



**Southwest Missouri Council of Governments
Board of Directors Annual Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 25, 2022
9:00 a.m.
Missouri Job Center
2900 E Sunshine St, Springfield, MO 65804**

Attendance:

Members:

Cindy Robbins - Nixa
Anna Evans – Show Me Christian Co
Howard Fisk – Fisk Transportation
Todd Wiesehan – Christian County
Stan Whitehurst – Webster County
Callie Linville – Springfield City Utilities
Sam Rost – Marshfield
Hank Smythe – Stone County
Gail Noggle – Bolivar & Polk Co Alliance
Lindsey Reichert – Paragon Architecture
Devin Sonnenfelt – White River Electric Coop
Duane Lavery - GroMarshfield
Neil Brady – Bartlett & West
Cameron Smith – Ozark
Ken McClure - Springfield
Chris Berndt - SMESO
Cindy Stephens – OTC
Wayne Blades – Stone County
Rick Davis – Polk County
Joe Kelley – Mount Vernon
Stephen Short – Fair Grove
Chris Weiner – Monett
Steve Childers – Ozark
Stan Whitehurst
Nancy Edson – Esterly Schneider
David Garrett – Toth & Associates
Toby Stevenson – Springfield
Kyle Lee – Bolivar
Dennis Wiggins – Taney County Partnership
Andrew Novinger – Anderson Engineering
Ryan Rinehart – Diggins

Chris Hopkins – Billings
Steve Seaton – Hurley
Randy Owens – Webster County
Kathy Smith – N Form Architecture
Mickey Brown – Billings
Kristen Haseltine – Show Me Christian County

Partners and Guests:

Erin Engelmeyer – Sen. Hawley’s Office
Beth Schaller - MoDOT
Theresa Sampaio – MoDED
Drew Cannon – Congresswoman Vicki Hartzler
Alex Cobb - SeniorAge
Rob Hunt – MoDNR
Laura Laramore – Mo Higher Ed/Workforce
Ronda Burnett – Mo Dept of Conservation
Dan Wadlington – Senator Blunt’s Office
Ron Seyl - MoDED
Randall Willoughby – MoDNR
Andrew Schiller - MoDNR
John Black – Mo State Representative
Natasha Longpine – OTO
Cynthia Collins – Missouri Job Center
Craig Fishel – Mo State Representative
Bill Owens – Mo State Representative
Sabrina Bonette – Veterans Employment

Staff:

Jason Ray
Jane Hood
Dorothy Wittorff-Sandgren
Lexi Mason
Thomas Cunningham
Chris Kempke
Aishwarya Shrestha
Courtney Pinkham

Zoe Brown
Jake Phillips
John Myers
Christopher Lynn

Open Meeting

1. Call to Order – Duane Lavery

2. Introductions and Announcements

3. Approval of May 25, 2022 Meeting Agenda – Dwayne Lavery

Gail Noggle motioned and Nancy Edson seconded to approve the May 25, 2022 Agenda. Motion carried.

4. Approval of March 23, 2022 Meeting Minutes— Dwayne Lavery

Steve Seaton motioned and Todd Wiesehan seconded to approve the March 23, 2022 Minutes. Motion carried.

Legislative Reports

-Dan Wadlington - Senator Blunt's Office

The Senate currently has a light agenda. They are voting on appointments and judges. The Senator voted for a bill that gave \$40 billion for aid to Ukraine.

-Erin Engelmeyer – Senator Hawley's Office

Senator Hawley questioned the Secretary of Energy, Jennifer Granholm, he asked her to explain record-high rising gas prices. The Senator introduced a bill restoring American Energy, the American Energy Independence Act of 2022. He wrote an Op Ed for Compact Magazine, No to Neoconservatism. His team is looking into the concern with new requirements for obtaining a CDL.

-Drew Cannon – Congresswoman Hartzler's Office

Representative Hartzler is working on a Cyber Security conference which will be held near Kansas City. They are supporting bill HR419, which prohibits taxpayer funds to go to the World Health Organization.

-State Legislative Reports –

-State Representative Bill Owen-

The Representative stated he was disheartened with the redistricting, this caused Webster County to be divided into two districts.

-State Representative Craig Fishel-

The Representative stated that because of the redistricting Webster County is now out of the Greene County metro. He said that 25% of the budget is for his region, this is due to him making a bigger ask than ever before and he was able to obtain it. This is still pending Governor Parson's signature.

-State Representative John Black-

The Representative stated he voted against the Gas Tax repeal. He said that he attempted to get Webster County realigned so that it would be entirely in district 7, but he was not able to overcome this. He also commented that they had a good budget year.

-Open questions for State Representatives-

Duane Lavery asked when funding in new budget will need to be spent by. Funds must be committed by 2026 and spent by 2028

Randy Owens stated that it has been very difficult on their county clerk with the short notice on the redistricting. Stan Whitehurst agreed.

Business

1. Proposed Bylaws Amendments – Jason Ray

Jason explained that the main changes are updating intent and grammatical errors, a few other sections were updated to keep up with the growth SMCOG has had. Duane Lavery explained that the board could decide to have a bylaw committee or leave it to the executive committee to review and bring back a draft to vote on at our August meeting. Howard Fisk stated that we should leave it to the executive committee, stated they will ensure that we are well served. The board agreed.

2. FY23 Operating Budget – Jason Ray

Jason Ray pointed out a few important changes on the budget, we will be adding a full-time fiscal officer position, which will most likely overlap with our current part time position. Other changes under other professional services include engineering, payment to city of Springfield for assistance with the Revolving Loan Fund (RLF), fees to MACOG, EMSI software for RLF, new GMS accounting software, and audit costs. The budget does show an indirect transfer to MSU, we are in the process of separating funds from MSU grants/ contracts, moving forward all grants/ contracts will be under SMCOG. We are receiving an increase in funding from MoDOT, \$20,000. We are currently not bringing in enough funding from SMCOG dues to meet our match for MoDOT, Hazard Mitigation, EDA or public transit plan. The executive committee has been asked to have a proposed dues increase for the June board meeting; the dues increase would not go into place until 2024. This operating budget was given to the executive committee, and they approved.

Rick Davis motioned and Wayne Blades seconded to approve the FY23 Operation Budget. Motion carried

2. Program Updates – Jason Ray

Jason and staff highlighted some of the projects from the detailed Program Report that was emailed out to members on 5/23/22.

Jason shared that Mo Municipal League is holding the Southwest Regional meeting in Aurora at City Hall on 6/2/22, 6PM. They plan on having speakers from DNR and other agencies to discuss ARPA, registration is available at mocities.com. SMCOG has hired Brian Fisher, an attorney with Neale & Newman to assist with any legal concerns and with the RLF. CDBG grant applications open in August, must meet 1 of the 3 national objectives. CDBG MIT still has funds available, \$19.8 million for 2017 Flooding, will be reopening for 2 cycles. Planning and capacity building requests do not have to meet LMI, will open in August. Jason clarified that CDBG can match ARPA funding, but CDBG has to be the last gap funding.

Steve Childers asked for a clarification of state's recent changes to definition of blight. Jason clarified for this purpose you will use HUD's definition, no utilities, and local violations.

Chris Kempke stated that EDA has offered a 6-month extension for SMCOG's COVID-19 Long-Term Recovery Planning grant, we have accepted this offer.

Aishwarya Shrestha let everyone know that TAP due date is 7/15, local match is 20% and a \$1 million project minimum. SMCOG applied as lead for a RAISE grant for a Regional EV Strategy. The speed trailer we ordered has been delivered.

Lexi Mason wanted to Congratulate city of Billings for their recent LWCF Grant award. If any communities are interested in an LMI study the margin of error has been changed, which might make it easier to obtain.

Other Business – Duane Lavery

N/A

Partner Updates

-MO Dept of Transportation – Beth Schaller

Beth Schaller let us know that MoDOT's mowing cycle has begun. 2nd cycle of build bridge bundle has started, mainly in Lawrence County. This does include Long Creek bridge in Taney County, will start after 7/4/2022. TAP grants start 7/15, funds have tripled from past years. If your proposed project is on state right of way you will need to contact Beth Schaller to get approval.

-Ozarks Transportation Organization – Natasha Longpine

OTO has submitted several discretionary grants, including HWY 13 & I-44, RAISE grant for MM near HWY 60 & I-44 and a trail grant for Chadwick to Springfield. They are meeting with their communities to review priorities for STIP. The finished transit plan for growth/housing is on the OTO website for review. Steve Seaton asked what the concern is with HWY 13 & I-44. Bill Owens responded that there is a high number of accidents leading to injury or fatality due to the high traffic congestion. Rick Davis mentioned he has heard from individuals that the congestion at the intersection is a reason they are not traveling to Branson as frequent.

-MO DNR – Rob Hunt

MO DNR has water and infrastructure grants available until 7/14. The state has developed an online application portal. They held virtual webinars on 5/11 and 5/12 discussing the application process, these are available on their website. Go to MOARPA.MO.Gov find out about grant opportunities and the application portal. They welcome any feedback on this website or the application process.

MO Dept of Conservation – Ronda Burnett

Ronda stated that MDC has had more individual requests for tree seedlings this year than in past. MDC has new partnership with MO Hives KC, this is a not for profit working on converting vacate lots with native wildflowers and then placing beehives on said lots. This organization does have interest in expanding to Springfield.

-Ozarks Region Workforce Development – Toby Stevenson

Currently Ozark Region Workforce Development is working on childcare apprenticeships. They still have 100 spots available for a Professional Development and Training on 6/1. Bill Smiley retired last week and Zora Mulligan has taken the position of Executive Vice President at MSU.

-MO Dept of Economic Development – Theresa Sampaio

MO DED has a new one stop website for ARPA funds. Theresa also stated they have several job opportunities.

-SeniorAge – Alex Cobb

Alex mentioned that it is now Farmer Market season, through the state all seniors are eligible for a \$50 certificate to use at Farmer Markets. The state of Missouri has a senior abuse/neglect hotline, they have contracted with SeniorAge to assist in responding to abuse/neglect situations.

-Red Cross – Jason Ray

Stacy Burks was not able to attend, she sent comments to Jason Ray. Red Cross is working with fire departments to get free smoke detectors handed out. They are currently doing in person preparedness trainings.

Adjourn

Howard Fisk motioned, and Stan Whitehurst seconded. Motion Carried.

Todd Wiesehan, Secretary

Date Approve