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## MEETING AGENDA

### TRANSPORTATION EMISSIONS COMMITTEE Monday, October 28, 2024 - 10:00 AM

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#### AGENDA

- 1) Welcome
- 2) VOTE: Approve the October 14, 2024 meeting summary
- 3) DISCUSSION: MARC Conflict of Interest and Whistleblower Policies
- 4) Programming discussion
  - VOTE: Approval of the scores
  - Introduction to the project review information
  - Programming discussion by committee members
- 5) Adjournment

Next Scheduled Meeting: Monday, November 4, 2024, 10:00 a.m. - noon (special meeting)

**Getting to MARC:** Information on transportation options to the MARC offices, including directions, parking, transit, carpooling, and bicycling, can be found online. If driving, visitors and guests should enter the Rivergate Center parking lot from Broadway and park on the upper level of the garage. An entrance directly into the conference area is available from this level.

**Parking:** Free parking is available when visiting MARC. Visitors and guests should park on the upper level of the garage. To enter this level from Broadway, turn west into the Rivergate Center parking lot. Please use any of the available spaces on the upper level at the top of the ramp.

**Special Accommodations:** Please notify MARC at (816) 474-4240 at least 48 hours in advance if you require special accommodations to attend this meeting (i.e., qualified interpreter, large print, reader, hearing assistance). MARC programs are non-discriminatory as stated by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. For more information or to obtain a Title VI Complaint Form, call 816-474-4240 or visit our webpage.



## **CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY**

### ***Governing all Boards, Commissions, Committees and Subcommittees***

#### **PURPOSE**

The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) is dedicated to building a stronger metropolitan region by promoting regional cooperation and developing innovative solutions to regional challenges. MARC strives to operate in an open and transparent way that inspires confidence that the organization is an effective steward of public resources. The purpose of this conflict of interest policy is to ensure that participants on the MARC board and committees have clear guidance when a participant in any MARC decision-making process could have a conflict of interest and what the appropriate action would be in those circumstances.

It is in the best interest of the MARC Board of Directors, Mid-America Head Start and all other boards, commissions, committees and subcommittees to be aware of and properly manage all conflicts of interest and any appearances of conflicts of interest. This conflict of interest policy is designed to help directors, officers, employees and volunteers identify conflicts of interest and disclose them to the appropriate authority. It is also designed to provide a procedure to appropriately manage conflicts in accordance with legal requirements and the goals of accountability and transparency in all MARC operations.

The MARC Board, and boards that work through MARC such as the Mid-America Solid Waste Management District, make decisions in a number of program areas that impact the availability of federal, state and local government funds and private contributions. This conflict of interest policy is intended to support those decision-making processes.

This policy is intended to supplement but not replace any state or federal laws that govern conflicts of interest in public, nonprofit, and charitable organizations.

#### **1. Interested Person**

Any member of a MARC board, commission, committee or subcommittee charged with decision-making or making recommendations for funding, who has a direct or indirect financial interest, as defined below, is an interested person.

#### **2. Financial Interest Defined**

A person has a financial interest if the person has, directly or indirectly, through business, investment, or family:

- An ownership or investment interest in any entity with which MARC has a transaction or other financial arrangement,
- A compensation arrangement with MARC or with any entity or individual with which MARC has a transaction or arrangement, or
- A potential ownership or investment interest in, or compensation arrangement with, any entity or individual with which MARC is negotiating a transaction or arrangement.

For purposes of this policy, “family members” includes spouses, parents, children, and siblings (including those related by marriage), as well as significant others and any other person who resides with the committee/board member.

### **3. Procedure**

In connection with any actual or possible conflict of interest, an interested person must disclose the existence of the conflict of interest to members of the committee considering the proposed action or recommendation.

A person who has a conflict of interest in a certain matter shall not participate in the discussion of that matter except to disclose material facts and to respond to questions. Such person shall not attempt to exert his or her personal influence with respect to the matter, either at or outside the meeting.

The interested person shall abstain from any votes on funding recommendations, contracts or transactions in which there is an interest as defined above, and shall abstain from any votes for all meeting minutes or other records of the meeting.

### **4. Gifts, Gratuities and Entertainment**

MARC committee members and directors shall avoid accepting, directly or indirectly, any rebate, gift, money or anything of monetary value from an organization or vendor that could benefit from a MARC committee action regarding funding recommendations, vendor selection or other transactions. From time to time, vendors may pay for meals apart from a bid process.

### **5. Committee Representation**

MARC makes decisions on federal and state funding that benefits local communities within the Kansas City region. The MARC Board and many of its committees are composed of local officials representing the communities that may benefit from MARC Board decisions. It is not a conflict of interest for a board member or a committee member, who are also elected officials or local government staff members, to advocate for or vote on issues that will affect their jurisdiction. If an elected official serves on another public board by virtue of their elected office, it is not a conflict of interest for that elected official to participate in discussions and vote on matters affecting that other public body.


In the past, smaller communities have at times been represented by consulting engineers on committees which rely on both technical and community considerations to make funding recommendations. Private consultants or other private parties shall abstain from any discussion or vote on all matters before the committee that might pose a conflict of interest due to a relationship between the project applicant and the private consultant. The private consultant or party should limit any participation in discussion to answering questions asked by other committee members. Individual committees may adopt specific procedural requirements for participation by members and others present at meetings.

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### **BOARD APPROVAL AND REVISION DATES**

**Approved: August 25, 2009**

**Revised: September 24, 2013  
October 15, 2013  
May 23, 2017**

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MARC AGENCY POLICY: WHISTLEBLOWER</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Policy No: 2</p>
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## WHISTLEBLOWER POLICY

### PURPOSE

MARC is committed to lawful and ethical behavior in all of its activities and requires all staff to act in accordance with all applicable laws, regulations and policies and to observe high standards of business and personal ethics in the conduct of their duties and responsibilities.

This policy is intended to:

- Encourage individuals to bring ethical or legal violations to the attention of an internal or external authority so that action can be taken to resolve the problem.
- Establish guidance and procedures for staff (paid and volunteer) or others to report illegal, unethical or inappropriate behaviors or practices, in good faith, without fear of retribution.
- To provide a constructive process for individuals to report issues of concern.
- Emphasize the importance of adherence to MARC’s standards of conduct.

### 1. Overview

A whistleblower is a person (often an employee) who raises a concern about serious wrongdoing occurring in an organization. Examples of misconduct that might lead to whistleblowing include the violation of laws, rules or regulations; fraud, mismanagement or corruption; or direct threats to the public interest, such as health or safety violations.

In general, whistleblowing refers to reporting misconduct outside the normal chain of command. Most workplace issues are, and to the extent possible, should be resolved by working with direct supervisors and department directors as described in the Issues Resolution policy. However, if an individual, acting in good faith, has reasonable grounds for believing that serious wrongdoing is taking place that has not been addressed or cannot be addressed through normal channels, he or she has the option of “whistleblowing” without fear of retribution.

Examples of the types of situations a whistleblower might report may include, but are not limited, to the following:

- A violation of law.
- Questionable accounting or monitoring practices.
- Discrimination based on protected classes.
- Fraud, waste or mismanagement.

Examples of problems that can be addressed through normal issues resolution procedures may include, but are not limited, to the following:

- Disagreements or misunderstandings between employees.
- Issues related to employment or working conditions.
- Personality conflicts.

- Working relationships between employees or employees and supervisors.

## 2. Reporting Procedures

Individuals may report misconduct, without fear of retribution, through the following procedures:

- For internal employee relations issues, seek assistance from supervisors, department directors or Human Resources staff as described in the Issues Resolution policy. For issues related to harassment, immediately report to a supervisor, department director, executive director or Human Resources as described in the Harassment-Free workplace policy.
- For all other issues related to suspected fraud, theft, harassment or other illegal activity, contact a supervisor, department director, executive director or call the “WeTip” hotline at 1-800-782-7463 or go online to [www.wetip.com](http://www.wetip.com).

## 3. After the Report

Response procedures for whistleblower reports will vary according to how the report was made.

- Reports to the “WeTip” hotline are forwarded to designated members of MARC’s management team (i.e., the Executive Director, Finance and Administration Department Director, Human Resources Manager, and MARC Board Chair) for review and resolution.

All reports will be acknowledged promptly and handled with due care and diligence. Those who receive the reports have the full authority to investigate all concerns raised, and may use other resources such as legal counsel, accountants, private investigators or others as reasonably necessary to conduct a full and complete investigation. Reports and concerns will be kept confidential to the extent possible.

If a report is found to be of merit or is substantiated, MARC management will take appropriate steps and will adhere to the federal rules for that grant, if applicable. No employee who, in good faith, makes a whistleblowing report will be threatened, discriminated against or otherwise subject to any retaliation or adverse employment consequences. Any staff member who attempts to retaliate against someone who reported a concern in good faith may be subject to discipline.

Allegations that prove to have been made maliciously, recklessly, with gross negligence, or with the foreknowledge that the allegations are false, will be viewed as a serious offense and may result in disciplinary action against the reporting employee.

Any situation involving an issue relating to harassment should be reported **immediately** to the employee’s supervisor, department director, executive director or Human Resources. Specific information relating to MARC’s policy regarding a harassment-free workplace can be found on the MARC intranet under Policies. Complaints of this nature are taken very seriously and will be fully investigated.

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### BOARD APPROVAL AND REVISION DATES

**Approved: January 25, 2011**

**Revised: January 26, 2021**