



**Southwest Missouri Council of Governments
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 24, 2018
8:00 a.m.
Darr Agricultural Learning Center
2401 S. Kansas Expressway, Springfield, MO**

Attendance :

Members:

Dem Fisher – City of Aurora
Nathan Meyer – Olsson & Assoc
Yolanda Lorge – Grupo Latinamericano
Brad Gray – City of Willard
Matthew Ridpath – TREKK
Gregory Perkins – TREKK
Brandon Freeman – TREKK
Steve Childers – City of Ozark
Amanda Bybee - TREKK
Andrew Novinger – Anderson Eng
Lincoln Hough – Greene County
Steve Bodenhammer – City of Strafford
Ron Mersch – Olsson & Assoc.
Larry Sutton – City of Rogersville
Carl Carlson- Olsson & Associates
Cindy Stephens – OTC
Randy Owens – Webster County
Danny Perches – Spfld Chamber
Cy Murray – White River Electric
Dana Louderbaugh – City of Fair Grove
Dennis Wood – Stone County
Hank Smythe – Stone County
John Forrester–Allgeier, Martin & Assoc
Steve Seaton – Stone County
Andrea Sitzes – Show Me Christian CO
Callie Linville – Spfld City Utilities

Alex Mosby – Paragon Architecture
Lindsay Reichart – Paragon Architecture
Chris Erisman – Allgeier, Martin & Assoc
John Benson – City of Marshfield
Gail Melgren – Tri-States Water
Mark Trog – City of Merriam Woods
Roger Dewalt – City of Merriam Woods
Gabe Lett – Olsson & Assoc
Jerry Harman – City of Kimberling City
Gopaula Borchelt – Toth & Assoc
Harriet Leenerts – City of Rockaway
Beach
Russell Anderson – City of Rockaway
Beach
Jon Holmes – City of Aurora
Gail Noggle – City of Bolivar
Chris Berndt - SMESO
Dick Scott – Olsson & Assoc.
Dennis Pyle – City of Monett

Partners and Guests:.

Andrew Schiller – MoDNR
Jamel Keller - MoDOT
Joelle Cannon - Senator Blunt's Office
Dan Wadlington – Senator Blunt's Office
David Stokely – Senator McCaskill's Of-
fice

Jeremy Pruett – Congressman Long’s Office
Drew Cannon – Congresswoman Hartzler’s Office
Suzanne Murphy – USDA Rural Dev.
Bruce Hively – USDA Rural Dev.
Lynda Jochims – MSU
Beth Hale – MSU
Alice Wingo - CFO
Zeke Hall - MoDOT
Curtis Trent – MO Rep 133
Sonya Anderson – MO Rep 131
Lynn Morris – MO Rep 140

Jimmy Liles – City of Nixa
Sara Fields - OTO
Natasha Longpine – OTO
Toby Dogviler - MSU

Staff:

Jason Ray
Jane Hood
Dorothy Wittorff-Sandgren
Bailey Dejonge
Megan Clark
Wesley Welch
Justin Butkovich

Open Meeting

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance – Dana Louderbaugh

Introductions and Announcements – Dana Louderbaugh

Approval of October 24, 2018 Meeting Agenda—Dana Louderbaugh

Steve Bodenhammer motioned and Cindy Stephens seconded to approve the Agenda for the October 24, 2018 meeting. Motion Carried.

Approval of August 22, 2018 Meeting Minutes— Dana Louderbaugh

Cindy Stephens motioned and John Benson seconded to approve the minutes for the August 22, 2018 meeting. Motion Carried.

Guest Speaker: Jay Wunderlich, Governmental Relations Director – MoDOT

Business

Fiscal Year 2018 Annual Report – Jason Ray

Jason Ray presented the 2018 SMCOG Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2018 Financial Report – Jason Ray

Jason Ray presented the 2018 SMCOG Financial Report to the Board. Cindy Stephens and Dana Louderbaugh were both complimentary of Jason and the financial progress that has occurred with SMCOG.

Steve Childers motioned and Hank Smythe seconded approval of the FY2018 Annual Financial Report. Motion Carried.

Legislative Reports

SMCOG Legislative Update- Jason Ray

SMCOG staff have been increasing legislative tracking this year. Jason recently returned from Washington DC where he met with our Federal representative’s staff and we continue to work closely with their local staff. The biggest issue right now is Prop D (sales tax increase to be used for highways) which will be on the November 7th ballot.

David Stokely – Senator McCaskill’s Office

David complemented SMCOG and the value they bring to communities and counties. The President signed legislation today on the Opioid issue. Senator McCaskill is committed to continue to look into this issue. She has been advocating for additional staff in the USDA offices in Missouri. The “gag rule” for patient’s right to know, at the Federal level, has been passed. Looking forward to the new VA Clinics in Springfield and Joplin opening soon.

Joelle Cannon - Senator Blunt’s Office

Not currently in session until after the upcoming November 7th election. Senator Blunt is Chair of the Labor/HHS Committee. The Opioid money allowed for about \$4 billion nationwide of which \$30 million came to Missouri. If you are applying for any Federal grants, let their office know and they can assist you with a letter of recommendation. Missouri received \$255 million for Broadband which is about 17% of the total nationwide.

Drew Cannon– Congresswoman Hartzler’s Office

Hope to have a Farm Bill passed by the end of the year. Has passed a 2.6% increase for our troops. Hope to get a Transportation Bill passed next year.

State Representatives –

Rep. Curtis Trent (District 133) - Economic Development and the State’s infrastructure will be high priorities in the next Missouri General Assembly. He appreciates the hard work that SMCOG does for the region.

Rep. Sonya Anderson (District 131) – Appreciates SMCOG and its work. This next session we will have a new Speaker of the House from SW Missouri which is historic.

Other Business

Jason Ray announced we will be having staffing changes. Megan Clark has gone from parttime to fulltime Senior Planner. Simon Nogin has accepted a position with the City of Springfield, however, we will be filling that position with a fulltime planner soon.

Partner Updates

USDA Rural Development – Suzanne Murphy

Now in FY-2019 and accepting applications for Grant and Loan Programs. If they can help with anything in your communities, please give them a call.

MO Dept. of Natural Resources – Andy Schiller

There have been a lot of changes and revisions with DNR over the past year. Have tried to make regulations more readable and useable.

MO Dept. of Transportation – Zeke Hall

Needs Prioritization Process meeting was 10/17/18. It went well. The next meeting in the process will be 11/30/18.

Ozarks Transportation Organization – Natasha Longpine

They have their Annual Report on their website now which lists the successes in the region as well as the projects to work on. Fatalities are down a little this year. They have money available for sidewalks and trails.

Community Foundation of the Ozarks – Alice Wingo

The communities involved in the GRO (Growth Rural Ozarks) Program are seeing some exciting outcomes. This program was started in 2016 with 3 communities, Sarcoxie, Marshfield and Salem, Missouri. In 2018 two additional communities were added, Aurora and Buffalo. A couple of weeks ago they all met and shared their successes and challenges. Aurora, Buffalo and Marshfield have all implemented different new programs dealing with poverty, leadership development or economic development in their communities. CFO would like to offer the GRO Program to 3 additional communities next year. The program will be partnering with Missouri State University's Dr. Ron Coulter from the Marketing Department and it will be a project for that department starting 1/1/19. They will be looking at advertising, etc.

In addition, they are working with a donor who wants to create the Missouri Center for Cyber-Security and Excellence. Also, working with some private foundations who are interested in giving some of their money to rural areas.

If you have a project that you need some seed money for, the Cooper Grant is opening up 11/15/18 for new and innovative projects. It closes 2/15/19. You can apply for up to \$20,000 and can apply on the CFO website. City and county governments can apply along with other 501c3's.

Member Announcements

None.

Adjourn

Cy Murray motioned and Cindy Stephens seconded. Motion Carried.

Todd Wiesehan, Secretary/Treasurer

Date Approved