



**Southwest Missouri Council of Governments
Board of Directors Annual Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 26, 2022**

9:00 a.m.

Virtual via Zoom

Attendance:

Members:

Chris Hopkins - Billings
Allen Kunkel - MSU
Angela Leist - Forsyth
Cindy Robbins - Nixa
Bob Senninger – Lawrence County
Cary Charles – OTC
Howard Fisk – Fisk Transportation
Todd Wiesehan – Christian County
Hollie Elliott – Dallas Co Economic Dev
Brad Gray - Willard
Brendan Griesemer - Springfield
Stan Whitehurst – Webster County
Randy Owens – Webster County
John Forrester – Allgeier, Martin
Callie Linville – City Utilities
Sam Rost – Marshfield
Steve Walensky - Cassville
Tim Selvy – Lawrence County
Hank Smythe – Stone County
Gail Noggle – Bolivar & Polk Co Alliance
Lindsey Reichert – Paragon Architecture
Kathy Smith – N-FORM
Roger Calkins – Branson West
Isabella Karallas - TREKK
Chris Berndt – Western Taney Co
Neil Brady – Bartlett & West
Cameron Smith – Ozark
Bryan Christopherson – Flood Proofing
Chena Simons - Branson
Chris Coulter – Greene County
Chris Weiner - Battlefield
Jenny Dye – Reeds Spring

Tucker Berry - Greenfield
Tommy VanHorn - Battlefield
Chris Berndt - SMESO
Jerry Harman – Kimberling City
Eric DeGruson – Allgeier, Martin
Grant Selvy – Lawrence Co.
Kim Kinder – Dade County
Jared Rasmussen – Olsson
Neil Brady – Bartlett & West
Rick Davis – Polk County
Mark Wallace – Show Me Christian Co
Devin Sonnerfelt – White River Valley Electric
Steve Childers – Ozark
Melissa Mau – Ash Grove
Megan Bischof – Ozark
Scott Starret- Taney Co

Partners and Guests:

Erin Engelmeyer – Sen. Hawley’s Office
Beth Schaller - MoDOT
Mike Ussery – Congressman Long’s Office
Stacy Burks – Red Cross
Theresa Sampaio – MoDED
Natasha Longpine - OTO
Drew Cannon – Congresswoman Vicki Hartzler
Randall Willoughby – MoDNR
Rob Hunt – MoDNR
Andy Schiller – MoDNR
Ashley Venolia – USDA Rural Dev.
Dan Wadlington – Senator Blunt’s Office
Dennis Wiggins – Ozarks Region Career Center

Alice Wingo – CFO
Brandon Jenson – MoDED
Ron Seyl – MoDED
Zeke Hall – MoDOT
Keith Brumley – USDA

Staff:
Jason Ray
Jane Hood
Dorothy Wittorff-Sandgren
Aishwarya Shrestha
Lexi Mason
Courtney Pinkham
Kjella Page
Kristin Green

Open Meeting

1. Call to Order – Duane Lavery

2. Introductions and Announcements

3. Approval of January 26, 2022 Meeting Agenda—Duane Lavery

Todd Wiesehan motioned to approve the Agenda and seconded by Sam Rost. Motion Carried.

4. Approval of December 1, 2021 Meeting Minutes— Duane Lavery

Tim Selvy motioned, and Jenny Dye seconded to approve the Minutes for the December 1, 2021 meeting. Motion Carried.

Guest Speaker – Brandon Jenson – Chief Community Engagement & Planning Officer – MO
CDBG

Legislative Reports

-Dan Wadlington - Senator Blunt’s Office

Senate not meeting this week. Senate is working on negotiations to continue funding for the rest of the fiscal year.

-Erin Engelmeier – Senator Hawley’s Office

Senate is in recess this week. There was a vote last week on the Freedom to Vote Act which Senator Hawley voted against as well as most all Republicans. It would federalize elections and Missouri already has voter ID laws that Missouri citizens passed. It would take away States laws. The measure failed in the Senate. The Administration is meeting today to discuss bringing back Build Back Better legislation. It failed in December. Senator Hawley has introduced an Insider Trading bill. It would prevent members of Congress and their spouses from holding or trading individual stocks. Congresswoman Vicki Hartzler is a co-sponsor in the House.

-Mike Ussery – Congressman Long’s Office

The Continuing Resolution (CR) is through 2/18/22 so they are working on funding for the remainder of the Fiscal Year. The U.S. Treasury came out with final rules on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

funds. Counties can use up to \$10 million for government services whether you had that amount of loss or not. HR4028 Bill that Congressman Long sponsored has passed the House. It is the Information and Communication Technology Strategy Act.

-Drew Cannon – Congresswoman Hartzler’s Office

The 437-page Treasury guidelines for ARPA includes a general revenue provision that has an impact on non-entitlement communities (cities of 50,000 or less) and most of our counties. They will be able to spend it on general revenue provisions such as roads and bridges. The House Competes Act is a 3000-page bill that has been released. Congresswoman disagrees with a lot of it except for a provision of \$52 billion that increases the production of chips in the U.S. There are 600 chips in a standard car and 2000 in an electric car. The current shortage of foreign made chips has increased the cost of vehicles and impacted our economy. This is a bill to watch.

Business

1. MoDNR Financial Assistance Agreements – Jason Ray

SMCOG submitted 4 applications a few months ago for DNR 604B funds. Two were successful and announced last week and the remaining two are for Seymour and Marshfield. These are the financial assistance agreements. The first is \$50,000 from DNR toward the Seymour Stormwater Vulnerability Assessment and Resiliency Plan and matched with \$6,432 local funds. The second is for \$47,500 from DNR for Marshfield flood mitigation plan with local contribution of \$5000. These are pass-through for SMCOG, not going to administrative expenses.

Randy Owens motioned and Bob Senninger seconded to approve MoDNR Financial Assistance Agreements. Motion carried.

2. Program Updates – Jason Ray

Staff Reports were emailed out prior to meeting.

Other Business – Jason Ray

RLF Legal Services – At the December Board meeting a proposal was presented from a law firm that we were seeking approval to review RLF agreements and contracts. The Board voted to table the item in order to see if the City of Springfield had a preferred list of approved vendors they work with. The City does not have such a list. We have been working to send out an RFP’s.

Partner Updates

-USDA Rural Development – Ashley Venolia

Kyle Wilkins has been appointed as new state director. Rural Development has funded Willard CMH Hospital Clinic. The Rural Business Development Grant deadline is 2/28/22.

-MO Dept of Transportation – Beth Schaller

The district submitted their recommendations to the 5 year Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) which is now being reviewed in Jefferson City. The Commission meeting is next week. The next design, build bridge bundle has been awarded to Emery Sapp & Sons. The project will go through 2024 and includes 25 bridges. The Long Creek Bridge bids came in high last year so they are rebidding. They are studying the diverging diamond at I-44 and Kansas Expressway due to excessive back ups through the year. Looking for public input for improvements to Hwy 125 at Strafford.

-Ozarks Transportation Organization – Natasha Longpine

OTO is partnering with MoDOT in the study of I-44 & Kansas Expressway. You can go to <http://www.ozarkstransportation.org/north13study>. About to kick off a study of Highway FF through the city of Battlefield. Working on plans for Cabin Fire Trail from Christian County to Greene County.

-MO Dept. of Natural Resources - Randall Willoughby & Rob Hunt

There is an Energize Missouri Agricultural Grant of \$3million and applications are due 2/28/22.

<https://dnr.mo.gov/energy/loans/energize-missour-agriculture-program>

State Parks has a bus grant <http://mostateparks.com/page/55065/outdoor-recreation-grants#bus>

On 12/14/22 the state accepted the Rock Island 144 mile corridor rail which will be converted to trails.

Governor announced at \$250million drinking water and waste water program. There is a proposed \$150million storm water grant fund.

-Ozarks Region Workforce Development – Dennis Wiggins

Cross Regional Grant for youth is being worked on. Momentum is scheduled for 2/24/22. He

encouraged all to participate in the Momentum Survey. Have had Hy-Vee in for job fair. It attracted over 700.

-MO Dept of Economic Development – Theresa Sampaio

Department of Tourism is hosting road show in Joplin and Springfield areas.

<http://industry.visitmo.com/about-the-division/regional-tourism-meetings>

-Community Foundation of the Ozarks – Alice Wingo

Let's Get to Work Fund is available. They are about to open their scholarship season with \$1.8 million in scholarships to give away. They have a grant for senior centers to help with improvements to building and equipment. For more information go to www.cfo.org.

-Red Cross – Stacy Burks

Red Cross has had to cancel a couple blood drives due to staff having covid. They have 3 employment opportunities open at the present.

Adjourn

Howard Fisk motioned, and Randy Owens seconded. Motion Carried.

Todd Wiesehan, Secretary/Treasurer

Date Approve