



**Southwest Missouri Council of Governments
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 22, 2019
9:00 a.m.**

**Springfield-Greene County Library Center - Auditorium
4653 S. Campbell Ave., Springfield, MO 65810**

Attendance :

Members:

Isaac Peterson - Cassville
Bob Senninger – Lawrence County
Max Springer – Mt. Vernon
Hank Smythe – Stone County
Mark Maples – Stone County
Gail Nogle – Bolivar
Sydney Allen - Bolivar
Shawn Barry – Toth & Assoc
Todd Wiesehan - Christian County
J. Howard Fisk – Fisk Transportation
Bill Monday - Bolivar
Cindy Stephens - OTC
Roger Dewalt – Merriam Woods
Chris Berndt - SMESO
Carl Carlson- Olsson & Associates
Allen Kunkel – MSU
Callie Linville – City Utilities
Jerry Harman – Kimberling City
Steve Bodenhamer – Strafford
Steve Walensky – Cassville
Cy Murray – White River Electric
Steve Seton - Hurley
Isabella Karallas - TREKK
Dennis Pyle - Monett
Jon Holmes – Aurora
Lindsay Reichert – Paragon Arch
Hollie Elliott – Dallas County
Cindy Robbins - Nixa

Yolanda Lorge – Grupo Latinoameri-
cano

Partners and Guests

Beth Schaller – MoDOT
Andrew Schiller – Mo DNR
Beau Picar – Mo DNR
Drew Cannon – Congresswoman.Hartz-
ler’s Office
Alex Cobb – Senior Age
Sherry Coker – OTC
Dan Wadlington – Senator Blunt’s Office
Mary Rajek – Mo DED
Christa Atchison- Mo DED
Theresa Sampaio – Mo DED
Ronda Burnett – Mo Dept Conservation
Mark Hultgren – USDA Rural Dev.
Marcy Mealy – MoDED
Sam Komo – MoDED
Marcy Oerly – MoDED
Dennis Wiggins – Mo Career Center
Tanya Tucker – Mo DNR

Staff:

Jason Ray
Jane Hood
Megan Clark
Dorothy Wittorff-Sandgren
Ben Mohler

Open Meeting

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance – Chris Coulter

Introductions and Announcements— Chris Coulter

Approval of May 22, 2019 Meeting Agenda—Chris Coulter

Cindy Stephens motioned and Hank Smythe seconded to approve the Agenda for the May 22, 2019 meeting. Motion Carried.

Approval of March 27, 2019 Meeting Minutes— Chris Coulter

Howard Fisk motioned and Dennis Pyle seconded to approve the minutes for the March 27, 2019 meeting. Motion Carried.

CDBG Disaster Grant presentation by Brandon Jenson, SMCOG.

Legislative Reports

SMCOG Legislative Update - Jason Ray

The Missouri General Assembly ended their session on Friday (5/17/19) with SMCOG tracking over 120 pieces of legislation. Jason briefly reviewed some of those that passed.

Regarding Regional Planning Commission funding, the budget sub-committee in the House voted to de-fund all RPC's in the State but the Senate then increased the funding. Jason thanked Speaker Elijah Haahr for going to bat for SMCOG and working with the Budget chair and the Senate to reinstate the RPC funding and meet the increased amount from the Senate. He also thanked Senators Lincoln Hough and Senator Sandy Crawford and also Senator Blunts staff for supporting us with the state legislators.

Dan Wadlington – Senator Blunt's Office

Senate is about to go on Memorial Day recess. The first bill for mark- up will be Appropriations Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee which Senator Blunt chairs. There has been talk of a gas tax for infrastructure. There is a meeting at the White House today regarding that. There have also been discussions on selling off surplus federal property to fund \$2 trillion for infrastructure. The Federal Government owns 30% of the land mass of the country and there is over 1 billion sq ft of office, etc.

Drew Cannon – Congresswoman Hartzler's Office

House has various bills on the floor two of those being HR1500 which loosens some of the requirements for the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and HR1994 which is the Secure Act which gives workers more flexibility with their retirement accounts.

Business Meeting

1. 2nd & 3rd Quarter Financial Updates – Jason Ray

Jason reviewed the 2nd & 3rd quarter financial reports.

Allen Kunkel motioned and Cindy Stephens seconded to Approval of the 2nd Quarter and 3rd Quarter Financial Reports. Motion passed.

2. FY 2020 Proposed Operation Budget – Jason Ray

Jason presented the Proposed Operating Budget for FY2020. The Executive Committee has reviewed the budget and recommended bringing it before the Board for approval.

Jason did not include possible return of the EDA Planning Partnership Grant which staff has been working on with EDA. This grant was last received in 2009. We should know after

October if it will be awarded again.

Gail Noggle motioned and Howard Fisk seconded the Approval of the FY 2020 Proposed Operating Budget.

3. Draft Bylaws Update Discussion- Jason Ray

A few months ago the Board approved a new Fiscal Policy which allowed SMCOG to have a separate checking account from MSU so that we could apply and receive the EDA Planning funds again. (EDA requirement). The new Fiscal Policy has a separate position as Treasurer and the old Bylaws had Secretary/Treasurer as one position. After discussion at the last board meeting and also in the Executive Committee, it was determined appropriate to separate the Secretary/Treasurer position into 2 separate positions on the Executive Committee. The proposed bylaws update reflect that.

4. Draft Master Operating Agreement (MOA) Update Discussion – Jason Ray

A new MOA was required by EDA in our attempt to get the grant reinstated. We have been working on this with MSU attorney's for some time. This is the latest version. It will be voted on at our next Board Meeting.

5. Program/Project Reports - (updates handed out in packet)

A. Transportation Planning/Programs – Megan Clark

Megan reminded the Board that as a member community you are entitled to one free Traffic Count with a small fee for additional counts. Megan is visiting each of the 10 member Counties to determine their transportation priorities. At the TAC meeting on 7/10/19 prioritization of the needs will be voted on for this district.

We are participating in the MoDOT Planning exercise where "IF" MoDOT should get extra funds, what projects are ready to go.

As bonds are being paid off, possibility that money could become available.

There was \$49.6 million set aside through Appropriations for transportation but the Governor has not signed it yet.

B. Hazard Mitigation Planning –Megan Clark

Dade County has been approved by FEMA. The MOA's have been signed for Christian & Webster counties and will be starting this summer.

C. Grant Writing & Administration – Jason Ray

Continue to work on Bull Creek and Monett buy outs.

CDBG staff from DED were with SMCOG staff for a meeting in Branson last night to discuss disaster recovery funds that is targeted to Branson area zip code. (There were 5 zip codes

state wide.) Has to be directed to housing needs related to the 2017 flooding.

The Fair Grove Senior Center is now open and had a ribbon cutting ceremony last month with a good turn out. Close out is being done.

The Engles Senior Center project has some hold ups due to environmental issues.

D. Homeland Security – Dorothy Wittorff-Sandgren

The next meeting is 7/17/19 at Southwest Research Center in Mt. Vernon.

E. Other Activities – Jason Ray

The SMCOG 30th Anniversary Celebration is scheduled for 5/30/19. Flyers handed out.

Partner Updates

USDA Rural Development – Mark Hultgren

Community Programs Water & sewer money available. Community Facilities has a lot of money available including equipment for those facilities. Business Programs has money available including for a for profit business. Single Family Housing has money available and for their 504 program. ReConnect program administered by the rural electric coops for broadband in communities is available.

MO Dept. of Natural Resources – Andy Schiller

DNR is holding another workshop this year in Webb City on 6/6/19. He has flyers for Water & Waste Water funding. Their Red Tape Reductions have lessened some of the regulations. Open burning permits are no longer required by DNR. Your local government rules still apply. They are meeting with local fire chiefs for updating them on the state changes.

MO Dept. of Transportation – Beth Schaller

The SW District Engineer, Travis Koestner has taken a job with MoDOT and is back in Jefferson City. They will be hiring a new District Engineer. The next phase of the Highway 65 rebuild will start in mid-August. Updates for MoDOT can be received by signing up on their website. Urgent repair on the Long Creek Bridge in Taney County will start 6/3/19. It will take about 4 weeks for those repairs. The bridge will be replaced starting in 2022.

MO Dept of Conservation – Ronda Burnett

The Grow Native Committee of the Missouri Prairie Foundation is developing a certification program. Will be useful to communities that maintain green infrastructure systems and need to hire qualified staff or contractors.

The local section of the American Planning Association will hold a technical training on 7/11/19. A PDF of the New Conservation Manual is available on their website or a hard copy can be ordered by contacting Ronda.

Missouri Career Center – Dennis Wiggins

Providing training in their 7 counties. The 3rd annual BUILD My Future event was held on 4/7/19. This event spotlights construction careers. There were over 2700 high school students that attended this year.

Missouri DED – Mary Rajek

Mary, Christa Atchison & Theresa Sampaio will be providing DED services to the SW Region of Missouri. They are looking forward to working with the communities.

Member Announcements

Members went around the room and gave a short update on happenings in their community.

Adjourn

Chris Berndt motioned and Hank Smythe seconded. Motion Carried.

Todd Wiesehan, Secretary/Treasurer

Date Approved