

**Southwest Missouri Council of Governments
Board of Directors Business Meeting
Wednesday, June 27, 2007, 9 a.m.
Missouri State University Alumni Center
Hospitality Room, 1st Floor
300 S. Jefferson, Springfield, Mo. 65806**

Members Present:

Cindy Stephens, OTC/Education
Steve Coller, Business
J. Howard Fisk, Transportation
Jane Hood, Mount Vernon
Billy Dryer, Polk County
George E. Cutbirth, Stone County
Bob Walsh, Lawrence County
Fred Gress, Willard
Allen Kunkel, MSU, Business/Industry
Dave Coonrod, Greene County Commission
Iver Johnson, Ash Grove

Guests Present:

Steve McIntosh, Congressman Blunt's office
Stacy Burks, Senator Bond's office

David Rauch, Senator McCaskill's office
Dawne Gardner, MoDOT D8
Scott Bachman, MoDOT D7
Eric Kellstadt, MoDOT D7
Frank Miller, MoDOT D8
Kirk Juranas, MoDOT, Springfield Region
Ryan Nicholls, Greene County Emergency Management

Staff Present:

Diane May, SMCOG
Anita Davis, SMCOG
Dan Watts, SMCOG

OPENING CEREMONIES

Dave Coonrod called the meeting to order.

INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Diane May said that Ken Bacon's father passed away. Allen Kunkel introduced Jeff Seifried, the new manager for the Ozarks Regional Economic Partnership.

JUNE 27, 2007 AGENDA APPROVED

Brian Fogle motioned and Robert Walster seconded the motion to approve the agenda for the June 27, 2007 meeting. Motion carried.

MAY 23, 2007 MEETING MINUTES

Corrections were noted on the May 23, 2007 meeting minutes. Frank Miller said that MoDOT installed reverse passing lanes on Hwy. 37. Kurt Juranus also noted that MoDOT is considering center turn lanes for Hwy. 13 instead of Hwy. 37. Eric Kellstadt clarified that \$3.2 was requested for transportation enhancements, but only \$1.7 will be funded. Diane May requested that the meeting minutes be deferred to the next meeting so that corrections could be made. Action deferred until next meeting.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Diane May presented the Financial Report for May 2007. She also noted that not all program expenses have been invoiced yet for the end of the fiscal year and not all revenues are in. Final revenues for some of the programs shown on the income statement will be less because actual expenses have been less than budgeted. The June statements should be available in a couple of weeks. She indicated that the University is changing the reporting system and assigning separate budget numbers to the various programs and projects and a lot of account line item transfers are being made.

Cindy Stephens motioned and Allen Kunkel seconded the motion to approve the financial report. Motion carried.

LEGISLATIVE REPORTS

Stacy Burks, Senator Bond's Office

Senate has moved four appropriations bills out, including Military Construction, Energy and Water and Commerce, Justice, and Science will move Tuesday. The Immigration bill was up for debate but the senator voted for cloture. Two remaining cloture votes both require 60 votes to pass.

Steve McIntosh, Congressman Blunt's Office

The House is not debating the immigration bill. The House is working on appropriations bills. The Interior bill includes \$450,000 to acquire more land for Wilson's Creek National Battlefield. The original amount of land in the battle should be acquired. J Howard Fisk asked if this offered the potential to expand the boundaries past Wilson's Creek? That would take another act of Congress.

David Rauch, Senator McCaskill's Office

Senator McCaskill voted against cloture on the immigration bill. The only way she would vote yes would be if the amnesty would be removed from the bill. This seems to be the consensus with the constituency in the state. The Senate was working on energy reform legislation this last week. Senator McCaskill voted against it as she felt some of the tax breaks were not addressed in the bill. The Senator has been working on CAFO requirements. She felt there should have been more consensus. She is working on the animal ID bill and has taken lead on veterans' issues. The Senator just returned from an exploratory mission in Iraq; her focus has been looking at excesses regarding military contracts. The Springfield office opened three weeks ago in downtown Springfield. Phone number is 868-8745. Billy Dryer expressed caution regarding the animal ID bill and asked who is going to pay for that bill? The average herd in Missouri is 32. Most ranchers have over 60 head. Mr. Rauch responded that the Senator is against is against mandatory ID. On the issue of who is going to pay, we don't know the answer to that question.

PARTNER AGENCY REPORTS

Valerie Robinson, Department of Natural Resources

With the new fiscal year, DNR will start EAVs (Environments Assistance Visits). When a new permit is issued, we get out there in 30 days and let them know how we can assist them and help them stay in compliance. The public drinking water lab is closing next

week due to a contract issue. This leaves two choices for testing: have a courier take samples up to Jefferson City or hire a testing lab locally. Dave Coonrod questioned whether the Springfield Health Department could provide this service?

Ms. Robinson reported on the tire roundup program; DNR has a contract with the Department of Corrections. Landowners can call the DNR. The program starts July 1st and is for pickup of 500 to 10,000 tires. Dave Coonrod suggested that interested parties could call Barbara Lux for assistance. Howard Fisk asked if there is going to be a drop site? Ms. Robinson said she would check on that.

Ryan Nicholls, Greene County Emergency Management

Greene County Emergency Management is working on damage assessments from the recent flooding and homeland regionalization. A statewide earthquake exercise was recently held. Dave Coonrod noted that they are concerned about the old EOC facility and would like to have a secure and hardened facility. He suggested the possibility of moving the Emergency Operations Center to the old airport terminal when it is vacated after completion of the new midfield terminal. The infrastructure is in place but the local leadership needs to determine if this would be a good move. Nancy Edson asked what kind of funds are available for this. Howard Fisk also asked if there would be leasable space at the old terminal. Dave Coonrod responded that this idea is in its infancy. Nancy Edson asked if there was any competition for use of the old terminal and Dave Coonrod responded that staff has proposed that the facility be used for commerce and retail. Ryan Nicholls said that the proposed use of the terminal for emergency operations is from a regional perspective and they are hoping it would streamline efforts for response. At the present time, homeland security grant funds are being used to create a Region D Multi-Agency Coordination Center (DMACC) which will be housed in Greene County Emergency Management and will serve all counties in Region D.

Frank Miller, MoDOT District 8

The flyover over Hwy. 65 is opening tomorrow. I-44 will be shut down on July 6th through the 9th. Jane Hood asked when will the flyover project be complete? Mr. Miller responded next spring. The contractor has some financial incentive to complete the contract on time.

Eric Kellstadt, MoDOT District 7

Eric Kellstadt reported that there wasn't much new to report on from District 7. The scoring on transportation enhancements will occur on July 12th.

SMCOG OPERATIONS BUDGET 2007-2008

Diane May reported on the operations budget for FY2007-2008. This is a zero based budget because we do not yet know total revenues and expenditures for the current year and rollover amounts. Some expenses in the current budget did not happen because of program delays, such as the graduate assistant position for the MTI project. This will be rolled over in the 2007-2008 year. The homeland security programs are included in the budget and we are now just starting on procurement for the 2006 grant program. Most anticipated revenues are known. Funding in the amount of \$56,000 has been requested

from MoDOT for the Transportation Planning Program, but final award is not yet known. This budget is presented for the Board's approval to enable work to proceed. A revised budget with updated information will be brought to the Board at later date.

Nancy Edson motioned and Fred Gress seconded to approve the operations budget for FY2008. Motion carried.

BOARD POLICY ON EXECUTION OF CONTRACTS AND DOCUMENTS

Diane May requested that the Board consider a policy regarding what documents require Board chairman signature and what types of documents could be executed by the University on behalf of SMCOG. She said that cooperative agreements and contracts should be signed by the Chair, but what about other types of program documents? For do we need the Chair to sign on purchase agreements for equipment that is being purchased for different jurisdictions through the homeland security grant program, or would it be acceptable for such documents to be signed only by the University, the jurisdiction receiving the equipment and the RHSOC chairman? Dave Coonrod said he doesn't have a problem with signing; however, the next Chair might be in a location further away and it could be more difficult to easily get signatures. Nancy Edson asked how should we determine what goes through for signatures. For the homeland security grant program, Diane May indicated that SEMA requires the RHSOC Chair, receiving jurisdiction and the grant awardee to sign on the purchase agreements. The University is signing as it has responsibility for procurement, but SEMA is not also requiring the SMCOG Chair to sign on the purchase agreements. Dave Coonrod suggested that the Board should wait to see who the next chair is; if the Chair is far away, we will need to revisit this.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROGRAM

It was recommended that Frank Washburn, representing Barry County, be appointed to the TAC.

Cindy Stephens motioned and Allen Kunkel seconded. Motion carried.

REPORT FROM NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Nancy Edson noted that recommendations on possible Board reorganization are not yet complete and recommended that election of new officers be moved to the August Board meeting.

Fred Gress motioned and Billy Dryer seconded the motion to delay election of officers until the August meeting. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Diane May reported on the new public transit-human service plan that will be contracted with MoDOT and the status of homeland security program subcontracts with the other two regional planning commissions in Region D. She indicated that a conference call is scheduled for later in the week to work out documentation reporting requirements for the subcontractors.

Ms. May said we are working to get Dorothy Wittorff-Sandgren's position to full-time. Cindy Stephens asked if staff has an understanding of what the work load will be like.

Ms. May responded that much of the work will be in-house with procurement. The RHSOC is working hand in hand with staff on this.

Interviews with the final engineering firms have been completed and the engineering consultant for the Bennett Springs project has been selected by the project committee. Contract negotiations with the selected consultant will be starting shortly.

Staff is working to complete the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) plan Board review at the August meeting. The plan is a work program element of the economic development program funded through EDA.

Ms. May also noted that the Hollister and Pierce City grant administration projects are both on track.

ADJOURN

Jane Hood motioned to adjourn. Cindy Stephens seconded. Motion carried.

Cindy Stephens, Secretary-Treasurer

Date Approved