



**Southwest Missouri Council of Governments  
Board of Directors Annual Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, June 22, 2022  
9:00 a.m.**

**MO Job Center, 2900 E. Sunshine St., Springfield, MO**

**Attendance:**

**Members:**

Chris Hopkins - Billings  
Sheila Karges – Merriam Woods  
Todd Wiesehan – Christian County  
Dennis Wiggins – Taney County Partnership  
Cindy Robbins - Nixa  
Nancy Edson – Estery Schneider  
Devin Sonnenfelt- White River Electric  
Tana McMurrey - Pleasant Hope  
Cindy Stephens - OTC  
Hollie Elliott – Dallas Co Economic Dev  
Bill Monday – Buffalo  
Kathy Smith – N-Form Architecture  
Stan Whitehurst – Webster County  
Neil Brady – Bartlett & West  
Joe Kelley – Mt. Vernon  
Yolanda Lorge – Grupo Latinoamericano  
Sam Rost – Marshfield  
Chris Berndt – Taney County  
Mickey Brown - Billings  
Terri Conner – Merriam Woods  
Steve Seaton - Hurley  
Randy Owens – Webster County  
Stephen Short – Fair Grove  
Duane Lavery - GroMarshfield  
Ryan Rinehart - Diggins  
Martha Smartt - Strafford  
Andrew Novinger – Anderson Engineering  
Laura Cather – Kimberling City  
Cynthia Collins - Springfield  
Chena Simons - Branson

Nicole Radmon – Merriam Woods  
Bob Senninger – Lawrence County  
Callie Linville – City Utilities  
Patrick Kenny-Smith – Anderson Engineering  
Rick Davis – Polk County

**Partners and Guests:**

Erin Engelmeyer – Sen. Hawley’s Office  
Mike Ussery – Congressman Long’s Office  
Stacy Burks – Red Cross  
Theresa Sampaio – MoDED  
Alex Cobb - SeniorAge  
Ronda Burnett – Mo Dept of Conservation  
Dan Wadlington – Senator Blunt’s Office  
Alice Wingo – CFO  
Haley Jones-Sides – Career Center  
Sally Payne – Career Center

**Staff:**

Jane Hood  
Dorothy Wittorff-Sandgren  
Thomas Cunningham  
Aishwarya Shrestha

## **Open Meeting**

1. Call to Order – Duane Lavery

2. Introductions and Announcements

3. Approval of June 22, 2022 Meeting Agenda – Duane Lavery

*Cindy Stephens motioned and Nancy Edson seconded to approve the June 22, 2022 Agenda. Motion carried.*

4. Approval of May 25, 2022 Meeting Minutes— Duane Lavery

*Bill Monday motioned and Howard Fisk seconded to approve the May 25, 2022 Minutes. Motion carried.*

## **Legislative Reports**

**-Dan Wadlington** - Senator Blunt's Office

Last night the Senate voted on outline of a gun reform. Does not expect a filibuster with final vote. Senator Blunt is in support.

**-Erin Engelmeyer** – Senator Hawley's Office

Administration is calling on suspension of federal gas tax for 3 months which would create \$10 billion deficit in the Highway Trust Fund. The Senator is concerned about the high inflation, high gas prices and increased crime.

**-Mike Ussery** – Congressman Long's Office

Gas tax holiday will probably come up for a vote. House committees working on appropriation process. They are watching a few local transportation projects in the appropriation process. Hopefully will know something in the next 6 to 7 weeks.

No State legislators present.

## **Business**

1. Nominating Committee Report– Duane Lavery

The Nominating Committee of Martha Smartt, Sam Rost, and Holly Elliott met on 6/15/22. The proposed slate of Non-Governmental Representatives and Executive Committee were sent out prior to the meeting. Duane asked if there were any additional nominations from the floor. There were none. Duane reminded everyone that according to the By-Laws, only government members can vote on the Non-Governmental Representatives.

a. *Motion made by Rick Davis and seconded by Chris Hopkins to approve the nominations for Non-Governmental Representatives. Motion carried.*

b. *Motion made by Sam Rost and seconded by Chris Berndt to approve the nominations for the Executive Committee. Motion carried.*

2. Appointment of Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) – Duane Lavery

The County Commissioners from each of the 10 counties provided their recommendations for their respective county. Each county has two representatives and one alternate.

*Motion made by Cindy Stephens and seconded by Howard Fisk to approve the appointment of the Transportation Advisory Committee. Motion carried.*

### 3. Program Updates – Jane Hood & Staff

Jane shared with the Board that Jason along with several other staff members were in Jefferson City attending CBDB Training. Grant writer, Lexi Mason, has taken another job and we are advertising for a grant writer to fill that position. The grants she was working on have been reassigned to staff members. Program Report was sent out prior to meeting. Thomas and Aishwarya highlighted a few of their projects and grant information that was on the report.

#### **Other Business** – Duane Lavery

None

#### **Partner Updates**

##### **MO Dept of Conservation** – Ronda Burnett

No updates at this time.

##### **-Ozarks Region Workforce Development** – Sally Payne

Working on a new workshop to engage non-traditional learners for higher education.

ICreate, the manufacturing version of Building My Future, will occur on 10/28/22.

Let's Get to Work is private money of \$30,000 they have received. It can be used for transportation which is not eligible with federal money. Starting 7/1/22 the Career Center will have a location in the O'Reilly Center for Hope. Build My Future has a small grant up to \$500 for things like steel toed boots, tools or anything used in construction. Child care continues to be a challenge for job seekers.

##### **-MO Dept of Economic Development** – Theresa Sampaio

Go to the DED website, [www.ded.mo.gov](http://www.ded.mo.gov), to sign up for updates to keep track of the funding that DED is receiving and how it is be distributed. Begins 7/5/22. They have 4 project manager positions open.

##### **-SeniorAge** – Alex Cobb

Please check in on your seniors this summer.

##### **-Community Foundation of the Ozarks (CFO)** – Alice Wingo ([cfozarks.org](http://cfozarks.org))

Americans gave \$485 million to charity last year. Affiliate members of CFO will begin making grants 7/1/22. Be sure to go to the CFO website to see what is available.

##### **-Red Cross** – Stacy Burks

Will be meeting with community groups in the counties highlighting health care, housing and hunger. Have been seeing many fires in their region.

#### **Adjourn**

*Howard Fisk motioned and Sam Rost seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion Carried.*

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Todd Wiesehan, Secretary

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Date Approve