDOT website, there is a calculator where you can enter how many miles you drive in a year and the number of miles per gallon your vehicle gets, and it will calculate what it costs you in taxes and fees which go to transportation in Missouri.

Bonnie Prigge provided an update on the Coalition for Roadway Safety.

Anne Freand provided updates on the Regional Transportation Plan and the Public Transit Plan.

**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. She also reported that Osage, Crawford, Washington and Dent counties are waiting on funding for the Hazard Mitigation Program.

**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

Marla Stevenson reported that there are two loans heading for closing and several other potential loans in the works. The RLF program has approximately \$284,446 available to loan and the IRP has approximately \$337,226 available to loan. Pending loans may use some of these funds but if

anyone knows of other business in need of funding assistance, Ms. Stevenson asked that they be sent our way.

Darrell Skiles made a motion to accept the nomination of Gary Larson to fill the Dent County vacancy on the MRDC board. Randy Verkamp seconded. The motion carried.

**Workforce Development: T.R. Dudley**

T.R. Dudley spoke on the Certified Work Ready Community initiative. The goal of this initiative is to have a workforce that is trainable. Levels of certification go from bronze to platinum which shows what skills they have. Businesses can tap into that and can get any kind of specialized training for the worker that they might need. It lets a prospective business know that you have a work ready workforce.

Mr. Dudley also reported that the Central Workforce Investment Board (CWIB) will be selling the Universal Challenge Course, which appraised for \$100,000. The building wasn't winterized so there are a few condition issues. Squirrels got into it and chewed up the connections at the electrical box so the pipes froze and some of the walls had to be removed. Along with the building there are approximately 28 acres, a pavilion, a fire pit, a large garage and some other outbuildings. Missouri S&T has shown interest as has Fugitive Beach and several large church groups. Mr. Dudley said he would inform the board when it goes out for bid.

Mr. Dudley noted that requests have just been sent out for proposals for sub-contractors and are due to CWIB on March 2, 2017. Central Ozark Private Industry Council (COPIC) is the current sub-contractor for the region. CWIB will be bringing one program back in-house. He noted that there would be a savings of over \$100,000 per year which could be put back into programming. The main target under the new act is for out of school youth under the age of 24. Ms. Prigge inquired about the timing of the start of the summer youth program as she's been approached by several students interested in intern opportunities. Mr. Dudley stated that he thinks the program will kick off in March.

Ms. Prigge updated the board on the status of counties certified as work ready counties. Maries, Dent and Washington counties are certified and Phelps County is very close. Phelps and Crawford are in need of worker certification and Ms. Prigge indicated that contact would be made with schools in Steelville and Bourbon to see if they would like to participate. She noted that there is money to pay for proctoring in Phelps and Crawford counties.

The focus in Gasconade, Osage and Pulaski counties is on transitioning workers. Those that are unemployed. Mr. Dudley offered to reach to the workforce board again for additional input in those counties.

Mary Heywood added that contact with the Children's Division of Social Services might lead to more individuals who would qualify for the work ready testing program. She stated that she would email contact information to Ms. Prigge.

**Meramec Community Enhancement Corporation: Marvin Wright**

No report given.

**Meramec Region Community Foundation:**

Bonnie Prigge reported that a total of 16 grant requests were received. Six grants were available and all were awarded. Each grant went to a different county. In March MRCF is planning to host a "Bring a Friend to Lunch" meeting with invitations being given to the grant winners.

**Chairman Report:**

Marvin Wright stated that it's more important than ever for regional planning commissions to be in place right now. They are doing important work, and he thanked Ms. Prigge for the work that MRPC does.

**Director Report:**

Bonnie Prigge pointed out that it was Ron Kraettli's birthday today and everyone gave him a round of applause.

She reported that the governor has established a committee to review all tax credit programs so the Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP) is on hold for now.

Ms. Prigge stated that she and John Casey would be attending the MoDOT statewide planning meeting on March 9, 2017. She expects to hear more on the funding especially with regards to how that money is split. The cities and counties get a piece as do the Highway Patrol and the Department of Revenue. Ms. Prigge stated that Director McKenna's efforts right now are focused on providing information and education, adding that Missouri drivers really do spend more on cell phones than on transportation.

**Adjourn**

Dave Dudenhoeffer made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.; T.R. Dudley seconded the motion. The motion carried.

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Ray Schwartz, chairman

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James Morgan, secretary