



**Southwest Missouri Council of Governments
Board of Directors Annual Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 26, 2022
8:00 a.m.
Oasis Hotel and Convention Center
2546 N Glenstone Ave., Springfield, MO**

Attendance:

Members:

John Gardner – Saddlebrooke
Gail Hinshaw – Saddlebrooke
Brendan Griesemer – Springfield
John Forrester – Allgeier, Martin & Associates
Dawne Gardner – Kimberling City
Steve Childers – Ozark
Angie Irwin – Monett
Greg Williams – Willard
Scott Hayes – Willard
Joe Kelley – Mt Vernon
Becky Baltz - TREKK
Grant Selvey - Lawrence County
Dennis Wiggins – Taney County Partnership
Cindy Robbins – Nixa
Cindy Stephens – OTC
Kathy Smith – N-Form Architecture
Stan Whitehurst – Webster County
Randy Owens – Webster County
Neil Brady – Bartlett & West
Garen McElroy – Great River Engineering
Jerany Jackson – Great River Engineering
Steve Seaton - Hurley
Randy Reed – Kimberling City
Martha Smartt – Strafford
Andrew Novinger – Anderson Engineering
Steve Dalton – Branson West
Chris Berndt – Taney County
Hank Smythe – Stone County
Nancy Edson – Esterly Schneider & Associates
Mac Manning – Reeds Spring
Jared Rasmussen – Olsson

Tommy VanHorn – Battlefield
Angela Leist – Forsyth
Martha Smartt – Strafford
Megan Bischof – Ozark
Chris Weiner – Monett
Kelley McMillan - Monett
Chris Tabor - Republic
Bob Senninger – Lawrence County
Wayne Blades – Stone County
Vicki Pratt – SBDC
Cameron Smith – Ozark
Allen Kunkel – MSU
David Taylor – Cox Health
Ken McClure – Springfield
Jeff Jochems – Arvest Bank
Anna Evans – Show Me CC
Melania Fischem – Show Me CC
Jerry Harman – H2Ozarks
Rick Davis – Polk County

Partners and Guests:

Mike Ussery – Congressman Long’s Office
Yolanda Lorge – Grupo Latinoamericano
Stacy Burks – Red Cross
Rob Hunt – MoDNR
Alex Cobb – SeniorAge
Jackson Hotaling – MRT
Andy Thomason - OTO
Ronda Burnett – Mo Dept of Conservation
Gregg Johnson – Encore Bank
Tanya Turner – MoDNR
Jeremy Pruett – Congressman Long’s Office
Dan Wadlington – Senator Blunt’s Office

Laura Laramore – Workforce Development
Bill Owen – State Rep #131
Frank Miller – MoDOT
Alice Wingo – CFO
Beth Schaller – MoDOT
Ronda Burnett – MDC
Jessica Tate – DHEWD
Debbie Parks – OTO
Robin Rees – Oakstar Bank
Ashley Venolia – USDA
Keith Brumley - USDA
Janene Proctor – MSU
Andy Schiller - MoDNR

Staff:
Jason Ray
Jane Hood
Dorothy Wittorff-Sandgren
Thomas Cunningham
Aishwarya Shrestha
Courtney Pinkham
Kelsi Burton
Jake Phillips
Christopher Lynn

Introductions and Announcements

FY2022 Annual Report – Jason Ray, SMCOG Executive Director

Open Meeting

1. Call to Order – Cindy Stephens
2. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Approval of October 26, 2022, Meeting Agenda – Cindy Stephens
Angela Leist motioned, and Chris Weiner seconded to approve the October 26, 2022, Agenda. Motion carried.
3. Approval of August 24, 2022, Meeting Minutes— Cindy Stephens
Steve Childers motioned, and Martha Smartt seconded to approve the August 25, 2022, Minutes. Motion carried.

Legislative Reports

-Dan Wadlington - Senator Blunt’s Office

The last day that Senator Blunt’s office will be open is November 10th, 2022. They will still be available by phone through the end of the year. Dan stated their appreciation for SMCOG’s involvement in our 10-county region.

-Mike Ussery – Congressman Long’s Office

Senator Long’s office is closing, they do not have exact dates as of this meeting. They are still able to write letters of support for grants. They are hopeful that the budget will pass before the end of the year.

-MO. Rep. Bill Owen – The legislature recently had a special session. The Agricultural Tax Credit to be extended to 6 years. Please contact Representative Owen or your representative if you have suggestions for new legislation.

-Mayor of Springfield - Ken McClure

Mayor McClure stated that Jason Ray did a great job presenting information regarding projects in Springfield from this past year. Springfield had a great opportunity with the Lake Springfield plan, which they are currently wrapping up with the 2040 Comprehensive Plan. He also stated that they are excited to see the implementation of the Grant Avenue Parkway plan.

Business

1. Fiscal Year 2022 Annual Report (presented by Jason Ray prior to business meeting) – Jason Ray *Motion made by Steve Childers and seconded by Martha Smartt to approve the Fiscal Year 2022 Annual Report. Motion carried.*

Other Business – Cindy Stephens

None

Partner Updates

-MoDOT – Frank Miller & Beth Schaller

Frank Miller stated that MoDOT does use the information gathered by the TAC Committee to help determine where funding goes. Important to work with TAC in the prioritizing process. Inflation is affecting some of the projects that were planned.

-Ozarks Transportation Organization – Andy Thomason

Stated they are wrapping up the North Hwy 13 corridor study. The phase 1 funding is in place. A flyover will be a part of the plan for that intersection as well as 6 lanes for part of I-44/James River Freeway. Currently waiting on results on of a Mega Grant they applied for which will provide funding for part of Hwy 13/I-44 intersection. They are still working on connecting the Chadwick Flyover.

-USDA – Keith Brumley

Currently USDA is under Continuing Resolution (CR) to determine their funding, announcements will come out after that is resolved.

-MoDNR – Andy Schiller & Rob Hunt

Andy Schiller stated they currently have grant funds open for abandoned wells that need to be plugged, ends in December of 2022. The MoDNR Regional director for our area has retired, and Tonya Turner has been promoted to this position.

Rob Hunt stated they also have available drought funding. The Core of Engineers are looking at Lake Pomme De Terre for water control update needs. They are also working on Rock Island Trails, currently looking for funding. On 11/5 they will be having an opening ceremony for the dam in Neosho. Go to dnr.mo.gov/financial-opportunities for a list of grants available. Grant funding for School Buses to take students to State Parks are open, LWCF is open through 11/16. The Legacy outdoor recreation program is open till 11/16. They also have programs for energy loans for cities, schools, and hospitals till 06/30/2023. 604b funds are open till 11/14. Clean drinking water funds are currently open. If you have applied for ARPA funding through MoDNR, they are still working through the award process.

-MO Dept of Conservation – Ronda Burnett

Ronda invited Legislators to come meet and tour MDC on a local level, they have staff that is dedicated to giving guided tours. If we would like to form a CAC, Conservation Advisory Committee, they would welcome input into project needs. Also, if you are looking into funding through MDC Ronda is your first point of contact for partnerships.

-MoDHEWD – Laura Laramore

Laura introduced Jessica Tate, a new staff member to our region. The Trade Program did not get renewed yet for this year, but it is still active, they are hopeful that it will get renewed. Springfield region just hosted their fall hiring event, it was well attended.

-SeniorAge – Alex Cobb

Medical Insurance open enrollment season is about to start, SeniorAge helps 65 and over to sign up for Medicare, they also can help 18 and up apply for Medicaid or for Government Healthcare. Most

outpatient procedures require the patient to have someone attend and drive the patient home. SeniorAge has started the Patient Companion Program to have a trained and vetted volunteer who can attend and help seniors with outpatient procedures. The Give 5 Volunteer Program is being expanded into Taney and Stone counties.

-Community Foundation of the Ozarks – Alice Wingo

CFO is celebrating 50 years, next year, they are planting 50k daffodils this fall for next year's event. The Let's Get to Work fund has funded \$60k to individuals to help them get back to work. Check out CFO's website for current grants availability. cfozarks.org

-Red Cross – Stacy Burks

Stacy stated Missouri has had a long drought season, which has resulted in fires and hospitalizations due to fire. Please test your smoke alarms. She also wanted to take a moment to thank all the fireman for all that they do. If you need to know more about their preparedness program for free smoke detectors reach out to her.

Member Updates

None

Adjourn

Chris Weiner motioned, and Jerry Harman seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion Carried.

Steve Childers, Secretary

Date Approve