



**Southwest Missouri Council of Governments
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 24, 2023
9:00 a.m.**

The Library Center 4653 S. Campbell Ave., Springfield, MO

Attendance:

Members:

John Gardner – Saddlebrooke
Dawne Gardner – Kimberling City
Dennis Wiggins – Taney County Partnership
Cindy Robbins – Nixa
Cindy Stephens – OTC
Stan Whitehurst – Webster County
Neil Brady – Bartlett & West
Chris Daugherty - Hurley
Andrew Novinger – Anderson Engineering
Bob Senninger – Lawrence County
Randy Owens – Webster County
Nancy Edson – Esterly Schneider & Associates
Devin Sonnenfelt – White River Valley Electric
John Forrester – Allgeier, Martin & Associates
Micky Brown - Billings
Ken McClure – Springfield
Jerry Harman – H2Ozarks
Bill Monday – Buffalo
Joe Kelley – Mt Vernon
Callie Linville – CU
Chris Tabor – Republic
Jon Holmes – Aurora
Stephen Short – Fair Grove
Danny Perches – Springfield
J. Howard Fisk – Fisk Limousine
Todd Wiesehan – Christian County
Kathy Smith – N Form
Martha Smartt – Strafford
Scott Godbey – Nixa
Anna Evans – Show Me Christian County
Jo Novak - Clever

Dale Maisel – Clever

Partners and Guests:

Mike Ussery – Senator Schmitt’s Office
Tucker Jobs – Senator Schmitt’s Office
Noah Snelson – Congressman Burlison’s Office
Payton Ruddy – Congressman Alford’s Office
Erin Engelmeyer – Senator Hawley’s Office
Ashley Venolia – USDA RD
Alex Cobb – SeniorAge
Alice Wingo – CFO
Beth Schaller – MoDOT
Hanna Knopf - MoDOT
Cynthia Collins – Workforce Development
Tonia Castaneda – Springfield CVB
Kyrie Windsor – USDA RD
Mark Wallace – DED
Brandon Jenson – DED
Yolande Lorge – Grupo Latinoamericano

Staff:

Jason Ray
Jane Hood
Thomas Cunningham
Aishwarya Shrestha
Courtney Pinkham
Kelsi Burton
Jake Phillips

Open Meeting

1. Call to Order – Cindy Stephens

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Introductions and Announcements

4. Approval of May 24, 2023, Meeting Agenda – Cindy Stephens

Bill Monday motioned, and Howard Fisk seconded to approve the May 24, 2023, Agenda. Motion carried.

5. Approval of March 22, 2023, Meeting Minutes— Cindy Stephens

Dawne Gardner motioned, and Randy Owens seconded to approve the March 22, 2023, Minutes. Motion carried.

Legislative Reports

-Erin Engelmeyer – Senator Hawley’s Office

Senator Hawley has concerns with several issues of AI. He is currently working on the Farm Bill. Is confident that an agreement can be made on the debt ceiling. Working with Senator Durbin to crack down on child sexual abuse material online and working with Senator Gary Peters on the Rural Hospital Cyber Security Enhancement Act.

-Tucker Jobe – Senator Schmitt’s Office

Senator Schmitt is addressing the Debt Limit Deal. The first bill he filed was the Eraser Act, which will require that for each new rule/regulation that a department/agency proposes, they would have to remove 3 and must be commensurate with the cost of the new one.

-Noah Snelson – Congressman Burlison’s Office

Congressman Burlison is also working on addressing the Debt Ceiling, he is looking into discretionary spending & how and where funding can be cut. The Lotus Rule which addresses standing water passed both the House & Senate. The President vetoed it and now it will be decided by the court. Congressman Burlison has a blog and a podcast you can subscribe to through his website: burlison.house.gov.

-Payton Ruddy – Congressman Alford’s Office

Congressman Alford wrote a letter to DOD addressing the department wide background check standards and to allow feedback from outside to make it fair across the board. He has requested additional funding for Fort Leonard Wood and is supported by Congresspersons Smith, Burlison, Wagner, Luetkemeyer, Graves, & Cleaver. Congressman Alford & Congresswoman Crockett have introduced an act to give access to more fresh fruit and vegetables in government programs. He, as part of the House Ag Committee, will be hosting a listening session at the MO State Fair on 8/14/23. The congressman is active on all social media, where you can follow for frequent updates.

Business

1. 2023-2024 Nominating Committee Discussion – Cindy Stephens

Cindy announced that the nominating committee will be Martha Smartt, Sam Rost, Hollie Elliott. The committee will be nominating for TAC (comes from county commissioners), CEDS, Loan Review, Non-Governmental & Executive and officers.

2. CEDS Update Discussion – Jason Ray

Jason stated we are currently updating our 5-year CEDS. Because of a change in the CEDS cycles we will be finishing up the current CEDS and immediately updating for the new cycle. The CEDS will go out this week for a 30-day public comment period and then will be on the June 28th Board agenda for approval.

3. Program Updates – Jason Ray & Staff; included in meeting packet.

Jason discussed that there will be broadband initiative meetings next Tuesday (5/30/2023) in both Springfield and Branson. Kudos to the Missouri Office of Broadband Development (OBD) team on being further advanced in the process than other states. MACOG hired a consulting group on our behalf to identify regional broadband clusters which in our region is Dallas, Polk & Dade Counties. On 6/7/23 at 2pm there will be a Zoom meeting for all stakeholders in those 3 counties. An email invite will be sent out soon. SMCOG will be available to help communities to apply for the Safe Streets and Routes for All program, we will be attempting to do this on the regional level, there is a 20% match that we are asking for the communities in our region to assist with. Krissy Dickens, our new Fiscal Officer, has been working on the audit which is due in June and consuming most of her time. Because of this the FY24 Fiscal budget is not complete. *Howard Fisk motioned, and Nancy Edson seconded to move the FY24 Budget Presentation to the June meeting. Motion carried.*

-Aishwarya Shrestha

Aishwarya stated that the Regional Bridge Program has replaced the BRO, applications are due by June 9th, 2023. She is currently scheduling prioritization meetings for June 12th and June 19th for the Public Transit Human Services Plan. The Active Transportation Planning Grant for Kimberling city has been approved. Meeting with all the county commissioners for the annual Transportation prioritization process.

-Jason added that the Regional Bridge Committee had two representatives from our region last year which were Jason & Commissioner Shannon Hancock from Polk County. Mr. Hancock agreed to continue serving and we will now be allowed an additional representative. If there is another county representative that would like to serve, let Jason know.

-Jake Phillips

Jake thanked everyone who participated in the CEDS survey. The Branson West Comprehensive Plan has been finalized and accepted. He has presented the Seymour Comprehensive Plan for adoption. Working on the Village of Diggins plan. SMCOG has received ARPA funding from Greene County to complete comprehensive plans for Fair Grove, Ash Grove, and Walnut Grove in Greene County. He also reminded everyone that SMCOG does offer on call planning services.

-Kelsi Burton

Kelsi has seen an increase in interest in grants from our local communities. SMCOG received a second ARPA grant from Greene County to fund a rural housing study for Greene County. We have submitted a RAISE Grant application; we are waiting to find out if we were awarded it. Kelsi reviewed all her additional projects listed on the handout.

-Thomas Cunningham

Thomas announced that Dallas County Hazard Mitigation plan has been accepted by SEMA & FEMA. The Polk County plan has been approved by SEMA and is waiting on FEMA. Working on Dade County plan. Hazard Mitigation plans must be completed once every 5 years to be eligible for FEMA Mitigation funding. It can have a big impact on your community if a disaster happens and you have not participated in your updated plan. He is currently reviewing all applications for RHSOC.

Other Business – Cindy Stephens

None

Partner Updates

-USDA – Ashley Venolia

Ashley announced that the grant cycle for USDA grant application is open.

-MoDOT – Beth Schaller/Hanna Knopf

Beth stated that MoDOT received good news that the MO Legislation is looking at putting a large amount of funding for our region and an environmental study for the I-44 corridor. MoDOT has put a hold on their 5-year plan until June as they are waiting to find out the specifics of the funding from Missouri Legislation. Again, Beth reminds everyone to drive cautiously through work zones. Work will continue on I-44. Four bridges in Webster County are currently being worked on. They are working on expanding James River Freeway to 6 lanes and putting up sound walls. In Christian County they are working on Route 14 in Nixa. They will begin working on sidewalk ADA improvements on Glenstone Avenue in Springfield. They are working on two cost share projects;; one is expanding a turn lane near Silver Dollar City and the other is working with Bass Pro to improve Highway 86 in Ridgedale (Branson). MoDOT has an interactive construction map for our district on their website:

www.modot.org/southwest

Randy Owens asked about route 60 & EE and if MoDOT had plans for work on it this year. They do not have plans for any work on that intersection this year.

-Workforce Development – Cynthia Collins

Cynthia stated that they have funding through the EDA Good Job Challenge Grant. Cindy Stephens reiterated that this grant is open for ALL to assist with job training. For more information contact Cynthia at ccollins@springfieldmo.gov.

-MoDED – Mark Wallace

Theresa stated that MoDED is reviewing the workflow for Missouri Works, they are accepting any input this board has. The Not-for-Profit ARPA grants has a pre application online. Maggie Kost has stepped down from her position as interim director.

-CDBG – Brandon Jenson

Brandon stated that the CDBG had released draft guidelines for the Revive Downtown Community Grant. It will be open for privately owned commercial buildings and for façade improvements. LMI will not apply. Maximum is \$750,000 which can be used for multiple buildings. There is a 20% match. Two grants will be awarded each year. They are accepting public comments on evaluation criteria. Please review and comment by mid-June. They are opening up last round of applications for those in the 65616 zip code. CDBG is hosting an annual administrative training the week of June 12th in Columbia.

-SeniorAge – Alex Cobb

SeniorAge is celebrating their 50th anniversary. They will start airing commercials on their Patient Companion Program. The Farmer's Market Program will start in June. Qualified seniors can receive a \$50 voucher.

-Community Foundation of the Ozarks – Alice Wingo

CFO cash interest rate is 5.7% for not-for-profits utilizing an account with them. They have a RFP out currently for banking and technology. Last month they hosted 180 for a Rural Summit. If your organization needs matching dollars for grants, please contact CFO to see how they can help.

-CVB – Tonya Castaneda

Tonya announced that Mark Hecquet is the new CVB Executive Director. Previous director Tracy Kimberlin retired the end of December 2022.

Member Updates

Kimberling City 50th Anniversary celebration will be held on June 24th.

City of Ozark and Christian County received a DED Grant for the Chadwick Flyer Trail, \$1.179 million and more funding was also received for the pedestrian bridge over highway 65.

Adjourn

Next SMCOG Board Meeting will be held on June 28th, 2023, at the Library Center in Springfield.

Steve Childers, Secretary

Date Approve