

# DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE, FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION

P.O. Box 690, Jefferson City, Mo. 65102-0690

Examination Report of Midwest Preferred Mutual Insurance Company for the period ended December 31, 2011

#### ORDER

After full consideration and review of the report of the financial examination of Midwest Preferred Mutual Insurance Company for the period ended December 31, 2011, together with any written submissions or rebuttals and any relevant portions of the examiner's workpapers, I, John M. Huff, Director, Missouri Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration pursuant to section 380.061, RSMo [if Part I], or 380.491, RSMo [if Part II], adopt such report. After my consideration and review of such report are incorporated by reference and deemed to be my findings and conclusions to accompany this order.

Based on such findings and conclusions, I hereby ORDER Midwest Preferred Mutual Insurance Company to take the following action or actions, which I consider necessary to cure any violation of law, regulation or prior order of the Director revealed in such report: (1) implement, and verify compliance with, each item mentioned in the General Comments and/or Recommendations, if any, section of such report; (2) account for its financial condition and affairs in a manner consistent with the Director's findings and conclusions; and (3) submit a signed copy of the minutes of the meeting which reflect a corporate resolution to the effect the Examination Report has been reviewed and accepted.

So ordered, signed and official seal affixed this 17th day of April 2013.

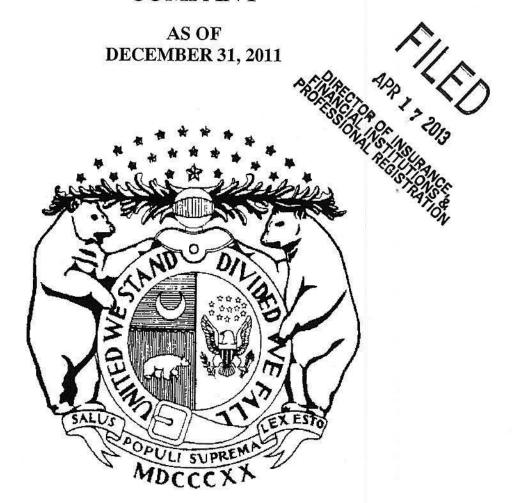
John M. Huff, Director

Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions

and Professional Registration

# REPORT OF THE FINANCIAL EXAMINATION OF

# MIDWEST PREFERRED MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY



STATE OF MISSOURI

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE, FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

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Honorable John M. Huff, Director Missouri Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration 301 West High Street, Room 530 Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Sir:

In accordance with your examination warrant, a full-scope examination has been made of the records, affairs and financial condition of

#### MIDWEST PREFERRED MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY

hereinafter referred to as such, or as the "Company". The Company's administrative office is located at 200 North Main Street, (P.O. Box 10), Tina, Missouri 64682, telephone number (660) 622-4224. This examination began on September 10, 2012, was concluded on September 14, 2012, and is respectfully submitted.

#### SCOPE OF EXAMINATION

#### **Period Covered**

The prior full-scope examination of the Company was made as of December 31, 2005, and was conducted by examiners from the State of Missouri. The current full-scope examination covers the period from January 1, 2006, through December 31, 2011, was conducted by examiners from the Missouri Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration (DIFP).

This examination also included material transactions and/or events occurring subsequent to the examination date, which are noted in this report.

#### **Procedures**

This examination was conducted using the guidelines set forth in the Financial Examiners Handbook of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC), except where practices, procedures and applicable regulations of the DIFP and statutes of the State of Missouri prevailed.

# Comments - Previous Examination Report

The comments, recommendations, and notes of the previous examination report dated December 31, 2005, are listed below followed by the Company's response and the current examination findings regarding such comments, recommendations and notes.

#### Cash on Deposit/Other Investments

**Comment:** The Company reported annuity balances of \$90,442 in the "Cash on Deposit" section of the Annual Statement. The balance was reclassified to "Other Investments."

Company Response: None

Current Findings: The annuity balances were reported in the Annual Statement as Other Investments.

#### Fidelity Bond and Other Insurance

**Comment:** It was recommended the Company increase its fidelity bond coverage to a minimum of \$75,000.

Company Response: On July 25, 2005, the Company increased their fidelity bond coverage to \$100,000.

Current Findings: The Company increased its fidelity bond coverage to \$100,000 during the examination period.

#### HISTORY

#### General

The Company was established on April 8, 1893, as Farmers and Laborers Cooperative Company of Carroll County. On August 17, 1913, the Company changed its name to Farmers Cooperative Insurance Company and was granted a charter of incorporation. On April 18, 2006, the Company changed its name to Preferred Mutual Insurance Company. On October 8, 2006, the Company changed its name to Midwest Preferred Mutual Insurance Company subsequent to a merger with Midwest Heritage Mutual Insurance Company, with the Company being the surviving entity. On January 6, 2009, Clay Farmers Mutual Insurance Company merged with the Company, with Midwest Preferred Mutual Insurance Company being the surviving entity.

The Company has a Certificate of Authority dated May 21, 2008, and is covered by Sections 380.201 through 380.611 RSMo. (Extended Missouri Mutual Insurance Companies). The Company's Certificate of Authority is renewed annually.

#### Management

In accordance with the Articles of Incorporation, the annual meeting of the Company's members is held on the first Tuesday in March at the home office of the Company or at such place designated by the Board of Directors. Special meetings may be called by the Board of Directors at any time and shall be called upon petition of one-fourth of the members. Per the Articles of Incorporation, eight members constitute a quorum at any membership meeting. Proxy voting is allowed if the proxy is in writing, signed, and presented to the Secretary at the home office not less than ten days prior to the meeting.

The management of the Company is vested in the Board of Directors elected from the general membership. Per the Articles of Merger with Midwest Heritage Mutual Insurance Company, the Board of Directors consists of fourteen members which will be reduced through attrition. Once the provisions regarding Board attrition are achieved, the Board will consist of eight members serving staggered, three-year terms. All directors must be policyholders of the Company. The Board of Directors meets approximately every month. Directors are compensated \$200 for each meeting attended and the President receives an additional \$2,500 annually.

Members serving on the Board of Directors as of December 31, 2011, were as follows:

Name and Address

Mitchell Parkhurst

Weatherby, MO

Harold Boelsen

Carrollton, MO

Howard Baker

Hale, MO

Betty Berry-Weddle

Norborne, MO

Kerwin Brock

Norborne, MO

Arzy Bisbee Jr.

Norborne, MO

John Murphy Maysville, MO

Bill McMillan

King City, MO

Occupation

Bank President

Retired

Insurance

Agent/Farmer

Insurance Professional

Loan Officer

**Bulldozer Operator** 

Insurance

Agent/Farmer

Applicator

Keith Mack

Insurance Agent

Cameron, MO

James Mason

Insurance Agent

Maysville, MO

Greg Pottratz

Insurance Agent

Maysville, MO

Gene Esely

USDA Field Agent

Osborn, MO

Greg Carrel

Insurance Agent

Stewartsville, MO

The Board of Directors appoints for a term of one year, the officers of the Company. The officers of the Company serving at December 31, 2011, were as follows:

Mitchell Parkhurst

President

Harold Boelsen

Vice-President

Connie Peterson

Secretary/Treasurer

#### **Conflict of Interest**

The Company has written conflict of interest procedures for the disclosure of material conflicts of interest or affiliations by its directors and officers. The Company has its directors and officers sign conflict of interest statements on an annual basis. No material conflicts were disclosed.

#### Corporate Records

A review was made of the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws of the Company. On April 18, 2006, the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws were amended to reflect the Company's name change from Farmers Cooperative Insurance Company to Preferred Mutual Insurance Company. On October 8, 2006, the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws were amended to reflect the merger with Midwest Heritage Mutual Insurance Company. On January 6, 2009, the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws were amended to reflect the merger with Clay Farmers Mutual Insurance Company. The Company is following the guidelines established in the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.

The minutes of the membership and the Board of Directors' meeting were reviewed for the period under examination. Attendance at the Board and annual membership meetings appeared satisfactory. The minutes and records of the Company appear to properly reflect the corporate transactions and events.

#### FIDELITY BOND AND OTHER INSURANCE

The Company is a named insured on a fidelity bond providing a limit of liability of \$100,000. The fidelity bond coverage of the Company meets the minimum amount suggested in the guidelines promulgated by the NAIC, which is between \$75,000 and \$100,000 in coverage.

The Company carries directors and officers liability coverage with a \$2,000,000 limit of liability. The Company requires its agents to purchase their own errors and omission coverage.

The Company carries property insurance on its home office and contents, as well as business liability and workers compensation insurance. The insurance coverage appears adequate.

#### **EMPLOYEE BENEFITS**

The Company has six full-time employees. The Company provides health insurance benefits for all employees. The employees are allowed one to three weeks of paid vacation per year, depending upon years of service and ten personal days per year after one year of employment. In addition, the Company contributes a percentage of each employee's annual salary into a Simplified Employee Pension account on behalf of each employee, with the percentage of contribution determined annually by the Board of Directors. The Company appears to have reported adequate provisions for the employee benefits obligations in the financial statements.

#### INSURANCE PRODUCTS AND RELATED PRACTICES

#### Territory and Plan of Operation

The Company is licensed by the DIFP as an Extended Missouri Mutual Company operating under Sections 380.201 through 380.611 RSMo. (Extended Missouri Mutual Insurance Companies). The Company is authorized to write fire, wind, and liability insurance in all counties of the State of Missouri. The Company writes fire, wind, and liability coverage. The Company's policies are sold through thirty-seven licensed agents, who receive a 16% commission.

#### Policy Forms and Underwriting Practices

The Company uses AAIS and Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company policy forms. The policies are written on a continuous period with rates determined by the Board of Directors. Renewal billings are mailed directly to the insured. Inspections and adjusting services are performed by either the in-house inspector/adjuster or a contracted independent inspector/adjuster.

#### GROWTH AND LOSS EXPERIENCE OF THE COMPANY

				Gross			
	Admitted		Gross	Losses	Investment	Underwriting	Net
	<u>Assets</u>	<b>Liabilities</b>	Assessment	Incurred	<u>Income</u>	Income	<u>Income</u>
2011	3,367,741	975,458	2,425,016	1,145,252	101,365	(288,006)	(186,641)
2010	3,454,451	881,990	2,168,381	1,128,271	97,768	(319,392)	(221,504)
2009	3,753,232	920,959	2,021,815	827,549	136,426	(152,458)	(15,762)
2008	3,772,038	1,114,801	1,710,237	819,650	92,843	(339,854)	(240,656)
2007	2,028,021	886,897	1,441,370	433,416	35,460	31,326	56,325
2006	1,935,543	855,865	1,543,585	2,229,529	24,129	(367,281)	(243,974)

At year-end 2011, 3,266 policies were in force.

#### REINSURANCE

#### General

The Company's reinsurance premium activity on a direct-written, assumed and ceded basis for the period under examination is shown below:

	2006	2007	2008	2009	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>
Direct	\$1,534,441	\$1,431,330	\$1,696,841	\$2,006,761	\$2,152,071	\$2,409,181
Assumed	9,144	10,040	13,396	15,054	16,310	15,835
Ceded	(370,435)	(523,844)	(608,782)	(601,268)	(641,955)	(684,482)
Net	\$1,173,150	\$917,526	\$1,101,455	\$1,420,547	\$1,526,426	\$1,740,534

#### Assumed

The Company participates in a reinsurance pool with MAMIC Mutual Insurance Company (MMIC). The agreement pertains to errors and omissions policies and director and officer liability policies written by MMIC. MMIC cedes 100% of the first \$1,000,000 each claim and in aggregate on all insurance agent and broker errors and omissions policies and 100% of the first \$2,000,000 each claim and in aggregate on all officer and director liability policies to the pool. MMIC receives a 35% ceding commission of net written premium ceded to the pool. The Company has a 3% share in the interests and liabilities of the pool.

#### Ceded

The Company has all of its reinsurance through Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company (the reinsurer) under an individual occurrence of loss excess with aggregate excess plan reinsurance agreement.

The individual occurrence of loss section of the agreement covers property risks. The Company retains \$75,000 per occurrence and the reinsurer's limits are \$1,000,000 per exposure. Risks in excess of these limits may be ceded to the reinsurer on a facultative basis per the agreement provisions. Rates and acceptability of risks ceded under the facultative provisions are determined by the reinsurer on an individual basis.

The aggregate excess section of the agreement covers property risks. The Company's annual aggregate net retention, or attachment point, is based upon the Company's five-year loss ratio plus a load factor, which is mutually agreed upon. The reinsurer is liable for 100% of losses in excess of this retention. The attachment point for 2011 was \$923,689.

The agreement also provides coverage for liability risks. Under the terms of the agreement, the Company cedes 100% of the liability premium and risk to the reinsurer. The Company receives a 20% ceding commission.

The Company is contingently liable for all reinsurance losses ceded to others. This contingent liability would become an actual liability in the event that any assuming reinsurer should fail to perform its obligations under its reinsurance agreement with the Company.

#### ACCOUNTS AND RECORDS

The accounting records are maintained by the Company on an accrual basis. The CPA firm Van de Ven, LLC, prepares the Company's annual statement and federal tax filings.

#### FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The following financial statements, with supporting exhibits, present the financial condition of the Company for the period ending December 31, 2011, and the results of operations for the year then ended. Any examination adjustments to the amounts reported in the Annual Statement and/or comments regarding such are made in the "Notes to the Financial Statements," which follow the financial statements. (The failure of any column of numbers to add to its respective total is due to rounding or truncation.)

There may have been differences found in the course of this examination, which are not shown in the "Notes to the Financial Statements." These differences were determined to be immaterial, concerning their effect on the financial statements. Therefore, they were communicated to the Company and noted in the workpapers for each individual annual statement item.

# ANALYSIS OF ASSETS December 31, 2011

Bonds	\$	1,261,772
Stocks		5
Mutual Funds		245,588
Real Estate		492,149
Cash on Deposit		1,019,772
Other Investments	Ł	275,729
Computer Equipment (Hardware Only)		10,925
Federal Income Tax Recoverable		44,689
Interest Due & Accrued		14,249
Prepaid Insurance		2,863
	-	
Total Assets	\$	3,367,741
LIABILITIES, SURPLUS AND OTHER FUNDS December 31, 2011		
Net Losses Unpaid	\$	96,674
Ceded Reinsurance Premium Payable		58,802
Unearned Premium	14	809,712
Payroll Tax Payable		1,192
Accounts Payable (Other)		9,078
Total Liabilities	\$	975,458
	-	
Guaranty Fund	\$	150,000
Other Surplus		2,242,283
	-	
Total Surplus		2,392,283
Total Liabilities and Surplus	\$	3,367,741

# STATEMENT OF INCOME For the Year Ending December 31, 2011

Net Premiums Earned	\$	1,647,475
Other Insurance Income		57,736
Net Losses & Loss Adjustment Expenses Incurred		(1,055,486)
Other Underwriting Expenses Incurred		(937,731)
Net Underwriting Income (Loss)	\$	(288,006)
Investment Income		101,365
Gross Profit (Loss)	\$	(186,641)
Federal Income Tax		0
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Net Income (Loss)	\$	(186,641)
CAPITAL AND SURPLUS ACCOUNT December 31, 2011		
Policyholders' Surplus, December 31, 2010	\$	2,572,461
Net Income (Loss)		(186,641)
Unrealized Loss on Investments		(11,193)
Change in Non-Admitted Assets		17,656
Policyholders' Surplus, December 31, 2011	\$	2,392,283

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

None

**EXAMINATION CHANGES** 

None

GENERAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

None

SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

None

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The assistance and cooperation extended by the employees of Midwest Preferred Mutual Insurance Company during the course of this examination is hereby acknowledged and appreciated.

	VERIFICATION	
State of Missouri )		×
County of Jackson )		
examination report is true and accurate books, records or other documents of ascertained from the testimony of its	ear that to the best of my knowledge and rate and is comprised of only the facts apport the company, its agents or other persons officers or agents or other persons examine commendations as the examiners find reason	earing upon the examined or as d concerning its
	Scott L. Rennick MBA, O Financial Examiner	
Sworn to and subscribed before me th My commission expires:	Missouri DIFP  ais 3. day of January, 2013.	BEVERLY M. WEBB My Commission Expires April 14, 2016 Clay County Commission #12464070
04-14-2016	Notary Public	SEAL SEAL SEAL SEAL SEAL SEAL SEAL SEAL

#### **SUPERVISION**

The examination process has been monitored and supervised by the undersigned. The examination report and supporting workpapers have been reviewed and approved. Compliance with NAIC procedures and guidelines as contained in the Financial Condition Examiners Handbook has been confirmed.

Mark Nance CPA, CFE

Audit Manager Missouri DIFP