



Southwest Missouri  
Council of Governments

**Southwest Missouri Council of Governments  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, December 2, 2009  
9:00 a.m.  
Library Center, Frisco Room  
2535 N. Kansas, Springfield, MO**

**Attendance:**

**Members:**

Bill Marshall, Dade County  
Chris Coulter, Greene County  
Billy Dryer, Polk County  
Bob Walster, Lawrence County  
Lyndall Fraker, Webster County  
Kenneth Bacon, Dallas County  
Cindy Stephens, OTC  
John Rice, Mt. Vernon  
Gail Noggle, Republic  
Ron Mersch, Bolivar  
Dana Louderbaugh, Fair Grove

Ed Westerman, Clever  
Mike Chipman, Forsyth  
Chris Berndt, SMESO  
Jeff Seifried, OREP  
Lisa Bernet, Bernet Investments  
Bill Monday, O'Bannon Bank  
Brian Daugherty, Mid-Missouri Bank

**Guests:**

Stacey Burks, Senator Kit Bond's Office  
David Rauch, Senator McCaskill's Office  
Steve McIntosh, Congressman Blunt's Office  
Frank Miller, MoDOT, District 8  
Dawne Gardner, MoDOT, District 8  
Eric Kellstadt, MoDOT, District 7  
Tim Conklin, OTO  
Natasha Longpine, OTO  
Ronda Headland, MDC  
Bill Cheek, MSU  
Loring Bullard, Watershed Committee of the Ozarks

**Staff:**

Diane May, SMCOG  
Dorothy Wittorff-Sandgren, SMCOG  
Jane Hood, SMCOG

**Open Meeting:**

**Approval of Agenda**

John Rice moved and Dana Louderbaugh seconded the motion to approve the December 2, 2009 meeting agenda. Motion carried.

## **Approval of Minutes**

Dana Louderbaugh moved and Chris Coulter seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the October 28, 2009 Board meeting. Motion carried.

## **Guest Speaker**

Loring Bullard, Executive Director, Watershed Committee of the Ozarks, "Groundwater Issues in Southwest Missouri"

Loring Bullard presented on groundwater quantity issues in southwest Missouri. He provided a historical overview of groundwater availability and use in the region and the impacts of rapid population growth. Rapid population growth and competing wells are causing water drawdowns in the aquifer to such a depth that shall drilled wells are running out of water.

Missouri has no groundwater laws. Missouri is a riparian state, which means if you live along a river you can pump out what you want. As a riparian state, we can harvest rainwater. Mr. Bullard discussed techniques to harvest rainwater and ways to put rainwater back into the ground. Discussion ensued on techniques such as rain gardens and pervious concrete pavement. Sources of information for communities were also noted, such as a Texas rainwater harvesting manual which can be downloaded. It was noted that the average person doesn't see the problem of growing water shortages in the region, so it will be difficult to get Congress to appropriate funding for rain harvesting programs in rural areas.

## **Legislative Reports**

**Stacy Burks, Senator Bond's Office.** Ms. Burks reported that Senate activity is focused on health care. All other government operations will probably be on continuing resolutions, including the highway reauthorization bill. There are seven bills remaining to go to the President, including transportation and agriculture.

**Steve McIntosh, Congressman Blunt's Office.** Mr. McIntosh reported that the House doesn't have anything of significance on the agenda this week. They are waiting on action in the Senate.

**David Rausch, Senator McCaskill's Office.** Mr. Rausch confirmed Ms. Burks' earlier report. How to resolve the health care problem is the major issue. There does seem to be a bipartisan group that is working on cost curtailment. A Broadband AARA grant was just awarded to State of Missouri.

Ms. Burks added that Copenhagen summit is coming up. There is no Copenhagen Treaty and there will not be a climate bill in Congress before next spring. The earliest discussion on a treaty may be 2011.

Billy Dryer asked about the availability of FEMA funds for barn replacement from the latest storms. Ms. Burks responded that there is no money in that program. Congress would have to take requests and then appropriate funds. Even if appropriated, any outstanding storm claims would be paid first.

## **Partner Agency Reports**

**Bruce Hively, USDA.** Mr. Hively reported that on the rural development side, a lot of ARRA funds are available for infrastructure, business development, fire districts. Qualifying criteria for

ARRA funds is the same as for regular program funding. USDA can now fund larger projects with ARRA funds.

**Dawne Gardner, MoDOT District 8.** Projects bid in Greene County include bridge replacement on UU. Taney County Route 76 was bid in October with the roundabout starting in December or January. District 8 has the first ARRA project completed in the State. The Frisco Highline trail will be paved from Willard to Farm Road 115. Deadline for obligating local program projects is coming up shortly, but District 8 has already completed this process. Route 65 in Buffalo, cold mill and resurface project was let in November. MoDOT is redoing local agency training.

Federal funds have gone down significantly and DOT is operating under a continuing resolution. The state will have to cut back because of low cash flow.

**Eric Kellstadt, MoDOT District 7.** Local projects have been obligated. Recent projects include Route 60 resurfacing. Mt Vernon interchange is looking good, with the ribbon cutting ceremony scheduled for Monday. The District will not have many projects to let from here on out.

**Tim Conklin, Ozarks Transportation Organization.** OTO is trying to reprogram ARRA funds, so is supporting the high line trail. OTO had \$7.3 million that has been obligated, but need to remove \$3.5 million from the OTO area because of the funding rescission.

Natasha Longpine, said that a transit provider brochure is being developed with the Community Partnership of the Ozarks. It should go to print in January, 2010.

**Ronda Headland, Missouri Dept. of Conservation.** Ms. Headland reported that a new staff hire, a joint position between MDC and the Fish and Wildlife Service, will be placed in the Bolivar office. This position will focus for four years on grassland habitats as well as riparian and stream related species. Missouri tree farm program celebrated a birthdate—771 certified tree farms covering over 200,000 acres in Missouri. Trees contribute \$4.92 billion to Missouri's economy. A lot of insect species are now being introduced to Missouri which MDC thinks are coming in with firewood. A forest resource assessment strategy is under development, with completion scheduled in June 2010. MDC's new director will be Bob Zeemer. Due to budget cuts, the Springfield Conservation Nature Center will be closed two days per week. Permanent staff is being reduced by 10%.

Billy Dryer asked about feral hogs. Governor Nixon has created a task force to look at the issue.

### **Appointment of New Non-Governmental Board Members**

Jane Hood presented the recommendation for appointment of three new non-governmental, business sector representatives to the SMCOG Board and a new private business representative to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee, including:

#### ***SMCOG Board Appointments***

Brian Daugherty, Mid-Missouri Bank, Mt. Vernon, MO

Bill Monday, O'Bannon Bank, Buffalo, MO

Lisa Bernet, Bernet Investments, Fair Grove, MO

**CEDS Appointment**

Angie Mullings, Century 21 Integrity Group, Pleasant Hope, MO

Cindy Stephens moved and Ken Bacon seconded the motion to approve the appointment of the new recommended Board members and CEDS Committee member. Motion carried. The newly appointed Board members were present and took their seats.

**2008-2009 Annual Report**

Diane May presented SMOG’s Fiscal Year 2009 Annual Report and reviewed highlights.

**Homeland Security Regionalization Program**

Dorothy Wittorff-Sandgren provided handouts summarizing the status of procurements for the homeland security grant programs for FY2007 and FY2008. The FY2007 program will be completed by the end of December 2009. To date, most activity on the FY08 grant has been on CERT procurements. Requests for FY 2009 funding will be on the RHSOC meeting agenda for January 20, 2010.

**Economic Development Planning Program**

Jane Hood provided an update on the on regional economic development planning program and activities underway. She talked about the work program activity to develop websites for member communities that do not yet have a website. Staff will be starting on this work after the first of the year and will be contacting members to determine interest.

**Adjourn**

Bill Monday moved and Dana Louderbaugh seconded the motion to adjourn. Motion carried.

Next Meeting: January 27, 2010

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Cindy Stephens, Secretary/Treasurer

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Date Approved