

Meramec Regional Planning Commission
Minutes
May 11, 2017

Call to Order

Chairman Ray Schwartze called the May 11, 2017 meeting of the Meramec Regional Planning Commission to order at 7:34 p.m.

Welcome and Special Presentation

Chairman Schwartze welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the presenter, Luke Holtschneider, who is with the Department of Economic Development.

Consent Agenda

The following consent agenda items are presented for approval:

- a. Minutes – April 13, 2017
- b. Local Review
None
- c. Statewide Grant Applications
 1. Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission, Jefferson City, MO
20.106 – Airport Improvement Program
Federal Aviation Administration Airport Improvement Program
Federal: \$8,700,000
Local: \$966,686
Total: \$9,666,686
 2. Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Jefferson City, MO
66.461– Regional Wetland Program Development Grants
Development of Missouri Reference Wetlands for Water Quality Standards
Federal: \$238,050
Local: \$80,450
Total: \$318,500

The Office of Administration issues the Missouri Federal Assistance Clearinghouse grant reviews weekly. In the future, staff will share reports in between meeting 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
 - Council for a Healthy Dent County
Permission is requested for MRPC's chairman and/or executive director to enter into a technical assistance contract with Council for a Healthy Dent County for application preparation for a grant to build a new gym and community center, and to sign all documents associated with this contract.
 - Washington County IDA
Permission is requested for MRPC's chairman and/or executive director to enter into a technical assistance contract with Washington County IDA for development of an

Economic Development Grant Application and Guidelines, and to sign all documents associated with this contract.

Marvin Wright made the motion to approve the consent agenda with noted additions; Dave Dudenhoeffer seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Presentation: Presentation: Luke Holtschneider, Manager of Rural Development for the Missouri Department of Economic Development

Luke Holtschneider began his presentation by stating that the department is focusing on new efforts to assist area communicators. These include:

- Rural Resource Locator
- Rural Broadband Deployment
- “My Town” Video Series
- Rural Survey
- Feels Like Home Tours

He explained that the Rural Resource Locator will provide convenient access to available resources for specific business and community needs. It will include local, regional, state and federal resources, best practice case studies and relevant publications which support rural development efforts. Mr. Holtschneider stated that this is an effort to improve the coordination between agencies and resource partners that are available to assist businesses and communities.

Rural Broadband Deployment is of interest to many. The idea is to engage key stakeholders to develop a statewide strategy for broadband deployment. Mr. Holtschneider said that initial stakeholders include representatives from Missouri Farm Bureau, Missouri Department of Economic Development, Missouri Department of Agriculture, University of Missouri Extension and the Governor’s office. They will meet at a summit in July where they will discuss creating awareness of the initiative and will work on developing and engaging partners in this effort.

Mr. Holtschneider stated that the purpose behind the “My Town” video series is to spotlight small, rural communities across the state. It will be a method of recognizing those communities who are being proactive in their grass-roots efforts to address business and community needs and promoting those activities to other communities. The idea is that the series will provide ideas and motivation for other communities. The first community to be spotlighted is Steelville.

The rural survey is an annual survey of rural community perceptions. The survey link is live for one month. He reported that out of nearly 3,000 respondents, there were 2,260 valid (fully completed surveys) responses, and over 6,500 written comments to open ended questions. The questions and answers were then coded into seven core areas:

- Community outlook
- Economic opportunity and capacity
- Healthcare
- Housing
- Senior services
- Community challenges
- Internet

Overall, Mr. Holtschneider indicated that there were a lot of consistent feelings and attitudes. He went on to say that quality of life was the highest reported asset with quality jobs being the highest overall challenge. Most indicated that they loved their community but were uncertain regarding the future. Poverty, drugs and crime were also an issue with a feeling of uncertainty as

to how to address these issues. The survey results are currently being organized and a full report should be ready by early fall.

Mr. Holtscheider said that this was the fourth year for the Feels Like Home tours with the cities of Elsberry, LaGrange and Raymondville being selected as the 2017 featured cities. He reported that there will be a new approach this year. Prior to any workshop being held, the Missouri Department of Economic Development and MCB will make an initial visit to conduct a needs analysis. A second visit will include applicable resource partner organizations to provide ideas, strategy suggestions and potential resources based on the needs identified during the initial visit. Once these two visits are completed, a workshop geared to the needs identified will be held.

External Relations Committee: Darrell Skiles, chairman

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

Chairman Skiles reported that the City of Salem and Dent County have been selected as the site for the 2017 Annual Dinner and that a menu has been chosen. He also reminded everyone that award nominations are due June 1, 2017.

Chairman Skiles presented the following slate of officers for approval for MRPC for 2017-18:

Chairman: Ray Schwartze
Vice Chair: Marvin Wright
Secretary: Larry Miskel
Treasurer: Steve Vogt

Dave Dudenhoefter made motion to accept the MRPC slate of officers as presented; Don Brackhahn seconded. The motion carried.

Chairman Skiles presented the following slate of officers for approval for MRB for 2017-18:

Leo Sanders, Chair
Darrell Skiles, Vice Chair
Larry Miskel, Secretary-Treasurer

Randy Verkamp made a motion to accept the MRB slate of officers as presented; Jim White seconded. The motion carried. (Administrative Note: MRB will need to approve its officers at the June meeting.)

Chairman Skiles reported that all at-large representatives whose terms were expiring in 2017 have agreed to serve another term and that Don Brackhahn has agreed to serve on the MRPC board. The committee also approved appointing Doug Lasley as the replacement for Jim Barnett. Chairman Skiles presented these nominations to the board for approval.

Randy Verkamp made a motion to approve the nominations; Jim White seconded. The motion carried.

Operations 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 April 30, 2017. Staff also presented the MRPC/MRB FY17-18 draft budget and the MRPC/MRDC-RLF and IRP draft program budget.

Revenue is projected to be down some \$250,000 and cuts were made to bring expenses in line with revenue. Some staff reductions are planned as programs and projects are ending.

Chairman Wright made the motion to accept the financials for the period ending April 30, 2017 and to accept the draft budgets as presented; Dave Dudenheoffer seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Planning Committee:

Vice Chairman Jim White reported on planning activities as follows:

Robert Parsons gave a presentation on issues currently affecting the agriculture industry as it relates to economic development in our region. Agriculture represents \$2 billion in sales in the Meramec Region but a growing concern is the aging population of farmers. In addition, less than one percent of the population actually makes their living as farmers. Vice Chairman White noted that it was a very educational presentation.

Maria Bancroft, MRPC, gave an update on MRPF and the recent Give Ozarks Day. Ms. Bancroft reported the \$30,000 was raised on May 9 during a 24-hours period of on-line giving.

Housing Advisory Board: Leo Sanders, chairman

Vice Chairman Darrell Skiles reported on housing activities as follows:

The housing advisory board reviewed financials and approved the FY2017-18 budget. Officers were also voted on and approved. The annual utility allowance for 2017 was also approved.

Transportation Advisory Committee:

No report given.

Environmental:

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

Ms. Snodgrass reminded members that there will be an electronics collection in Rolla on May 20, 2017.

She also pointed out that Meramec Regional Emergency Planning Committee scholarship applications for the SEMA conference are due May 12, 2017 and will be reviewed at the June 21 2017 meeting. Ms. Snodgrass also noted that they are still looking for a city or county to hold a full or table top exercise.

Ms. Snodgrass reported that the Ozark Rivers Executive Board will be meeting May 16, 2017 and she stressed that a quorum was needed. She added that if any of the commissioners were unable to attend the meeting due to the recent flood or other scheduling conflicts, a conference call could be arranged. Both Darrell Skiles and Ray Schwartze indicated that they could attend via the conference call.

It was also noted that the next Homeland Security Oversight Committee meeting would be on June 20, 2017. Ms. Snodgrass also pointed out that there were several Hazardous Mitigation meetings scheduled in the upcoming weeks and dates could be found on the handout.

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

Information included in Environmental report, which was handed out.

Business Loans:

Linda Loughridge, MRPC, reported that the Meramec Regional Development Corporation will hold its next meeting on June 12, 2017. She noted that two SBA loans were closed this year and two more were due to close. There are three other potential loans in progress. Ms. Loughridge noted that there is \$713,326 available for relending through the revolving loan funds.. The money is to be used for businesses to create new jobs or retain their current workforce.

Workforce Development: T.R. Dudley

No report.

Meramec Community Enhancement Corporation: Marvin Wright
Marvin Wright reported on MCEC activities as follows:

Caledon Virtual has created a Naturally Meramec website and it is now up and running. The group also has an active Facebook page.

Mr. Wright noted that MCEC is looking to add members to its board and were open to suggestions.

Meramec Region Community Foundation:

It was reported that the May 9, 2017, Day of Giving was a success with \$30,000 being raised for 12 organizations in the region.

Chairman Report:

Chairman Ray Schwartze reported that the flooding has kept everyone busy and thanked MRPC for their help with various flood plain issues.

Director Report:

In the absence of Bonnie Prigge, Tammy Snodgrass updated the committee on current activities.

She noted that MRPC was the flood plain administrator for Maries and Phelps counties. Chuck Cantrell has been out conducting damage assessments to insure that both counties followed the requirements for the NFIP. Damage assessments must be conducted on all flood damaged properties to determine those that had damage greater than 50 percent. Those substantially damaged properties would be required to meet the requirements of the county floodplain ordinance. She explained that if counties do not carry out damage assessments following a flood event they would risk losing NFIP status.

Ms. Snodgrass reported that individuals, who had never had water in their homes before, had several feet in their homes this time. She said that state and federal agencies are estimating the amount of damage and that SEMA is working to complete and submit an application for a federal disaster declaration. Multi-agency resource centers have been set-up around the affected areas to provide assistance to those affected. In addition, each member county has a disaster fund established through the MRCF.

She also provided an update on the 2020 census. Ms. Snodgrass reminded the committee that it is critical to complete and return the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) packets. The information gathered through these surveys determine how congressional districts are drawn – whether the state gains or loses congressional districts as well as how federal funds are distributed. It is critically important that these documents be completed and returned. In addition, all of the local governments should have received 2020 Census Boundary surveys. These are used to determine if there have been any changes to your jurisdictions boundaries. It is important to submit these to make sure that your community gets credit for all of the people living within your borders.

Ms. Snodgrass informed the board that Bonnie Prigge contacted Senators Blunt and McCaskill and asked them to join a “dear colleague” letter being circulated at the Capital in support of continued funding for EDA.

The board was also updated on the real ID legislation which had just been passed. Had this legislation not been put into place, by next year no one with a Missouri driver’s license would be allowed to board a plane or enter a federal facility. There were two concessions made in order to get the legislation passed: 1) documents would need to be stored on a server that’s not connected to the internet and 2) the law would expire in five years if not renewed by the legislature.

Ms. Snodgrass briefly discussed the 2017-18 budget and told board members they could help the organization by identifying projects and working with staff to develop new projects.

Ms. Snodgrass informed the board that John Peterson is retiring in June. He has been involved with MRPC for 19 years. She thanked him for his services and added that she hopes he continues to help out on MRPC committees such as CEDS.

On a final note, the board was informed that if anyone needed squeegees to help with clean-up efforts in flood damaged areas, Jan Haviland has made them available. Dave Dudenhoeffer thanked Ms. Haviland for her offer.

Adjourn

Jim White made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.; Dave Dudenhoeffer seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Ray Schwartze, chairman

Attest