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**Southwest Missouri Council of Governments**

**Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, August 8, 2023**

**3:00 p.m.**

**Meyer Alumni Center Hospitality Room**

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

Staff: Jason Ray, and Courtney Pinkham

**Open Meeting** – Cindy Stephens

1. **Approval of August 8, 2023, Agenda**

*Motion made by Bill Monday and seconded by Jerry Harman to approve the August 8, 2023, Agenda. Motion carried.*

**2. Approval of July 11, 2023, Minutes**

*Motion made by Steve Childers and seconded by Duane Lavery to approve the July 11, 2023, Minutes. Motion carried.*

**3. Bank Transfers –** Jason Ray; included in the emailed meeting packet.

Request to approve the transfer from GS EDA Revolving Loan Fund to GS Southwest Missouri Council of Governments for the amount of $5,343.68.

*Motion made by Steve Childers and seconded by Todd Wiesehan to approve the bank transfer as stated above. Motion carried.*

Request to approve the transfer from GS SMCOG EDA Partnership Planning Account FY23 to GS Southwest Missouri Council of Governments for the amount of $28,541.68.

*Motion made by Duane Lavery and seconded by Wayne Blades to approve the bank transfer as stated above. Motion carried.*

**4. Selection Process for Audit Services –** Jason Ray

Jason stated that the auditor we had contracted with for our audit had a three-year contract.. He did ask the auditor if they would be willing to sign for another year of services. They responded that they did not have the availability currently, but they will bid on an RFP if we publish one. Jason stated that we will need to publish a new RFP for auditor services. Cindy asked the Executive Committee to submit any companies we should submit the RFP to, since last time we had difficulties getting enough responses to our previous RFP. The consensus of the Committee was to update the old RFP; Jason will send the updated RFP to the Committee for final review.

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

Jason presented the information that was included in the meeting packet. Steve Childers asked how the counties represented on the Executive Committee felt toward skipping to Phase 3 with communities under 300 population not having to pay dues. Chris Coulter said Greene County would make it happen. Todd Wiesehan stated Christian County was fine with it. Duane Lavery stated Webster County would also be fine with it.

*Motion made by Steve Childers and seconded by Chris Coulter to recommend to the SMCOG Board to increase the dues as per Phase 3 w/communities under 300 not paying dues. Motion carried.*

**6. NADO Innovation Award – Bolivar Active Transportation Plan** – Jason Ray

Jason announced that SMCOG received a national award in transportation excellence through the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO). SMCOG was the only entity in Missouri to receive an award.

**7. Program Updates** – Jason Ray

-Jason reported that the RLF Loan Review Committee (LRC)had their first meeting, it was well attended. Scott Tumlin, a former commercial lender, has volunteered to be in an advisory position for the RLF LRC. SMCOG has until February to fulfill our requirements.

-Jason stated that tomorrow (8/9/2023) the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) has their Road and Bridge prioritization meeting .

-Jason relayed that the Public Transit Plan is in draft form and will go out for public comment later this month. Christian County, Coney Island and Lockwood comprehensive plans are being printed.

- Jason informed the committee that we have a few comprehensive plans that we are finalizing. SMCOG is also starting work on the “Groves” comprehensive plans which include the cities of Fair Grove, Ash Grove, and Walnut Grove.

- SMCOG is looking to fill a graphic design intern and GIS intern positions.

-SMCOG has been requested to consider a resolution asking the NTIA to shift the burden of proof to internet service providers in challenging the accuracy of the FCC maps. Jason will share the draft resolution at a later date.

**8. Adjourn**

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