



**Southwest Missouri
Council of Governments**

**Southwest Missouri Council of Governments
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 27, 2010
9:00 a.m.
Library Station, Frisco Room
Springfield, MO**

Members:

Bill Marshall-Dade County
Kate Gould-Willard
Bill Monday-Dallas County
Ed Westerman-Clever
Ron Elkins Jr.-Fremont Hills
Ron Mersch-Bolivar
Nancy Edson-Rogersville
Cindy Stephens-Education
John Rice-Mt. Vernon
Gail Noggle-Republic
Kenneth Bacon-Dallas County
Ron Potter-Forsyth

Guests:

Connie Kronholm-Mo. Career Center
Natasha Longpine-OTO
Tim Conklin-OTO
Eric Kellstadt-MoDOT
Dawne Gardner-MoDOT
Frank Miller-MoDOT
Yolanda Lorge-Grupo Americano
David Rauch-Senator McCaskill's Office
Stacey Burks-Senator Bond's Office
Bill Cheek-MSU
Ronda Headland-MDC
Steve McIntosh-Congressman Blunt's Office

Staff:

Dan Watts
Dorothy Wittorff-Sandgren
Jane Hood

Open Meeting

Billy Marshall called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance and introductions.

Approval of January 27, 2010 Agenda

Ron Elkins moved and Nancy Edson seconded the motion to approve the January 27, 2010 meeting agenda, with changes. Motion carried.

Approval of December 2, 2009 Minutes

Kenneth Bacon moved and Cindy Stephens seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the December 2, 2009 meeting. Motion carried.

Legislative/Partner Agency Reports

Steve McIntosh, Congressman Roy Blunt's Office

The house is much like the Senate at this time. Not much is happening. The Whip report doesn't indicate much movement on the floor this week.

Stacy Burks, Senator Kit Bond's Office

Not much to report. It looks like they may try to pass a health care package under reconciliation rules. Homeland Security is currently working on getting Fire Act Grant out. Request for SMCOG to get information to board members regarding these grants.

David Rauch, Senator Claire McCaskill's Office

State of the Union is tonight. Senate is working on a scaled-down version of the Jobs Bill. It should include additional expenditures on infrastructure and tax breaks for small businesses. Deficit spending is a huge issue and there has been debate this past week on this issue. The health-care debate is going on, the debate is not centered on whether we should do something, but what should be done.

Darren Lingle, Congresswoman Emerson's Office

Not in attendance. No Report Given

Frank Miller, MoDOT

MoDOT is working on prioritizing projects for a "what-if" scenario. As part of the preparation for the statewide meeting, District 8 just went through the process of prioritizing rural projects in District 8 planning area. A copy of that list of rural projects has been provided in the packet. Notable projects include extension of the High-Road in Taney County and upgrade US60 to freeway standards from Springfield to Rogersville. Jobs for Main Street act, if this should happen to pass, will only allow 90 days to go to contract. We are trying now to get projects ready in case this passes. STIP updates are in process at this time. If funding doesn't come through at the Federal level, MoDOT may have to start delaying projects identified in the STIP. MoDOT is ready for what projects will need to be delayed if this should happen. Dawne Gardner: No major projects let in January. I44 in Greene county from Strafford to Rt13 (surfacing and a bridge rehab project); Christian, Taney and Webster pavement improvements on 44 and 65; Webster County Rt A and NN let thin lift overlay, Taney Rt BB and F thin lift overlays. One more local project will be added to the ARRA projects due to projects coming in under budget. This project is part of the Frisco Highline.

Eric Kellstadt, MoDOT

ARRA projects are going smoothly. District 7 is busy preparing for the Statewide investment meeting in February. MoDOT central is preparing 2 minute videos that will be available on their website. District 7 projects are: Upgrade of US71 to I49, about half of this money has been identified in the STIP for this project; US 60 four-lane from Republic to Monett; Rt37 in Barry County; Joplin west bypass. Lettings include: Resurfacing of state routes in Barry and Lawrence counties also a letting for Safe-and-Sound bridge in Dade County.

Tim Conklin, OTO

MoDOT was a great help in getting the urban projects put together. OTO is gearing up to update the Long-range Transportation Plan. OTO is also monitoring the EPA standards on ozone levels. If out of non-attainment we will be required to provide a transportation conformity finding. We should know the new levels in August this year.

Candy Adams, SEMA

Not in attendance. No Report given.

Ronda Headland, Missouri Department of Conservation

New hours are being put in place at the Conservation center due to budget cuts. By July 1, 2010, 123 people will retire and these positions will not be filled due to budget cuts. Part of the reductions includes closure of some offices. Two burn trainings are coming up in February.

Connie Kronholm, Ozark Region Workforce Investment Board

Unemployment rose slightly in the area. Much of this is due to seasonal employment in the Branson area. Approximately 700-800 people are visiting the employment center a day. A mobile unit has been purchased to go out into the county for rural outreach. We have received a lot of stimulus money that mainly goes to training. Work Ready Missouri is a new program that allows employers to try out employees before they actually make a hire. This program is limited to those potential employees that are currently receiving unemployment benefits.

Business

Financial Report—Jane Hood

Two statements have been provided, one has the Homeland Security dollars included and the other has that removed. A new category called “indirect revenue” has been added. MSU takes 42% of the indirect revenue off the top and then reimburses 75%. A copy of the report from this meeting is on file at the SMCOG office.

Staff Search Update—Jane Hood

Planner position is open at SMCOG. We want Board input into this process and recommend Chris Coulter to be the Board representative on the staff search.

Ed Westerman moved and Ron Elkins seconded to appoint Chris Coulter as the SMCOG board representative during the hiring process.

Transportation Planning Program—Dan Watts

Currently we are slow over the Christmas holiday. SMCOG staff worked with District 8 during their rural planning prioritization process. SMCOG facilitated the southern group.

Homeland Security Regionalization Program—Dorothy Wittorff-Sandgren

The final 2007 spending is in the packet along with the 2008 funding. Bids for a trailer have begun. The 2009 funds will be discussed at the next RHSOC meeting. The state’s FY2010 funding has been approved in Washington and the state now has to select the investment justifications that will be funded. Region D’s FY2010 allocation should be about \$2,000 less than the FY2009 grant.

Economic Development Planning Program/Director’s Report—Jane Hood

SMCOG met with Sara Clark regarding website development for communities. We are trying to identify a couple of MSU students to help with this. We have identified a website company that provides a basic website template and hosts it for around 5 dollars a month. The MACOG meeting was cancelled for January. Hazard Mitigation plans for Webster and Lawrence counties should be completed by the end of February. The Agreements for Dallas, Polk and Dade were signed this week. Barry and Christian county plans are underway. The 604(b) project agreement should be completed by mid-February.

Other Business

None

Member Announcements

None

Meeting Adjourned.

Cindy Stephens, Secretary/Treasurer

Date Approved