



**Southwest Missouri Council of Governments
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 24, 2021
9:00 a.m.
Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

Attendance:

Members:

Chris Coulter- Greene County
Andrea Sitzes – Show Me Christian Co
Melissa Mau – Ash Grove
Cindy Stephens – OTC
Callie Linville – City Utilities
Cary Charles – OTC
Howard Fisk – Fisk Transportation
Todd Wiesehan – Christian County
Hollie Elliott – Dallas Co Economic Dev
Jerry Harman – Kimberling City
Chena Simmons – Branson
Joel Hornickel – Branson
Stan Whitehurst – Webster County
Randy Owens – Webster County
Dana Louderbaugh – Fair Grove
Duane Lavery – GRO Marshfield
Devin Fisher – White River Elec. Coop
Kathy Smith – N-Form Architecture
Sam Rost – Marshfield
Hank Smythe – Stone County
Stephen Short – Fair Grove
Lindsay Reichart – Paragon Architecture
Stan Dobbins – Branson
Dennis Pyle – Monett
Larry Milton – Branson
Brendan Griesemer – Springfield

Allen Kunkel - MSU
Dee Novack – Fair Grove
Cindy Robbins – Nixa
Angela Leist – Forsyth
Martha Smartt – Strafford
David Shockley – Wheaton
Bob Senninger – Lawrence County
Gail Noggle – Bolivar

Partners and Guests:

Clayton Campbell – Sen. Hawley’s Office
Frank Miller – MoDot
Christa Atchison – MoDED
Laura Laramore – Mo Higher Ed
Zeke Hall – MoDot
Stacy Burks – Red Cross
Ron Seyl – MoDED
Pamela Duitsman – MO Extension
Dennis Wiggins – Ozark Reg Career Center
Drew Cannon – Congrswmn Hartzler’s Off.
Ronda Burnett – MDC
Andy Schiller – MO DNR
MO Rep. Travis Smith – District 155
Alex Woodson – Springfield CoC
Dan Waddlington – Sen. Blunt’s Office
Dan Engenmann – Sen. Eslinger’s Office
Theresa Sampaio – Mo DED
Isaac Hampton – Rep. Bishop Davidson’s Off

Staff:

Jason Ray
Jane Hood
Dorothy Wittorff-Sandgren
Aishwarya Shrestha

Thomas Cunningham
Lexi Mason
Courtney Pinkham
Chris Kempke
Hanna Schinstock

Open Meeting

Introductions and Announcements— Chris Coulter

Approval of May 26, 2021 Meeting Agenda—Chris Coulter

Dana Louderbaugh motioned and Howard Fisk seconded to approve the revised Agenda for the May 26, 2021 meeting. Motion Carried.

Approval of March 24, 2021 Meeting Minutes— Chris Coulter

Dana Louderbaugh motioned and Randy Owens seconded to approve the Minutes for the March 24, 2021 meeting. Motion Carried.

Legislative Reports

Dan Waddlington – Senator Blunt’s Office

Working on agreement for infrastructure in the new 5-year Highway Bill. He expects more money to go in to BRO. A \$35 billion Water Bill has been approved.

Clayton Campbell – Senator Hawley’s Office

Senator Hawley believes infrastructure funding should go towards things that directly affect counties, ie. roads, bridges, and navigable waterways. He has introduced a bill aimed at improving the way sexual assault cases are handled in the military. He has introduced a bill that would improve accountability of the US Post Office and help with financial burden. Clayton also announced he will be leaving Senator Hawley’s office. His successor is Erin Engelmeyer;

ErinEngelmeyer@hawley.senate.gov

Drew Cannon - Congresswoman Hartzler’s Office

The Treasury Dept came out with guidance regarding the Rescue Act funds and more will be coming. Cities and Counties will have to register with the Treasury Dept in order to spend the money. No deadline to register. Cities and Counties left to interpret the guidance on how to spend Rescue Act funds. Her office is happy to assist with this process. Recommends being cautious and waiting until we receive additional information. The public comment period is open until 7/16/21 at [Regulations.gov/commenton/treas-do-2021-0008-0002](https://www.regulations.gov/commenton/treas-do-2021-0008-0002).

Members can still pursue Community Project Funding (earmarks), but does not feel many will, due to lack of information.

State Legislative Reports

Senate District 33 – Senator Karla Eslinger’s office – Dan Engermann

Senator Eslinger’s district overlaps into SMCOG area covering Webster County. Wayfair passed, Fuel tax passed, Appropriation Committee- \$2million to career and Vo Tech, work comp claims for volunteer firefighter and epi pens for rural firefighters, Shelter Workshops.

Jason asked about Local Government Ominous Bill (HB271) which includes Broadband and expenditure reporting.

State Rep. District 155 - Rep Travis Smith

He is working on Broadband mostly right now. There has been an interim Broadband committee set up to work on it this summer. Working with county commissioner to provide a match with some of their rescue funds.

Howard Fisk commented about Starlink- Musk new satellite system, eliminating the need for rural broadband?

Smith responded that his son thinks this is the next big thing, but belief that it is going to be primarily to connect Africa, only Tesla owners can use currently.

Randy Owens commented that by the time we get broadband that it will be outdated and Skylink is the way to go.

Business Meeting

1. Title VI Plan – Jason Ray and Aishwarya

This is the 3yr update and it is required to receive Federal dollars. It has been sent out for comments, and posted in public, will submit to the board and partners.

Dana Louderbaugh motioned, and Cindy Stephens seconded approval of the Title VI Plan. Motion carried.

2. Program Updates – Jason Ray & Staff

Program Reports –See Program Report for full list of activity that was emailed out prior to meeting.

The June 23rd Meeting will be in person at Oasis Conference Center in Springfield. After that meeting, we will return to Library Center. Annual appointments and officer elections will occur at the June meeting. If you are interested in serving, please let us.

Partner Updates

MoDOT – Frank Miller

Frank shared the following links in Chat.

-Draft STIP: <https://www.modot.org/DRAFTSTIP>

-Unfunded Needs List (Tiers 1 and 2):

<https://www.modot.org/sites/default/files/documents/High-Priority%20Unfunded%20Needs%202021%20final.pdf>

-State Freight and Rail Plan Website (link to passenger rail public meeting current first item on the page): <https://www.modot.org/missouri-state-freight-and-rail-plan>
-Southwest Missouri Roadwork:
<https://traveler.modot.org/report/modottext.aspx?filterDistrict=SW&filterCounty=ALL&textonly=false>
-Traveler Information Map: <http://traveler.modot.org/map/>
Summer construction projects have started. Please slow down in construction zones! All MoDOT projects are on the website under SW region.

MO Dept of Natural Resource (DNR) – Andy Schiller

All offices are open to the public and staffed. Water specialist are doing in person and online trainings.

MO Dept of Conservation (MDC) – Ronda Burnett

New canine unit, 5 agents across state training will have a dog, one in SW MO. These dogs will be used for evidence recovery, search and recovery and public outreach. MDC will start allowing commercial use permit for photography on conservation land. This year they will have 5 permits for elk in fall and a new black bear hunting permit in southern MO for up to 40 bears.

Ozark Region Workforce Development Board – Dennis Wiggins

Get a Shot, Get a Job Fair coming soon.

Dept of Higher Education - Workforce Development - Laura Larmore

All centers are open and no restrictions in state buildings.

American Red Cross – Stacy Burks

Office will open next month. They will follow CDC guidance. They will return to congregate shelters when large disasters happen and will require masking in shelters. In person smoke alarm program is still on going. Contact office to have volunteer install smoke alarms. CPR class are resuming to full capacity and no mask required. No mask required for blood drives.

Member Updates

None

Adjourn

Howard Fisk motioned, and Cindy Stephens seconded. Motion Carried.

Todd Wiesehan, Secretary/Treasurer

Date Approve