



**Southwest Missouri Council of Governments
Board of Directors Annual Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 7, 2022
9:00 a.m.
Missouri Job Center
2900 E Sunshine, Springfield, MO**

Attendance:

Members:

Dawne Gardner – Kimberling City
Steve Childers – Ozark
Joe Kelley – Mt Vernon
Dennis Wiggins – Taney County Partnership
Sam Rost – Marshfield
Cindy Stephens – OTC
Cary Charles – OTC
Neil Brady – Bartlett & West
Andrew Novinger – Anderson Engineering
Callie Linville – CU of Springfield
Nancy Edson – Esterly Schneider & Associates
Megan Bischof – Ozark
Wayne Blades – Stone County
Ken McClure – Springfield
Donna Gloe – Springfield
Danny Perches -Springfield
Stephen Short – Fair Grove
Mickey Brown – Billings
Jon Holmes – Aurora
Carrie Howlett - Aurora
Kristen Haseltine – Show Me CC
Jerry Harman – H2Ozarks
Dennis Wiggins – Taney Co Partnership
Duane Lavery – GRO Marshfield

Partners and Guests:

Mike Ussery – Congressman Long’s Office
Stacy Burks – Red Cross
Wes Hester – MCCOE
Shannon McMurtrey - MCCOE
Brandon Jenson – DED CDBG

Mark Wallace – DED
Theresa Sampaio – DED
Alex Cobb – SeniorAge
Dan Wadlington – Senator Blunt’s Office
Erin Engelmeyer – Senator Hawley’s Office
Bill Owen – State Rep #131
John Black – State Rep #137
Susan Wade – CVB
Tonya Casteneda - CVB
Beth Schaller – MoDOT
Hanna Knopf – MoDOT
Steven Butts – Springfield Workforce Dev
Ashley Venolia – USDA
Keith Brumley – USDA
Cody Green – USDA RD

Staff:

Jason Ray
Jane Hood
Dorothy Wittorff-Sandgren
Thomas Cunningham
Aishwarya Shrestha
Courtney Pinkham
Kelsi Burton
Krissy Dickens
Jake Phillips
Chris Kempke

Introductions and Announcements

Open Meeting

1. Call to Order – Cindy Stephens

2. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Approval of December 7, 2022, Meeting Agenda – Cindy Stephens

Cindy asked for a motion to accept the amended agenda, adding Bank Transfers as #2 and Staff Reports as #3.

Steve Childers motioned, and Nancy Edson seconded to approve the Amended December 7, 2022, Agenda as stated. Motion carried.

3. Approval of October 26, 2022, Meeting Minutes— Cindy Stephens

Steve Childers motioned, and Jerry Harman seconded to approve the October 26, 2022, Minutes. Motion carried.

Legislative Reports

-Dan Wadlington – Senator Blunt’s Office

Senator Blunt has given his farewell speech. He is still wanting to get the new budget and defense act approved before the end of the year.

-Erin Engelmeyer – Senator Hawley’s Office

Senator Hawley supported the amendment that would give railroad workers sick leave, it did not pass.

-Mike Ussery – Congressman Long’s Office

Congressman Long is working on closing his office. He is also waiting to see what budgets are approved prior to the end of the year.

-MO. Rep. Bill Owen – The legislature met last week for the winter caucus; next session will start in January.

-MO. Rep. John Black – Rep. Black stated that the state has a budget surplus, he would like to hear from citizens around the state on how it should be spent. He will be around after the meeting if anyone would like to discuss.

-Mayor of Springfield - Ken McClure

McClure stated that the 2040 Comprehensive plan was approved by city council, which includes the Grant Avenue Parkway project. They received a grant from EDA to continue work on the Lake Springfield Power Plant project. He also stated that crime and public safety has been a big topic for Springfield, but the rates have been down the first three quarters of this year.

Business

1. State and Local Government Cybersecurity Grant Program – Jason Ray (SMCOG), Wes Hester and Shannon McMurtrey (MCCOE). Handout included in meeting packet.

State has issues a NOFO, SMCOG would like to submit a proposal for \$200k for an 18-county region (this is our RHSOC region). Jason turned the floor over to Wes Hester and Shannon McMurtrey. They went into further detail that the grant would be attempting to get funding for paid internships to do risk assessments in the 18-county region.

Sam Rost motioned, and Jon Holmes seconded for SMCOG to apply for the State & Local Cybersecurity Grant contingent upon getting \$20,000 in commitments for the local match. Motion carried.

2. Bank Transfers – Jason Ray, documentation included in meeting packet.

Transfer \$12,584.75 from the EDA Partnership Planning Grant checking account to the SMCOG General checking account. This is for payroll and expenses.

Motion made by Duane Lavery and seconded by Steve Childers to approve the Bank Transfers as included in the meeting packet. Motion carried.

3. Staff Updates – Jason, handout included in meeting packet

This is Dorothy's last meeting before her retirement, after the meeting we will have cake and a presentation for Dorothy. We have hired a fulltime Fiscal Officer, Krissy Dickens, she started 12/1/22. Dues invoices have been mailed, the 2023 SMCOG Meeting Dates calendar that was sent out with invoices has one correction, the January TAC meeting will be on the 3rd Wednesday due to Aishwarya Shrestha being out of office. Jane Hood will be contacting the county commissioners to set up meetings before the end of the year.

Other Business – Cindy Stephens

None

Partner Updates

-USDA – Ashley Venolia

Application process is currently open. Mark Hultgren is the new Deputy State Director.

-MoDOT – Beth Schaller & Hanna Knopf

Beth stated that 60 & 125 intersection in Greene County was awarded, this project will start soon. Rt 76 was also awarded, Silver Dollar City is waiting to get their improvement out to bid. All of the Glenstone work has been awarded, this work will happen over the next year. Hanna stated that they have had the unfunded needs meetings. They are seeing 20% inflation on cost and up to 40% increase on bridge work.

Ozark Region -Workforce Development – Steven Butts

Steven introduced himself, he is new with Workforce Development.

-MoDED – Theresa Sampaio & Brandon Jenson

Theresa announced the community revitalization grant cycle opening in January and for tourism in February. Workforce grants should be announced before the end of the year. They will offer local resource seminars after the first of the year. Brandon stated CDBG competitive cycle ending in December. They are currently doing the last round of public engagement; plans should be ready by February.

-SeniorAge – Alex Cobb

Alex stated that they have hired an administrator for the Patient Companion Program, they are now looking for volunteers. SeniorAge offers free tax counseling for anyone over the age of 60.

-Red Cross – Stacy Burks

Stacy introduced Donna who is a volunteer coordinator at Red Cross. Our region has had 10 fires recently, if you need to know more about their preparedness program for free smoke detectors reach out to her. Red Cross also offers reconnection workshops for military and their family.

Adjourn

Steve Childers, Secretary

Date Approve