

Meramec Regional Planning Commission
Minutes
June 8, 2017

Call to Order

Chairman Ray Schwartz called the June 8, 2017 meeting of the Meramec Regional Planning Commission to order at 7:39 p.m.

Welcome and Special Presentation

Chairman Schwartz welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Justin Klocke and John McKenzie from Senator Claire McCaskill's office and asked them for a brief update.

Mr. Klocke highlighted a few of the bills that Senator McCaskill is currently working on. Among them are:

- Boots on the Ground
 - o Designed to streamline the process for ex-military and police personnel to get employment with the border patrol.
- VA Accountability
 - o There have been issues on how personnel in the VA have been hired and fired and this bill is designed to reform this process.
- Healthcare
 - o There is a new healthcare bill that is set to by-pass the committee hearings and go straight to the senate. Target date is before the recess. There are counties in northern Missouri without any coverage which is a huge problem.

He added that CDBG, EDA, and DRA are areas that are very concerning and asked that any success stories with past funding be passed on to their office. Mr. Klocke thanked the board for having them.

Chairman Schwartz also introduced this evening's presenter, Dr. Sean Siebert.

Consent Agenda

The following consent agenda items are presented for approval:

- a. Minutes – May 11, 2017
- b. Local Review
None
- c. Statewide Grant Applications
None

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
 - Ozark Rivers Solid Waste Management District
Permission is requested for MRPC's chairman and/or executive director to enter into a contract with Ozark Rivers Solid Waste Management District for administration

services effective July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2018, and for MRPC's chairman and/or executive director to sign any necessary documents.

- Ozark Rivers Solid Waste Management District

Permission is requested for MRPC's chairman and/or executive director to enter into a contract with Ozark Rivers Solid Waste Management District for implementation and project coordination services effective July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2017, and for MRPC's chairman and/or executive director to sign any necessary documents.

- MRPC/MCEC Lease Agreement

Approval is requested from the Meramec Regional Planning Commission board to extend the lease rate and the term of the lease of a Cargo Trailer from the Meramec Community Enhancement Corporation for an additional year. All other covenants contained in the original lease, dated September 14, 2010, remain in full force.

- Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety - MODOT

Permission is requested for MRPC's chairman/executive director to enter into a grant agreement with Missouri coalition for Roadway Safety (MODOT) to continue efforts to promote safe driving July, 1, 2017, through June 30, 2018.

- Gasconade County IDA

Permission is requested for approval of a contract with the Gasconade County IDA for technical assistance for the period July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017 and for chairman and/or executive director to sign all necessary documents.

- Gasconade Valley Enterprise Zone (GVEZ)

Permission is requested for MRPC's chairman/executive director to sign a contract amendment with GVEZ to continue providing administration and fiscal services July 1, 1027 through June 30, 2018.

- Meramec Regional Emergency Planning Committee

Permission is requested for MRPC's chairman and/or executive director to enter into a contract with MREPC for administrative and technical assistance and for MRPC's chairman and/or executive director to sign any necessary documents.

- Phelps County

Permission is requested for MRPC's chairman and/or executive director to approve an addendum with Phelps County for its floodplain technical assistance contract to cover additional scope or work and expenses for the April 2017 flooding, and for MRPC's chairman and/or executive director to sign any necessary documents.

- Phelps County

Permission is requested for MRPC's chairman and/or executive director to extend a contract with Phelps County to provide floodplain technical assistance for the period July 1, 2017, to June 30, 2018, and for MRPC's chairman and/or executive director to sign any necessary documents.

- City of Meta

Permission is requested for MRPC's chairman and/or executive director to extend a contract with the City of Meta for floodplain technical assistance for the period July 1, 2017, to June 30, 2018, and for MRPC's chairman and/or executive director to sign any necessary documents.

- Liberty Garden Apartments, Inc.

Permission is requested for MRPC's chairman and/or executive director to enter into a contract with Liberty Garden Apartments, Inc. for technical assistance for preparation of a Federal Home Loan Bank-Des Moines Renovation Grant and for MRPC's chairman and/or executive director to sign any necessary documents.

e. Appointments

MRPC's approval is requested for two appointments and one status change to the Transportation Advisory Committee:

Phelps County Commission recommends the appointment of Darin Pryor as a primary member on MRPC's TAC, replacing John Petersen, who is retiring.

Phelps County Commission recommends changing the status of John Butz from primary to alternate on MRPC's TAC.

Pulaski County Commission recommends the appointment of Glen Smith, mayor of Crocker, to the MRPC TAC, replacing James Morgan, who is no longer associated with the city of Crocker and no longer lives in Pulaski County.

Steve Vogt made the motion to approve the consent agenda with noted additions; John Casey seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Presentation: Presentation: Dr. Sean Seibert

Dr. Sean Seibert opened his presentation by stressing that his program would not have succeeded without the help of Bonnie Prigge, Samantha Maddison, Kelly Sink-Blair, Leo Sanders, and the Crawford County Sheriff.

Using a DRA workforce grant, Dr. Seibert stated that a goal was set to get Washington, Dent, Phelps, and Crawford Counties certified Work Ready. Testing was conducted among three groups: emerging (high school students), the current work force, and transitioning (unemployed). With the Rehabilitation to Innovation program, Dr. Seibert wanted to focus on inmates in county jails and help them see that they do have potential.

Dr. Seibert noted that the program ran for five weeks. Out of 36 individuals who voluntarily participated, 30 passed and received silver certification. This level of certification indicates that they are qualified to work in 70 percent of the jobs in the workforce. Dr. Seibert reported that there have been several success stories of graduates of the program who have found successful employment once they had bonded out of the jail. With the completion of the testing at the county jail, Crawford County is now a 100 percent work ready certified community.

Bonnie Prigge thanked Dr. Seibert for his work with the inmates. She added that the program helped them to think better about themselves and helped them realize that they are a value and are needed in the workforce.

Chairman Schwartze commented that it sounded like a good program and that jail is not the solution. We need to get them back into the workforce.

Sharon Hubbard asked about resources available to help them kick their addictions. Dr. Siebert said that the individuals were made aware of the resources that were available to assist them.

External Relations Committee: Darrell Skiles, chairman

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

The committee reviewed plans for the October 26 Annual Dinner, including reviewing the budget. The ticket price has been set at \$30. Committee members also reviewed award nominations. A Eugene E. Northern winner has been selected and there are seven other nominees and three youth nominees.

Also discussed was a strategy to keep priority issues in front of the legislators. Two representatives from Senator Claire McCaskill's office attended the committee meeting and added their thoughts and ideas to the discussion. It was determined that one method of communication would be through letters and/or video clips describing how different funding agencies helped a city or county. These could be sent every couple of weeks to keep the issue in forefront of legislators. Tammy Snodgrass agreed to provide a template to the cities and counties but stressed that we need the board members buy-in. Caitlin Jones, MRPC, stated that she is excited to pursue production of the video clips.

Ms. Prigge added that CDBG pamphlets are being developed which will showcase projects that have been completed over the last seven to ten years.

It was noted that rural America needs to be kept out in the forefront. Projects that could be highlighted include:

- Work on a wastewater treatment facility that helped 1,300 residents
- The EDA project with parking at the hospital
- Water and sewer projects in Maries County

Chairman Skiles stressed the importance of having a line of communication with the local representatives for the legislators. Mr. Klocke with Senator McCaskill's office added his encouragement for cities and counties to build those relationships. Ms. Prigge stated that she appreciates having that local connection.

Ms. Snodgrass also provided the committee with an update on legislation of interest that passed or failed during the 2017 legislative session.

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 May 31, 2017. Staff also presented the MRPC/MRB FY17-18 final budget and the MRPC/MRDC-RLF and IRP final program budget.

Linda Loughridge, MRPC Fiscal Officer, reported the 2017-2018 revenues are down considerably. She added that there will be no dues increase and cities and counties will still be allotted the same number of free hours as in the previous fiscal year.

Ms. Loughridge also reported that there have been several major changes since the revised fiscal year 2016-2017 budget. She noted that there was a \$232,000 deficit across all departments and that \$121,000 of that was in housing. This deficit is largely due to programs ending and there has been no replacement revenue. Changes included:

- Several staff members were cut; one in fiscal and one in housing
- Hours and pay for the housing manager went down
- Seven individuals had their hours reduced slightly
- Two positions will be ending; one at the end of September and the other at the end of December.

Chairman Wright made the motion to accept the financials for the period ending May 31, 2017; George Lauritson seconded. The motion carried.

Randy Verkamp made a motion to accept the final budgets for fiscal year 2017-2018; Larry Stratman seconded. The motion carried.

Planning Committee:

Vice Chairman Jim White reported on planning activities as follows:

Several committee members spoke on tourism and economic development in their communities. While Phelps County and St. James reported an increase in sales tax, Dent County reported that tax revenues are down. Marcus Maggard reported that the recent flooding has caused a decrease in tourism. It will just take time for things to begin moving forward again.

Samantha Maddison, MRPC, provided an update on the Voucher Program associated with Mobility Management. It was noted that the Voucher Program may not be as well publicized as it could be.

Housing Advisory Board: Leo Sanders, chairman
No report given.

Transportation Advisory Committee:

Chairman John Casey reported on transportation activities as follows:

Preston Kramer with MODOT presented the 2018-2022 draft STIP. Construction project updates were also presented. Anne Freand, MRPC, reported that the Regional Transportation Plan is in process and that copies are expected to be available in August. Officers were also elected for the upcoming year:

- Chairman: John Casey
- Vice Chairman: Randy Verkamp
- Secretary: Larry Stratman

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.

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 14, 2017. Ms. Loughridge noted that there is \$723,035 available for relending through the revolving loan funds and anyone who is interested should contact Maria Bancroft.

Workforce Development: T.R. Dudley

No report.

Meramec Community Enhancement Corporation: Marvin Wright

Marvin Wright reported on MCEC activities as follows:

The committee will be meeting on June 13, 2017.

Meramec Region Community Foundation:

Bonnie Prigge reported that MRFC now has over \$1 million in funds. There have been two new scholarships set up for the Maries County RII School District in Belle totaling nearly \$275,000. She stated that the June meeting had been cancelled, and the next meeting would be the annual meeting in July.

Chairman Report:

Chairman Ray Schwartze reported on the results of Bonnie Prigge's evaluation as executive director of MRPC. Results of the 11 evaluations that were returned:

- 69 percent rated her performance as outstanding
- 26 percent rated her performance as above average
- 5 percent rated her performance as average

Chairman Schwartze noted that he felt that Ms. Prigge has grown in knowledge as the director and that she handles herself professionally in meetings. He cited the meetings in Washington, DC as one example of her professionalism. Chairman Schwartze added that Tammy Snodgrass also handles herself professionally.

Director Report:

Bonnie Prigge thanked Chairman Schwartze for his kind remarks and added the board members should feel free to contact her at any time if they have comments on her performance. She stated that they don't have to wait until the annual review.

Other items reported on by Ms. Prigge:

- Disaster declared counties should be receiving a letter from SEMA. Notice of Intent need to be filed by July 14, 2017. Questions can be directed to Kelly Sink-Blair or Tammy Snodgrass.
- John Petersen is retiring as the City of Rolla's Community Development Director. She has a plaque for him honoring his 18 years of service on various MRPC committees.
- Beginning July 1, MRPC's hours will be 8-4:30 Monday-Thursday, 8-2:30 on Friday.
- A staff retreat is planned for July 20 at Echo Bluff State Park. Many local venues were not available due to the flood disaster.
- Board retreat will likely be held in the fall to discuss strategic planning and how to grow revenues.

Ms. Prigge stated that she has been asked to serve on the statewide Small Business Development and Technical Business Center Advisory Board. This will typically involve only two meetings per year.

Ms. Prigge stated that MRB would not be replacing a vehicle and that the rotation would go from a five years to six.

On a final note, MRPC's phone system is eight years old and has been having issues with the voice mail portion. This issue is currently being looked into and hopefully repaired.

Adjourn

Jim White made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:59 p.m.; John Casey seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Ray Schwartze, chairman

Attest