

Meramec Regional Planning Commission
Minutes
September 14, 2017

Call to Order

Chairman Ray Schwartze called the September 14, 2017, meeting of the Meramec Regional Planning Commission to order at 7:40 p.m.

Welcome and Special Presentation

Chairman Schwartze welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced James Shields, city planner for the City of Rolla, and Janie Dunning, Consultant with Farm Bureau, and the guest speaker for the meeting.

Consent Agenda

The following consent agenda items are presented for approval:

- a. Minutes – Aug. 10, 2017
- b. Local Review
None
- c. Statewide Grant Applications
 1. Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Jefferson City, MO
66.433 – State Underground Water Source Protection
Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Missouri Geological Survey
Underground Injection Control Program
Federal: \$145,000
Applicant: \$48,332
Total: \$193,332
 2. Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Jefferson City, MO
66.460 – Nonpoint Source Implementation Grants
FY2017 319h Nonpoint Source Implementation Grant
Federal: \$1,858,500
Local: \$1,239,000
Other: \$3,717,000
Total: \$6,814,500
 3. Missouri Department of Conservation, Jefferson City, MO
10.028 – Wildlife Services
2017 HPAI Cooperative Agreement
Federal: \$10,000
Total: \$10,000

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. State Regional Planning Commission Grant Application

Permission is requested for MRPC to submit the grant application to the Missouri Office of Administration for the State Regional Planning Commission Grant, 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.

e. Contracts

- City of Rolla

Permission is requested for MRPC's chairman and/or executive director to enter into a contract with the City of Rolla for technical assistance for construction inspection services and for MRPC's chairman and/or executive director to sign any necessary documents.

- Scott and Tammy Yamnitz, dba Country Feeds, LLC

Permission is requested for MRPC's chairman and/or executive director to enter into a contract for technical assistance to package a loan request, and to sign all related documents.

- Sandra and Randy Johnson, dba Aging Made Easy, LLC

Permission is requested for MRPC's chairman and/or executive director to enter into a contract for technical assistance to package a loan request, and to sign all related documents.

- Eric Taylor and Casey Stuck, dba Eagles Landing, LLC

Permission is requested for MRPC's chairman and/or executive director to enter into a contract for technical assistance to package a loan request, and to sign all related documents.

f. Appointments

MRPC's approval is requested for two appointments to the Meramec Regional Development Corporation board.

- The Phelps County Commission recommends reappointing James Marcellus and Gary Hicks to each serve an additional three-year term beginning on July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2020.

MRPC's approval is requested for a re-appointment to the Meramec Regional Development Corporation board.

- The Maries County Commission recommends reappointing Tim Seams to serve an additional three-year term beginning on July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2020.

Presentation: The Status of Broadband in Missouri – Janie Dunning, Consultant with Farm Bureau

The former Missouri State director for USDA, Janie Dunning has most recently been gathering information on broadband across Missouri and across the country, identifying issues and best practices.

Ms. Dunning informed the board that she had created a white paper on the "State of the State" of broadband in Missouri. In it she discussed the state by state legislation to deploy broadband and Missouri has none. She went on to indicate that broadband information is available but that it's not good, it's not complete and it's not accurate.

Ms. Dunning shared some statistics showing the state of broadband in Missouri:

- There are 1.2 million people without access to a wired connection capable of 25 MBPS down load speeds, the speed at which the FCC considers it to be high speed.
- There are 1 million people having access to only one wired provider.
- Another 440,000 do not have any wired internet providers available where they live.
- Missouri's population is a little over six million with approximately 70% being urban and 30% being rural.
- About 39% of rural Americans lack broadband, where only 4% urban lack broadband.
 - o 61% of rural residents lack broadband in Missouri (the national average is 39%)

She ended her presentation with some statistics for the eight counties in MRPC's region. Only three of the eight counties have connectivity to fiber optic.

Ms. Dunning stated that we need to shoot for achieving access speeds of at least 25 MBPS, however, she indicated that federal regulations is suggesting that rural areas don't have to meet this number; that it is acceptable for those areas to be less.

She has asked that a legislative committee be formed to step up support to address the issue of broadband. One suggestion would be to install fiber optic lines when new roads/sewer lines are installed. This would eliminate some of the biggest costs.

Other points noted by Ms. Dunning were:

- 97% of Americans buy on-line and the lack of internet access hurts small business trying to conduct business on-line.
- the majority of job applications are now required to be completed on-line.
- home prices can be affected by \$10,000 - \$20,000 based on availability or lack of availability of internet service.

Ms. Dunning stated that Missouri needs a central coordination office/repository of information. There is currently no state policy in place. She added that Missouri can apply for funding for broadband but said that the state isn't ready.

Chairman Schwartze thanked Ms. Dunning for her presentation. Bonnie Prigge added that she would share the results of the recent broadband meeting and will include Ms. Dunning's contact information if any board member needed more information.

External Relations Committee: Darrell Skiles, chairman

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

The committee was updated on plans for the Annual Dinner, to be held in Salem on October 26, 2017. Chairman Skiles announced that donations are being sought for the silent auction and for door prizes.

Chairman Skiles brought before the board a recommendation to accept Gary Brown as the for-profit representative for Dent County. T.T. Dudley seconded; the motion carried.

The committee was provided with an update on legislation of interest, and noted that the legislative issues survey would be resent with responses due Oct. 20, 2017. He stressed that it was very important for members to participate.

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 August 31, 2017.

Chairman Wright made a motion to approve the all financial statements for the period ending August 31, 2017. T.R. Dudley seconded; the motion carried.

Staff also presented a proposed increase to the IRP loan program loan origination fee to \$1,000 to be consistent with other loan deposit fees and Chairman Wright made a motion to improve the increase. T.R. Dudley seconded; the motion carried.

Planning Committee:

Chairman T.R. Dudley reported on planning activities as follows:

The committee held election of committee leadership and elected to retain the current leadership: T.R. Dudley as committee chairman and Jim White as vice chairman.

Chairman Dudley reported that Janey Radford, at-large for small business, spoke to the committee about issues currently affecting small businesses.

The committee also discussed the upcoming board retreat and stated that an agenda is currently being developed. The featured speaker for the retreat will be Dr. Sean Siebert.

Chairman Dudley indicated that the committee also discussed:

- broadband connectivity (lack thereof in rural areas)
- workforce issues (attendance, customer service skills, etc.)
- regulations (EPA, legal, community)
- guidance on credit cards and myriad of available choices
- encouraging entrepreneurship among our youth
- inability to utilize resources

Housing Advisory Board: Leo Sanders, chairman

No report given.

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 also reminded the board that the Ozark Rivers Executive Board will be meeting on Sept. 26, 2017 to review grants and that the board is seeking award nominations.

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 September 20, 2017 at noon. Ms. Loughridge noted that there is \$421,797 available for relending through the revolving loan funds and \$325,174 through the IRP fund program. Anyone interested in loans should contact Maria Bancroft.

Workforce Development: T.R. Dudley

T.R. Dudley provided members with the CWIB Connection newsletter containing information on recent activities in the area of workforce development.

Alan Galindo, Central Workforce Development Board, reported that the recent job fair held at Quaker went well but that more workers are still needed to fill jobs.

Meramec Community Enhancement Corporation: Marvin Wright

Marvin Wright reported on MCEC activities as follows:

More information will be provided at the next meeting.

Meramec Region Community Foundation:

Bonnie Prigge reported that Judy Cantoni is the new contact for Community Foundation of the Ozarks.

Chairman Report:

Chairman Ray Schwartze stated that he appreciated everyone attending the meeting tonight and reminded members that the October meeting would be a short one immediately following the TAC meeting. There will be no committee meetings or dinner.

Director Report:

Bonnie Prigge informed the board the first Meramec Mornings event was recently held at Doolittle and there were five or six people from the area in attendance. The next event will be held in Caledonia in Washington County on Sept. 27, 2017. Notifications will be finalized tomorrow and sent out to board members.

Ms. Prigge noted that MRPC shared a MoDOT emailing regarding a long-range transportation survey. She also reminded the board that surplus bid packets were sent out and due in MRPC's office tomorrow.

Ms. Prigge stated that comments regarding needed regulation changes are due to the Department of Revenue by Sept. 30, 2017.

She concluded her report by informing the board that she met with Rob Dixon, Department of Economic Development. It was noted that Governor Greitens is very interested in the Reahab to Innovation program and is encouraging DED and corrections to work together on re-entry issues.

Adjourn

Ray Schwartze made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 p.m.; T.R. Dudley seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Ray Schwartze, chairman

Attest