



SOUTHWEST MISSOURI COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 4, 2020
3:00 p.m.
Greene County Office
Cox Medical Tower, 10th floor
1443 N. Robberson, Springfield, MO

ATTENDEES: Chris Coulter, Cindy Stephens, John Benson, Steve Childers, Dennis Pyle, Mark Maples, Allen Kunkel, Jane Hood and Jason Ray

Open Meeting

Chris Coulter

Approval of Agenda

Cindy Stephens motioned and Dennis Pyle seconded approval of the February 4, 2020 Agenda. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

John Benson motioned and Steve Childers seconded approval of the November 12, 2019 Minutes. Motion carried.

2021 Dues Assessment – Jason Ray

Have collected most of our FY20 dues. This would be a good time to look at increasing the rates for next year as we do not bring in enough membership dues to cover our required federal match. If we receive the EDA grant, we will need additional funds. The service contracts that we bring in can supplement those match requirements however, EDA encourages RPC's to regularly assess your dues. SMCOG has the lowest dues structure in the state. MACOG has a list of all the RPC's dues structure. Discussion was held on the topic. A sub-committee was appointed to look into dues increase. That sub-committee includes, Chris Coulter, Steve Childers, Mark Maples and Cindy Stephens. Chris mentioned reaching out to Mary Lilly Smith or Brendan Griesemer with the city of Springfield for their input.

Jason reported that we have over \$96,000 in the bank. The membership dues are deposited in the SMCOG checking account and then those monies can be transferred to the University to cover our federal match requirements. The MoDOT match is \$16,176.47/yr. Our B fund with the University is about \$60,000 in the negative and they are concerned about that. That number includes the projects that we are working that will be reimbursed. That includes hazard mitigation plans, MoDOT, etc. Jason would like approval to write a check to transfer the MoDOT match requirement of \$16,176.47 to the University.

Motion made by Dennis Pyle and seconded by John Benson to transfer \$16,176.47 from the Great Southern checking account to the MSU B account to cover the MoDOT match. Motion passed.

Courtney Pinkham has been hired part-time as the new Census Coordinator. This position ends May 31st. We have an AmericaCorp VISTA position which is a 3- year partnership with EDA to focus on economic development and disaster recovery & economic resiliency. Will Mansfield, who just graduated from MSU's planning program, has been hired and committed to one year. It is a 40 hr/week position. The monthly stipend is \$950/month. He also has a part time server job. AmericaCorp will not allow us to compensate him for any additional time or work. They will allow us to give him gift cards to help with food. Jason would like authorization to give him a gift card for \$100/per month for groceries. (Grocery gift card is allowable.) Discussion was held.

Motion was made by John Benson and seconded by Dennis Pyle to purchase a \$100 grocery store gift card per month for the VISTA. Motion carried.

Staffing – Jason shared that Dorothy Wittorff-Sandgren, our fiscal officer and also does Homeland Security coordinator as well as CDBG grant writer, will be retiring 12/31/2020. She may stay on part time to do financials. However, we need to do succession planning. CRPM just applied to be a statewide flood recovery coordinator in partnership with EDA, CDBG & MACOG. It is \$75,000 for 9 months of work. If we get the EDA grant, that would allow us to bring on another person also. That would happen 4/1/2020.

Program/Project Updates – Jason Ray

The program/project updates were shared last week at the full SMOG Board Meeting.

Jason mentioned a few of those on the update again.

Harry S Truman Coordinating Council fired their executive director and has asked us to assist them with a comprehensive plan. Have a meeting with them next week to discuss.

Continue to search for a consultant to do a housing study.

Other Business

John Benson has accepted a position as city administrator in Texas. This will be his last meeting.

Adjourn

Cindy Stephens motioned, and Allen Kunkel seconded to adjourn. Motion carried.