



**SOUTHWEST MISSOURI COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**  
**Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, July 11, 2023**  
**3:00 p.m.**  
**Meyer Alumni Center Hospitality Room**

**ATTENDEES:** Cindy Stephens, Duane Lavery, Todd Wiesehan, Jerry Harman, Steve Childers, Bill Monday, and Wayne Blades

Staff: Jason Ray, Jane Hood, Krissy Dickens, and Courtney Pinkham

**Open Meeting** – Cindy Stephens

**1. Approval of July 11, 2023, Agenda**

*Motion made by Todd Wiesehan and seconded by Duane Lavery to approve the July 11, 2023, Agenda. Motion carried.*

**2. Approval of May 9, 2023, Minutes**

*Motion made by Wayne Blades and seconded by Steve Childers to approve the May 9, 2023, Minutes. Motion carried.*

**3. Dues Increase Discussion** – Jason Ray; included in the emailed meeting packet were various examples (phases) of increases for consideration.

Duane Lavery asked what spurred the interest in a dues increase, and what the end goal is.

Jason said we currently do not raise enough funds to meet our annual matches for grant funding. We also have not had a dues increase in 20 years.

Discussion of the various examples that were provided to the Executive Committee. Steve Childers suggested we skip phase 1 and expedite the process to phase 2, Todd Wiesehan agreed.

It was also suggested Associate Members pay more. Jason would like to discuss with Chris Coulter (Greene County) and get their input.

Jason explained that we would need to take this to the full board for discussion and approval. Courtney Pinkham stated they would take the suggestions given and update the spreadsheet for further review at the next executive committee meeting.

**4. Program Updates** – Jason Ray

-Jason reported that the audit has been finalized.

- Jason has been invited to join a Regionalism Working Group started by CFO & the Hatch Foundation. CFO has hired a consultant and they have designated the region as the same 10-counties as SMCOG. The idea is for large employers in the region to come together and pool their resources to get behind regional concepts & priorities. Placemaking is one of the priorities.

-CRPM has a proposal for funding through EDA's University Center program for MSU. EDA encouraged MSU to apply. The application was submitted on 7/10/2023 for \$1 million for 5 years.

- The RLF is ready to begin making loans. We have one company with interest. Jason has asked Scott Tumlin, a former commercial lender, to assist as a consultant to help us develop our internal processes and get us through the first couple of loans.
- Yesterday SMCOG submitted the Safe Streets & Roads for All application for the rural portion of our area. The SMCOG rural area has twice the fatality rate of the national average. Eastern & Southern Lawrence County and Western Taney County are the hot spots.
- CDBG proposals for Morrisville, Lockwood, Everton for wastewater infrastructure.
- TAP applications opened yesterday.
- Preparing for Greene County housing study.
- Groundbreaking ceremony for Branson wastewater Treatment plant
- Updated Clever & Billings projects
- SMCOG staff has \$10,000 of new computers. Dean Jahnke donated \$5,000 toward this.
- Several comprehensive plans....Pierce City, Fordland, Seymour, Diggins, Greene County East Corridor, Ash Grove, Fair Grove, Walnut Grove. Proposals for Buffalo Downtown Revitalization Plan and Village of Saddlebrooke
- Jason mentioned SMCOG has handed out a SMCOG Regional Leadership Award the past 5 years at our Annual Meeting. He asked for executive committee members to give nominations, or if none we can skip this year.

#### **10. Other Business**

None

#### **11. Adjourn**

*Motion made by Jerry Harmon and seconded by Duane Lavery to adjourn. Motion carried.*