

**Southwest Missouri Council of Governments**

**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, June 26, 2024**

**9:00 a.m.**

**Library Center, 4653 S. Campbell Ave., Springfield, MO**

**Attendance:**

**Zoom Attendees:Members**

Commissioner Sheila Wyatt – Taney County Dennis Wiggins – Taney County Partnership

Commissioner John Crawford – Dallas County J. Howard Fisk – Fisk Limousine

Commissioner Bob Senninger – Lawerence County Commissioner Ken Gasper – Monett

Becky Baltz – TREKK Beth Schaller – MoDOT

Olivia Hough - CU Mayor Missi Hesketh – Forsyth

Joe Kelley – Mt Vernon Kristen Haseltine – SMCC

 Edwina Foreman – Taneyville

 Andy S? – MGS/WRC

**Zoom Attendees: Guests**

Brett Heman – Monett COC

Lisa Robinson – MU Extension Shelley Waggener – SAG-AFTRA

**Members**:

Dawne Gardner – Kimberling City

Wes Young – Willard

Andrew Romano – Springfield COC

Callie Linville – CU

Cheri Hagler - Springfield

Todd Wiesehan – Christian County

Chris Daugherty – Hurley

Mark Crabtree – Battlefield

Nancy Edson – Esterly, Schneider & Associates

Cindy Robbins – Nixa

Andy Novinger – Own, Inc Cindy Stephens – OTC

Commissioner Randy Owens – Webster County Sam Rost – Marshfield

Neil Brady – Bartlett West Chris Coulter – Greene County

Tonia Castaneda – Springfield CVB Steve Childers – Springfield

Mark Colussy – Branson Bill Monday – Dallas County

Kathy Smith – N Form Architecture Kyle Lee – Bolivar

Kevin Kelly – Bolivar Jerry Harman – H2Ozarks

Chris Berndt – Taney County Brad Testerman – EDP Bolivar

Commissioner Bradley Jackson – Christian County Jon Holmes – Aurora

Cameron Smith – Ozark

**Partners and Guests**:

Payton Ruddy – Congressman Alford’s Office Brad Kelley – MoDOT

Alice Wingo – CFO Joe Kammerer - CFO

David Knaut – OTO Jered Taylor – Congressman Burlison’s Office

Tanner Wallace – Senator Hawley’s Office Janice Piper – Seniorage

John Farmer de la Torre – Ozarks Film Foundry Ashley Venolia – USDA – RD

Tim Goree – Center City Ai Isaac Gariss – USDA – RD

Devin Sonnenfelt – WRVEC Michelle Garand – CPO

Tucker Jobes -Senator Schmitt’s Office David Garrett – Garrett Engineering

Stacy Burks – American Red Cross

Mark Wallace – Southern Missouri Innovation

**Staff:**

Jason Ray Evan Cook

Jane Hood Jake Phillips

Aishwarya Shrestha Courtney Pinkham

Michael Kohler Krissy Dickens

Kelsi Burton Garrett Colony

Pratika Banjara Thomas Cunningham

**Open Meeting**

1. Call to Order – Cindy Stephens

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Introductions and Announcements

4. Approval of June 26, 2024, Meeting Agenda – Cindy Stephens

*Jerry Harman motioned, Chris Coulter seconded to approve the June 26, 2024 Agenda. Motion carried*.

5. Approval of May 22, 2024, Meeting Minutes— Cindy Stephens

*Bill Monday* *motioned, Sam Rost seconded to approve the May 22, 2024 Minutes. Motion carried.*

**Legislative Reports**

**-Tanner Wallace** – Senator Hawley’s Office

Senator Hawley questioned Dave Calhoun, Boeing’s CEO, in front of the Homeland Security Government Affairs Safety committee. The Senator also sent a letter to Secretary of Homeland Security regarding the plan to offer amnesty to illegal aliens in the U.S.

**-Tucker Jobe** – Senator Schmitt’s Office

Senator Schmitt is working hard on the National Defense Authorization Act, including $120 million for barracks at Ft Leonard Wood. Also, he has a clause to allow dependents of active military who live off base to still be able to attend DODEA Schools.

**-Jered Taylor** – Congressman Burlison’s Office

Congressman Burlison was in town last week. They had their first manufacturing tour and visited Positronics and EnerSys. Also visited OTC, and talked to students & professors regarding the manufacturing industry and workforce. He also visited Alpine Manufacturing in Marionville. He is also working on changing the law not to remove septic systems until they fail and in the mean time continue to keep them maintained. The Army Corp of Engineers in requiring that all septic systems be removed by 2030 around the lakes area in Taney County. In addition, the Army Corp of Engineers has not maintained their boundary lines well and this has caused confusion with private landowners. Congressman Burlison would like to see Congress allow landowners to lease from the Corp.

**-Payton Ruddy** – Congressman Alford’s Office

Congressman Alford.s Farm bill passed out of the Ag Committee and is now on the House of Representatives floor. On June 12 he led a request for VA policy reform to enhance veterans buying power for housing. Kansas City is getting the first passport center in Missouri.

**State Legislative Reports**

N/A

**Business**

1. Resolution to Endorse the Ozarks Film Commission – Included in meeting packet. Jason Ray

Jason drafted a resolution and a MOU. Ozarks Film Foundry (OFF) held 3 virtual Q&As

Jason stated that the Ozarks Film Foundry had requested that we table this motion indefinitely. This is also the staff’s recommendation.

Cindy stated that SMCOG does not have the knowledge of the film industry to make a decision, SMCOG staff will need to do additional research and possibly a sub-committee.

*Nancy Edson motioned, Todd Wiesehan and seconded the motion to continue to table indefinitely. Motion carried.*

1. Approval to Open a CDBG Grant Account –Jason Ray

Jason explained that SMCOG is required to open a separate non-interest-bearing bank account to receive CDBG funds for grants recently awarded directly to SMCOG. Jason requested a motion to open an account at Great Southern Bank in accordance with SMCOG’s Fiscal Policy.

*Mark Colussy motioned, and Commissioner Randy Owens seconded the motion to open a new CDBG bank account. Motion carried.*

1. Approve Fiscal Year 2025 Operating Budget – Included in meeting packet. Jason Ray

Jason reviewed the Operating Budget material. Nancy Edson asked if we owed Coney Island a refund. Jason stated we did not because Coney Island had paid a lump sum in advance that they are spending down.

*Steve Childers motioned, and Sam Rost seconded the motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2025 Operating Budget. Motion carried.*

1. Approve Bylaws Amendments – Included in meeting packet. Jason Ray

Jason mentioned that updating the bylaws was discussed at our last meeting. The executive committee has already reviewed the amendments and has approved for them to be given to the full board. Jason stated further that the bylaws have not been updated since 2019 and the main purpose of this update is to expand the size of the Executive Committee and clean up some language. Now that the executive committee is meeting monthly and handling more of the approving of contracts, approving loans, and more day-to-day activities, it makes sense to expand the representation on the committee. Jason then briefly summarized the amendments as follows.

Page 2 Clarifies who is a voting member and the language regarding designees.

Section 3.12 Clarifies that non-governmental agencies can appoint their own board designees.

Page 3 We have shortened the language.

Page 4 Clarifies when the Executive Committee can go into a closed section.

Section 4.5 We increased the required number for a quorum from 9 board members to 15 board members.

Page 5 Jason has cleaned up some of the language to clarify and use non-gender-specific terms when referring to board members.

Page 6 Added language to clarify the process of adding agenda items. It had stated within 7 calendar days prior to the meeting, instead of at **least** 7 calendar days prior to the meeting.

Also clarified that the Past Chair is an officer.

Page 7 Added clarifying language that the Chair of the board and the executive director have the ability to call a special meeting.

Page 8, section 6.1 Expanding the executive committee adding the ability to have up to 8 additional members, adding 1 additional member who is a representative of a city or village and another member who is a representative of a city or village with less than 5,000 population.

Page 9 The language in this section was changed from the requirement of 4 weeks to 2 weeks for the amount of time required to submit bylaw amendments prior to board meeting. This helps since the executive committee meets 15 days prior to the board meeting.

Page 10 We removed language specifying the annual meeting date must be in October, since last year we had our annual meeting in September and that is our plan for this year as well.

*Wes Young motioned, and Nancy Edson seconded the motion to approve the Bylaws amendments. Motion carried.*

1. 2024-2025 Nominating Committee Report

Jason thanked Sam Rost, Andrea Sitzes, and Wes Young for serving on this committee.

Jason clarified only governmental members may vote to appoint the non-governmental representatives.

a. 2024-2025 Non-Governmental Representatives

*The Nominating Committee made the motion, and Dawne Gardner seconded the motion to approve 2024 – 2025 Non-Governmental Representatives. Motion carried.*

b. 2024-2025 Executive Committee and Officers

*The Nominating Committee made the motion, and Chris Hurley seconded the motion to approve 2024 – 2025 Executive Committee and Officers. Motion carried.*

c. 2024-2025 Loan Review Committee

*The Nominating Committee made the motion, and Todd Wiesehan seconded the motion to approve 2024 – 2025 Loan Review Committee. Motion carried.*

d. 2024-2025 CEDS Committee

*The Nominating Committee made the motion, and Jon Holmes seconded the motion to approve 2024 – 2025 CEDS Committee. Motion carried.*

e. 2024-2025 Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)

*The Nominating Committee made the motion, and Bill Monday seconded the motion to approve 2024 – 2025 Transportation Advisory Committee. Motion carried.*

1. Program Updates – Included in meeting packet. Jason Ray

Jason stated that SMCOG has sent out a CEDS survey, please complete this survey by the end of this weekend, (June 30 is deadline.) This will help designate the goals and objectives in the CEDS report. CEDS committee will meet on 7/25/2024. SMCOG is working with MoDED on the first statewide CEDS report. They will be hosting a regional meeting on 8/15/2024,q more details coming soon.

**Other Business** – Cindy Stephens

None

**Partner Updates**

**- USDA – Rural Development –** Ashley Venolia

Ashley introduced Isaac Gariss, who will be working out of the Springfield office, and stated they have hired three additional staff members and are now fully staffed. They have single-family housing programs available. Contact their office for more information.

Jason Ray stated that he has heard that some organizations are having issues with getting payment from USDA.

Ashley responded that it is not coming from Rural Development, but she will look into this concern.

**-MoDOT –** Brad Kelly

Brad mentioned that they are working on approving the STIP for next year. Currently, MoDOT is performing a lot of road maintenance and mowing. Please drive carefully in work zones.

**-Ozarks Transportation Organization (OTO)** – David Knaut

David commented that OTO has their FY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) open for public comment. They also have a call out for bike, trail, and pedestrian improvements starting on 07/01/2024.

**-Springfield CVB –** Tonia Castaneda

Tonia shared that they hosted their Toast for Tourism on Commercial Street in Springfield. The City Council has approved their funding for the next fiscal year. Starting on 7/25/2024, Springfield will be hosting a large group for two weeks on the Missouri State University campus.

**-SeniorAge** – Janice Piper

Janice informed the board that they will have their Farmers Market program again this year. It is for members of the community 60+ and they will receive food vouchers for free produce.

**- Community Foundation of the Ozarks** – Alice Wingo

Alice stated that they have had some changes recently, Winter Kinne is their new President. They also have a new Vice President of Communications and have bought a new building that they will be moving into. Alice introduced Joe Kammerer who is the Senior Director of Affiliate Engagement.

**-Red Cross** – Stacy Burks

Stacy mentioned that they will be hiring a Disaster Preparedness Specialist, it will be opening soon for interested candidates. The Springfield office has served as the regional coordinator for the recent severe weather we have had in the region. They are continuing to work on building resilience in neighborhoods. If you are interested in how you can be engaged in this project, reach out to the local office.

**Member Updates**

Mark Wallace with MEDC announced that Kristen Haseltine from Christian County and Jeff Meredith from Carthage will be the representatives for Missouri Economic Development Council District 6. If you have questions regarding economic development and resources in our area, please contact them.

There are several opportunities on the horizon for tech-based startups to help access funds. They are currently working on a Tech 2030 report, which will be similar to the statewide report. This will focus on the 47 counties in southern Missouri.

Cheryl Hagler with the City of Springfield announced that Springfield received a $24.8 million RAISE grant for the “Ungapping the Map” Project. They will use it to connect citizens of Springfield in disadvantaged neighborhoods to transportation.

Lisa Robinson with MU Extension, on Zoom, attempted to make an update, unfortunately, the speakers stopped working at this time.

**Adjourn**

*Next SMCOG Board Meeting will be held on August 28th, 2024, at the Library Center, 4653 S. Campbell, Springfield, MO*

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Steve Childers, Secretary Date Approve