

SOUTHWEST MISSOURI COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS MEETING MINUTES

June 28, 2006, 9:00 AM

Missouri State University Alumni Center
300 S. Jefferson, Springfield, MO 65806

Members Present:	
Allen Kunkel, Springfield Chamber	Nancy Edson, Rogersville
Kenneth Bacon, Buffalo	Dorothy Knowles, S.W. Office on Ageing
Ken Hurley, Billings	Cindy Stephens, Education
Chris Coulter, Republic	Howard Fisk, Transportation
Ron Elkins, Jr., Fremont Hills	Michelle Garand, Health
Ed Westerman, Clever	Dana Louderbaugh, Fair Grove
Brian Fogel, Great Southern	George Cutbirth, Stone County
Donna Elery, City of Aurora	Billy Dryer, Polk County
George Quest Jr., Kimberling City	

Guests Present:	
Eric Kellstadt, MoDOT D7	Joel Keller, Greene County Hwy
Dawne Gardner, MoDOT D8	Nathan Correll, Senator Talent
Steve McIntosh, Congressman Roy Blunt	Stacy Burks, Senator Kit Bond

Staff Present:	
Diane May	Anita Davis
Dan Watts	

OPENING CEREMONIES

Approval of May 24, 2006 minutes: *Fogel/Hurley*

Approval of agenda: *Fogel/Elkins, Jr.*

Treasurer's Report:

Diane May: Waiting on invoicing for SEMA, in-kind data; new liability insurance; under budget on salaries due to shortage of staff; \$27,000+ to be invoiced to MoDOT; reported other smaller invoices out there (less than \$5,000); reported that the year end will be negative, the University is aware of the reasons for the storage.

Brian Fogel asked about the estimate on FEMA invoicing. *Diane May* answered that total invoicing outstanding in June is approximately \$82,000. The main reason for the hold up is that construction on Pierce City armory is being delayed due to some environmental toxins/airborne contamination.

Brian Fogel pointed out that SMCOG is on a cash basis. Revenues will not come in until July and therefore accounting will show a deficit for June. He also pointed out that the budget should include footnotes explaining unusual issues.

Nancy Edson: What type of audit requirements does SMCOG have?

Diane May: It is part of the University audit and follows the University rules for the audit process. The University covers the cost. When annual revenue is under \$200,000, the audit is only required every 2 years. Diane pointed out that some money has been set aside in case an audit is required for the EDA grant.

Kenneth Bacon asked for motion to approve the Treasurer's report.

Cutbirth/Coulter

Legislative Reports:

Stacy Burks, Senator Bond's Office:

The estate tax bill is on hold due to number of votes. The Senate will break first week in October and possibly hold lame duck session beginning in November. She reported that the flag-burning amendment failed to pass.

Steve McIntosh, Congressman Roy Blunt's Office:

If the Senate does a lame duck session, so goes the House. Appropriations are taking up commerce, state, science, and justice, leaving just labor and health. Blunt has gotten funding for the J. Biggs Center and funding for Jordan Valley Park. He also reported that we will see more American Values items in the future.

Nathan Correll, Senator Talent's Office:

There is debate regarding free trade with Oman, Jordan.

Partner Agency Reports:

Dawne Gardner, MoDOT District 8

Major Construction- Taney 65 interchange, four-lane to Arkansas line awarded, Route 13 relief route slated to begin July 4, 2006 in Stone County, fixing a bump on Hwy. 65 out of Branson, beginning work on I44 and 65 ramp and bridge replacement (estimated completion 2008). Next summer Rt. 123 will be closed to replace a bridge. I44 is busy with SRI projects; check the website often for updates on I44 construction locations.

Enhancements- 14 applications; 10 have been funded. Andrew Siler is in charge of committee. \$1.78 million are available to fund enhancements in Clever, Marshfield, Lebanon, Bolivar, Branson, Ash Grove, Galena, Hollister, Ava, Village of Indian Point and Crane.

Ken Bacon asked when the turn lane work just north of Rt. C in Dallas County would be complete. Dawn was unsure of the activity but promised to let him know what was going on and when it would be complete.

Billy Dryer questioned whether there would be funding available to help redesign a dangerous bridge between Eudora and Morrisville. Dawne said she would look into that.

Eric Kellstadt, MoDOT District 7

District 7 received 18 applications with 16 being funded. In the SMCOG area only Lockwood and Wheaton were funded. The deadline for districts is July 19. On September 13, the commission will make final say on what gets funded. District 7 will hold overview for the approved applications. Guardrails along I44 are nearing completion in hopes of preventing cross-over accidents. Reported that Bear Creek will be on STIP in the next few years, but only if other projects are financially in line. Bear Creek is being rescoped for practical designs and cost-effectiveness due to the length of time since the original scoping.

Diane May (reporting for Dan Rudge, OTO)

The highway corridor study is underway. OTO, MSU and MU at Columbia are studying ways to make reporting of land use/transportation better. OTO is starting this project in Springfield. SMCOG is helping with the field data collection process and assessment tools. Decision should be reported soon.

New Business:

Chris Coulter, Report from Nominations Committee:

Three slots are available for appointment of at-large representatives to the Board of Directors.

Dryer/Fisk

Election of Officers:

The chair must be an elected official. The board approved the new officers: Dave Coonrod, chair; George Cutbirth, vice-chair; Cindy Stephens, treasurer.

Fogel/Hurley

Billy Dryer asked when the at-large representative for agriculture would be appointed. *Diane* said the Board is looking for an experienced person who has a big-picture perspective of regional agriculture activities.

Executive Committee:

Jane Hood, Mount Vernon; Ron Elkins, Christian County; Mark Dixon; and Allen Kunkel, at-large.

Knowles/Cutbirth

Diane May pointed out that, under new EDA rules, 35% of the Board must be made up of at-large citizens. The entire Board needs to look at new requirements and some members will have to be added. We will be restructuring the board of the next two months. This needs to be accomplished by the third quarter (March) of FY2007.

Brian Fogel, budget packet:

By July 1, SMCOG should have \$308,000 in total revenue. All are contracts or relationships that are already in existence, but timing of collection is an issue.

Expenditures: A two-month salary for the executive director is included in the FY2007 budget. Previous budgets have not included a summer salary for the executive director. Also, a new full-time planner position will be created for a total of 3.25% increase in the salary budget. Travel is increased due to new projects requiring more drive time.

New expense: In the past, SMCOG only paid the stipend but not tuition reimbursement for graduate assistants. The university now requires any new graduate assistant hired by SMCOG will have to pay stipend as well as the student's tuition reimbursement. We will need a third graduate assistant to work on the MTI transportation project. We also added \$1500 in anticipation of EDA audit. Software and hardware purchases are also anticipated. \$276,000 is the final budget which is well below the anticipated \$308,000; therefore, SMCOG is looking solid.

Chris Coulter asked if repair and equipment budget was enough which prompted a discussion from *Diane* about a bad monitor and hard-drive that was getting ready to go bad, but wanted to leave that portion of the budget alone for now. *Diane* also brought up the issue of the University plans to recover some of the funds that SMCOG (and other MSU outreach centers) had previously absorbed from grants. The University plans to take 10% of those funds in the first year and increase that by 10% each year (up to around 30%). She indicated that it would not be an issue for a couple of years.

Ken Hurley had some question about membership dues. *Diane* went over the membership and dues structure with him.

Diane May provided further discussion on SEMA's Homeland Security program. There is a meeting scheduled for July 6th with 10 RPC's to discuss what goes into work program.

Budget approval: *Stephens/Hurley*

Transportation-Diane May

Diane asked for formal approval of the STIP (2007-2011) and reappointment of TAC members for coming year. *Louderbaugh/Elkins*

She noted that both Dade County and Christian County need a second member. SMCOG will try to have a joint meeting of the TAC and the Board. She asked that all communities provide a list of needs. Members were reminded of the Traffic Counter available for use by any member jurisdiction.

She also asked for approval of the RTP (2007-2011). *Coulter/Fisk*

Board recommendation to approve FY2007 TAC: *Westerman/Kunkel*

Appointment of Executive Committee: *Coulter/Fisk*

State Regional Grant Program (fiscal 2007): *Hurley/Cutbirth*

SEMA Homeland Security Program: *Fogel/Coulter*

J. Howard Fisk: Do you have a mission statement for this and what the regulations are?

Diane: The state plan is still evolving. RPCs are meeting with SEMA July 6 concerning the final organization structure. We have the initial SEMA presentation. We will e-mail or fax that to everyone.

Executive Director's Report

Diane: We have been working on some new logo ideas and will present those at the July meeting.

Appointment of CEDS Committee. Need to bring in some outside appointments. We need the Executive Committee to meet sometime in July so we can get the appointments made by August in regard to the new EDA at-large members rule. Bill is assisting on this project.

Staff search update: Had two good candidates that turned down the offer because the salary is too low. The new dean will hopefully put in for more salary. Natasha has been doing double duty with transportation duties and cartography.

Other activities: The Armory in Pierce City (already discussed); updating Strafford's zoning; and Ash Grove and Kimberling City comprehensive plans. Vision plans will be in September but it is taking longer than anticipated.

Other Business:

Ken Bacon asked for announcements:

Dorothy Knowles commented that the public officials directory is wonderful and Ken Bacon agreed saying that he has used it many times already.

Dana Louderbaugh noted that the City of Republic needs a correction. The city clerk position is held by Brenda Jackson.

Ken Bacon expressed his thanks for all the help during the last 12 months as Chairman.

Motion to adjourn.

Dryer/Fogel