



SOUTHWEST MISSOURI COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 13, 2021
3:00 p.m.
Zoom Call

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

1. Open Meeting

Chris Coulter

2. Approval of April 13, 2021 Agenda

Motion made by Allen Kunkel and seconded by Cindy Stephens to approve the April 13, 2021 Agenda. Motion carried.

3. Approval of February 9, 2021 Minutes

Motion made by Duane Lavery and seconded by Allen Kunkel to approve the February 9, 2021 Minutes. Motion carried.

4. Authorize Executive Director to Open New Bank Account for EDA RLF – Jason Ray

SMCOG received official notice and documents that EDA approved the Revolving Loan Fund which is a \$1 million program. We are required to have a separate interest bearing account. Jason needs authorization to open that account at Great Southern and like our other accounts there, have the officers as designated signers on the account.

Motion made by Cindy Stephens and seconded by Dennis Pyle to open a new bank account for EDA Revolving Loan Fund. Motion carried.

5. Approve Transfers from EDA Account – Partnership Planning – Jason Ray

The Partnership Planning Grant we were awarded last year has ended and we have been awarded another Partnership Planning Grant for 2021 – 2024. In order to finalize financials we need to transfer the remaining EDA funds into the general fund to reimburse us for 60% of the expenses that we used to execute the program.

The last time we met, the executive committee approved transferring \$21,073.99 and we now need to transfer the remaining \$48,926.01 into the general account. We can then close out that EDA award and can then deposit the funds from the new Partnership Planning award cycle. We will use the same checking account and not have to open a new account.

Motion made by Duane Lavery and seconded by Mark Maples to transfer \$48,926.01 from Partnership Planning account to the general Great Southern checking account. Motion carried.

6. Program Project Updates – Jason Ray

-Staffing – We have hired Courtney Pinkham as Administrative Assistant. She had previously been our Census 2020 Coordinator. Chris Kempke started yesterday as our EDA Economic Recovery Coordinator. He was a Community Outreach Specialist for University of MO Extension from the Hannibal area. He will be doing a long- term recovery plan for our region and assisting with our Revolving Loan Fund program.

-Dues Update- Local government dues look better than was anticipated. We have received a little over \$52,000 (usually about \$45,000). All local communities renewed except for Walnut Grove and Fair Play. New members are Sparta, Taneyville, Urbana, Wheaton and Humansville. All Associate members have renewed. We will be moving forward with setting up meetings with our dues review committee.

Leadership Award -In 2019 we established a first ever SMCOG Regional Leadership Award which was given to Howard Fisk. Jason asked the committee if they wanted to continue the award and if so, when to award it. Committee members thought it should be continued and should be awarded in May or in October at the Annual Meeting.

-Nominating Committee- May is nominating committee time. Dennis will be retiring so we will have a vacancy on the Executive Committee. Jane will be following up with Nominating committee.

-RFP's -We are drafting RFP's for a firm to do Market Studies through our EDA CARES Act funding, an RFP for strategic planning for SMCOG, an RFP for audit services, and looking for someone to work on updating our website. Jason and Brandon are going through a commercial lending certification program.

-Other – Missouri Bicentennial is 8/10/21. The State bicentennial commission will be sending out banners and flags to display in court houses. We continue to monitor information regarding the American Rescue Plan Act and keep our counties updated. We have been getting lots of calls regarding how funds can be used. The US Treasury is to have information out around 5/12/21.

We have partnered with MACOG on a statewide agreement with EMSI, an economic impact modeling software, to negotiate a lower rate for their license to access their software. Ten or 12 RPC's took advantage of the agreement. This will assist with our Economic Development and Comprehensive planning.

The US House Appropriations has asked for Community Funding Projects (aka- earmarks) requests.

The House Transportation Infrastructure Committee is asking for surface transportation project funding requests however, they must already be part of the STIP which means funding is already determined.

-Transportation- All our local governments were mailed out a transportation needs survey packet. This is done every year (with the exception of this past COVID year when MoDOT did not update the STIP). Aishwarya will be setting up county wide transportation prioritization meetings to prioritize needs which will then go to the District level and on to the State level.

The Transportation Title VI Non-Discrimination Plan is up for renewal which Aishwarya is working on. The 30- day public comment period should begin next week. The updated plan will be on our SMCOG May board meeting agenda.

-Comprehensive Plans – Finishing up Republic and Battlefield. Working on Christian County and just contracted with city of Aurora to update their plan and assist with a parks master plan. Waiting to hear from Branson West proposal.

-The Branson waste- water treatment plant costs have gone up by \$3.2 million so there is a gap in funding for the project. Have not been able to find additional funding at this time.

-Webster County 60 corridor project is going well.

-Cost of Living survey begins next week. Have extended the contract for another 2 years with Springfield Chamber of Commerce.

12. Other Business – Chris Coulter

Question and discussion on the ARPA money coming to cities, counties and states.

Dennis Pyle mentioned this might be a good opportunity for SMCOG to assist our members and increase our membership as well as increase staff by showing assistance and value in regard to the ARPA fund. There are so many questions and concerns.

13. Adjourn

Motion made by Cindy Stephens and seconded by Dennis Pyle to adjourn. Motion carried.