

# MINUTES

**3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Quarterly Meeting of the  
Missouri Veterans Commission  
July 26, 2021 — 10:00 AM  
Harry S Truman State Office Building  
301 W. High Street, Room 492  
Jefferson City, MO**

**Portions of this meeting were closed pursuant to Sections 610.021 (1), (3), (9) & (14)  
RSMo.**

**WebEx Conference Call was established for public to join.**

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- I. **CALL TO ORDER**
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Roll Call  
Commissioners in attendance in room or via WebEx Conference Call:  
  
Chair Kelly McClelland; Vice Chair Meredith Knopp; Commissioner Randy Alewel; Commissioner Robert Sauls; Commissioner Jill Schupp; Commissioner Chuck Basye; Commissioner Steve Maples; Commissioner Rick Brattin  
  
Absent: Commissioner Tim Smith
- IV. Chair Opening Comments
- V. Recognition:
  - A. Andrew Sharp, Veterans Service Supervisor, Southwest Region
  - B. Former Commissioners:
    - 1. Attended in person: Steve Lynch
    - 2. Attended via WebEx: John Buckner, Jose Dominguez, Tim Noonan, Wayne Wallingford
- VI. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
  - A. Open Quarterly Commission Meeting Minutes from April 26, 2021
  - B. Special Session Open Minutes from May 17, 2021
  - C. Special Session Open Minutes from June 28, 2021
  - D. All minutes were unanimously approved as written
- VII. **STAFF UPDATES & BRIEFS**
  - A. Executive Director Comprehensive Update Brief
  - B. COVID Update Brief
  - C. Facilities Update Briefed:
    - Status of Capital Improvements and funding status of projects
  - D. Veteran Cemeteries Program Briefed:
    - 1. Interments and capacity of columbarium walls
    - 2. Satisfaction Survey Results
  - E. Veteran Services Program Briefed:
    - 1. Return on Investment Ratio of Veterans Services Officers
    - 2. Provided Governor's Challenge Update
- VIII. Veteran Homes Program Briefed:
  - A. Veteran and Family Satisfaction Survey Results
  - B. Annual VA Survey Certifications and current status of certification for our homes.
    - 1. Full Certification Received

- a. St. James
      - b. Cape Girardeau
      - c. Mexico
    - 2. Partial Certification
      - a. Cameron-request for full certification made 7/6/21
      - b. Survey Completed-Awaiting Statement of Deficiencies
      - c. St. Louis 6/30/21
      - d. Mt. Vernon 7/22/21
    - 3. Awaiting Survey
      - Warrensburg, projected in October
- IX. **Midwest Challenge: Provided the following information:**
- A. Historic Review of State funding to Missouri Veterans Commission
  - B. Three Talking Points / Fiscal Update
    - 1. MVC Staff Salaries – raise to compete with healthcare market
    - 2. Appropriate authority and front cash for short-term financial stability
      - a. FY22 Operational Support for revenue shortfall \$5M General Revenue
      - b. Appropriation authority needed to spend CARES/ARPA one-time funding \$15M
      - c. Cash needed to front VA Grants (100% reimbursable) \$26.5M available for MVC
      - d. Appropriation authority for additional \$303M ARPA funding distributed to State of MO. General Assembly approval for distribution to MVC during FY22
    - 3. Identify long-term funding source(s) and operational changes for financial stability
      - a. Request General Revenue for \$33.2M shortfall (FY23 and Future Years)
      - b. MVC Operations Changes
- X. **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**
- Commissioner Schupp provided a brief update on Medicaid Expansion
- XI. **AGENCY PARTNERS UPDATE**
- A. John J. Pershing VAMC, Poplar Bluff, Associate Director briefed:
    - 1. New Medical Director Drew DeWitt
    - 2. Still a lot of COVID Vaccination hesitancy within the public
  - B. Harry S Truman VAMC, Columbia, Medical Director briefed:
    - 1. New CBOC in Sedalia will open in September
    - 2. Progressive Care Unit opened in June 2021
    - 3. Strongly encouraging to get the COVID Vaccination
    - 4. Breaking ground on new Camdenton CBOC
  - C. Veterans Health Care System of the Ozarks; Fayetteville, AR
    - 1. Medical Director, Kelvin Parks is still on detail away from the hospital
    - 2. Currently conducting interviews for Chief of Staff
  - D. John Cochran VAMC St. Louis, Chief of Staff briefed:
    - 1. Starting Phase 1 of a Billion Dollar building project
    - 2. Strongly encouraging to get the COVID Vaccination
- XII. **CHAIR COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- A. Chair McClelland made closing remarks and announced that the next Quarterly Commission meeting (4<sup>th</sup> Quarter) will be held on Monday, October 25, 2021 at 10:00 AM in the Truman State Office Building, Jefferson City, MO.

- B. It was decided that the August Special Monthly Meeting will held on August 30, 2021 at 10:00 am.
- C. It was decided that the September Special Monthly Meeting will be held on September 20, 2021 at 10:00 am.

**XIII. CLOSED SESSION**

Roll Call vote was taken adjourn to closed session to discuss matters relating to personnel matters, legal actions, causes of action or litigation pursuant to Section 610.021 (1); pursuant to Section 610.021 (3); pursuant to Section 610.021 (9); and pursuant to Section 610.021 (14) RSMo and it passed unanimously.

**XIV. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

Roll Call vote was taken to return to Open Session: It passed unanimously

**XV. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business before the Commission, meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote.



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Paul Kirchoff, Secretary