



**SOUTHWEST MISSOURI COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**  
**Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, September 13, 2022**  
**3:00 p.m.**  
**Meyer Alumni Center Conference Room**

**ATTENDEES:** Cindy Stephens, Wayne Blades, Duane Lavery, Todd Weisehan, Jerry Harman, Steve Childers, and Bill Monday  
Staff: Jason Ray, Jane Hood, and Courtney Pinkham

**Open Meeting** – Cindy Stephens

**1. Approval of September 13, 2022, Agenda**

*Motion made by Steve Childers and seconded by Jerry Harman to approve the September 13, 2022, Agenda. Motion carried.*

**2. Approval of July 12, 2022, Minutes**

Cindy stated the minutes need to be amended to show a correction. Under “7. Approve 604(b) Engineering Agreements for Marshfield and Seymour,” Duane Lavery abstained and not Wayne Blades. *Motion made by Bill Monday and seconded by Duane Lavery to approve the amended July 12, 2022, Minutes. Motion carried.*

**3. CFO Agreement: Buy, Restore, Protect, Sell (BuRPS) – Jason Ray**

This is an agreement with CFO and will be working with the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks to purchase land, ecologically restore the land, then sell the land, and using the proceeds to repeat this process. The goal is to build this into a model that can be done at the national level. SMCOG was one of 2 bidders for this proposal, the other being Upspring from New Mexico. We have been asked to work jointly with Upspring, they will be taking the lead. Agreement was included in meeting packet.

*Motion made by Duane Lavery and seconded by Jerry Harman to approve signing the agreement included in meeting packet. Motion carried.*

**4. Billings LWCF Grant Administration Agreement – Jason Ray**

This is a grant that has already been awarded, that we have been actively working on. The grant is a matched grant to improve their city park.

*Motion made by Steve Childers and seconded by Bill Monday to approve signing the Billings LWCF Grant Administration Agreement as included in meeting packet. Motion carried.*

**5. Greene County ARPA – Jason Ray**

September 14th is the deadline to submit applications for the non-profit category for Greene County ARPA funds. Chris Coulter encouraged Jason to go ahead and submit an application for funds even though they are unclear whether they would consider us as non-profit or under taxing jurisdiction category. We are required to get a certification saying that the Executive Board is aware of the application for these funds. We would include in the application planning for Greene County, updating comp plans for Ash Grove, Fair Grove, and Walnut Grove, conducting a rural housing study, assessment of wastewater capacity for industrial development sites.

*Motion made by Steve Childers and seconded by Duane Lavery to authorize Cindy as Chair of the Executive Committee to sign a certification saying the Executive Board meets on a regular basis is aware of the application being submitted. Motion passed.*

**6. FY22 Financial Report – Jason Ray**

The financial report shows that our revenue was 22% less than we had expected, this is due to project revenue, we did not spend down the EDA Cares Act funds and had an extension for this grant. We did go over on our travel budget, this was due to an increase of staff, also Chris Kempke went to additional conferences, and we sent former grants administrator, Lexi Mason to several training opportunities. Update on progress on audit, the auditor is not progressing much, we did receive an engagement letter. We had to request it to be updated and we are currently waiting for the updated letter.

*Motion made by Bill Monday and seconded by Todd Weisehan to approve FY22 Financial Report as included in meeting packet. Motion carried.*

**7. Approve Bank Transfers – Included in meeting packet.**

*Motion made by Steve Childers and seconded by Jerry Harman to approve bank transfer GS SMCOG EDA RFL \$5897.74. Motion carried.*

*Motion made by Duane Lavery and seconded by Steve Childers to approve bank transfer GS SMCOG EDA Cares Act \$43,614.95. Motion carried.*

*Motion made by Steve Childers and seconded by Wayne Blades to approve bank transfer GS SMCOG EDA PP \$23,167.74. Motion carried.*

**8. Program/Project Updates – Jason Ray**

- a. Staffing: Kelsi Burton is our new Grants Administrator. We will be posting soon for the fulltime Financial Officer position.
- b. RLF update: We are currently working on getting caught up on this project, we are waiting to get the updated letter from our attorney.
- c. Bridge Committee Update: The Bridge Committee met a couple of weeks back, are recommending the following; only request that are not recommended to be funded is Greene County's and Taney County's request. It will include two non-county requests, Cole Camp and Springfield's.
- d. Other Program/Project Updates: CEDs Update, Chris Kempke has been on medical leave, so we have asked EDA for an extension, it was approved to be extended till 06/2023. We will need updates approved for 6/2023 and 9/2024. We have two new SMCOG members, Springfield CVB and Pierce City. Pierce City and Hollister have both asked for assistance with possibly submitting LWCF Grants. We have written 2 letters of support for

broadband providers in Lawrence County for ARPA Funds. Bolivar's Transportation plan kick off will be tomorrow. Update on SMCOG office relocation, MSU is currently focused on the new addition to Temple Hall, our office will be relocated to the original Temple Hall, the renovation of which will not happen until the new addition is complete. We have been informed that they are not resigning a lease with Davis Property for Levy-Wolf, the current lease we are under is a 2-year lease.

**9. Other Business**

**10. Adjourn**

*Motion made by Steve Childers and seconded by Duane Lavery to adjourn. Motion carried.*