



**Southwest Missouri Council of Governments**

**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, June 28, 2023**

**9:00 a.m.**

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

**Attendance:**

Sam Rost – Marshfield

**Members:**

Dawne Gardner – Kimberling City  
Cindy Stephens – OTC  
Serena Anderson-Monett  
Neil Brady – Bartlett & West  
Chris Daugherty – Hurley  
Andrew Novinger – OWN Engineering  
Tim Selvey – Lawrence County  
Randy Owens – Webster County  
Devin Sonnenfelt – White River Valley Electric  
John Forrester – Allgeier, Martin & Associates  
Steve Childers – Ozark  
Allen Kunkel - MSU  
Ken McClure – Springfield  
Jerry Harman – H2Ozarks  
Bill Monday – Buffalo  
Tina Didreckson - Crane  
Callie Linville – CU  
Theresa Mitchell - Seymour  
Stephen Short – Fair Grove  
J. Howard Fisk – Fisk Limousine  
Todd Wiesehan – Christian County  
Kathy Smith – N Form  
Hollie Elliott – Dallas County  
Anna Evans – Show Me Christian County  
Jo Novak – Clever  
Kristen Haseltine – Show Me Christian County  
David Engroff – Greenfield  
Megan Gandy – Greenfield  
Angela Leist - Forsyth

**Via-Zoom**

Stan Whitehurst – Webster County  
Joe Kelly – Mt. Vernon  
Cindy Robbins – Nixa  
Chris Hopkins – Billings  
Martha Smartt - Strafford  
Tommy VanHorn – Battlefield  
Tracy Slagle - Bolivar  
Dale Maisel – Clever  
Megan Bischof - Ozark  
Sherry Rhuems – SW WIB  
Yolanda Lorge – Grupo Latinoamericano  
Cameron Smith – Ozark  
Chris Coulter – Greene County

**Partners and Guests:**

Mike Ussery – Senator Schmitt’s Office  
Tucker Jobs – Senator Schmitt’s Office  
Jered Taylor – Congressman Burlison’s Office  
Aaron Calkins – Congressman Burlison’s Office  
Payton Ruddy – Congressman Alford’s Office  
Bob Titus – Missouri House of Representatives  
Alice Wingo – CFO  
Beth Schaller – MoDOT  
Frank Miller - MoDOT  
Mark Wallace – MoDED  
Brandon Jenson – MoDED  
Theresa Sampaio – MoDED

David Knaut – OTO  
Natasha Longpine – OTO

**Staff:**

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

Krissy Dickens  
Michael Kohler  
Christine Lotigo  
Yetimoni Kpeebe  
Emma Horn

**Open Meeting**

1. Call to Order – Cindy Stephens

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Introductions and Announcements

4. Approval of June 28, 2023, Meeting Agenda – Cindy Stephens

*Bill Monday motioned, and Howard Fisk seconded to approve the June 28, 2023, Agenda. Motion carried.*

5. Approval of May 24, 2023, Meeting Minutes— Cindy Stephens

*Jerry Harman motioned, and Tim Selvey seconded to approve the May 24, 2023, Minutes. Motion carried.*

**Legislative Reports**

**-Mike Ussery** – Senator Schmitt’s Office

Senator Schmitt is working on FAA re-authorization and continuing to monitor the Farm Bill. Has introduced the Military Spouse Career Act. He also voted for the EPA Trucking Rules.

**-Jered Taylor & Aaron Calkins** – Congressman Burlison’s Office

Jered Taylor introduced Aaron Calkins, who is Congressman Burlison’s Chief of Staff in Washington. Congressman Burlison is on the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee. Marked up the FAA Reauthorization Bill which should be on the floor in July. The Defense Authorization Plan will be on House floor after July 4<sup>th</sup>. He is also working on the Appropriation Bill, and this might be going to the House in July as well. He will continue with his work on the Farmer’s Antibiotic Act and the Freight First Act.

**-Payton Ruddy** – Congressman Alford’s Office

Congressman Alford took the lead on a letter sent to the White House on shortcoming antisemitism and to use the working definition that comes from the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance. He is also working on the National Defense Act and got 7 amendments in the NDA and helped to secure \$50 million for housing needs at Fort Leonard Wood. The Congressman along with other bi-partisan members wrote a resolution to keep AM radio because of safety and the importance in keeping it.

## **Business**

1. 2023 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Adoption – Cindy Stephens Posted online and the link included in the meeting packet sent out prior to Board Meeting. It was available for a 30- day public comment period.  
*Todd Wiesehan motioned, and Randy Owens seconded to adopt the 2023 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Motion carried.*
2. Audit Reports – Jason Ray  
Jason reviewed the results of the Audit which was included in meeting packet.  
It was recommended by the Auditor to switch from Cash basis to Accrual Accounting system.
3. Fiscal Policy Updates – Jason Ray- included with meeting packet.  
Jason reviewed the Fiscal Policy and changes.  
*Howard Fisk motioned, and Sam Rost seconded to approve the Fiscal Policy with the amendment that the Executive Committee will send an update with any changes made to the Fiscal Policy to the SMCOG board. (top of page 2.) Motion carried.*
4. FY24 Operating Budget – Jason Ray; included in meeting packet.  
Jason reviewed the proposed FY24 Operating Budget  
*Bill Monday motioned, and Tim Selvey seconded to approve the FY24 Operating Budget. Motion carried.*
5. 2023-2024 Nominating Committee -Cindy Stephens
  - a. 2023-2024 Non-Governmental Representatives - list included in meeting packet  
*Ken McClure motioned, and Randy Owens seconded to approve the 2023-2024 Non-Governmental Representatives. (Only government members could vote for the non-governmental members.) Motion carried.*
  - b. 2023-2024 Executive Committee and Officers - list included in meeting packet  
*Howard Fisk motioned, and Tim Selvey seconded to approve the 2023-2024 Executive Committee and Officers. Motion carried.*
  - c. 2023-2024 CEDS Committee - list included in meeting packet  
*Sam Rost motioned, and Jerry Harman seconded to approve the 2023-2024 CEDS Committee. Motion carried.*
  - d. 2023-2024 Loan Review Committee - list included in meeting packet  
*Sam Rost motioned, and Allen Kunkel seconded to approve the 2023-2024 Loan Review Committee. Motion carried.*
  - e. 2023-2024 Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) – list sent out in meeting packet  
*Howard Fisk motioned, and Allen Kunkel seconded to approve the 2023-2024 Transportation Advisory (TAC). Motion carried.*
6. Program Updates – Jason Ray & Staff; included in meeting packet.  
Jason discussed that we are moving forward with the EDA RLF (Revolving Loan Fund) and that we are accepting applications, we already have had one submittal. There is a pre-screening form on our website, and we will be announcing dates soon for in-person educational meetings. Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A), we are working on our application, we will be applying for funding for a regional rural safety active transportation plan.

-Aishwarya Shrestha, Kelsi Burton, Thomas Cunningham & Jake Phillips reviewed their updates

that were included in meeting packet.

**Other Business** – Cindy Stephens

None

**Partner Updates**

**-MoDOT** – Beth Schaller/Frank Miller

Frank stated that the TAP applications cycle will start on July 10<sup>th</sup>. The STIP is a 5-year program which is out for public comment. Beth shared that they are still working on bridges on I-44. They are still working on the Cost Share programs on Route 86 with Big Cedar in Taney County and on the road work on Indian Point Road with Silver Dollar City. MoDOT will have a public meeting at the end of July to discuss Route CC and Main. They are recommending a roundabout. There is currently a lot of road work happening, they ask everyone to please drive slowly, give construction crews space and be aware.

Jane Hood and Tim Selvey both wanted to thank MoDOT and congratulate them on finishing work on Highway 96 in Lawrence County.

**-OTO** – Natasha Longpine

Natasha introduced David Knaut who is a new planner with OTO. OTO has the TIP out for public comment until July 19<sup>th</sup>. The Safe Streets Action plan will be kicked off this summer. Work on I-44 & HWY13 interchange should start work in 2024. Chadwick Flyer will start seeing progress over the next few years. They are finishing up with the Route 66 Trail Study. OTO was awarded funding for an EV charging stations in the area.

**-MoDED** – Theresa Sampaio

Theresa stated that the ARPA Entertainment Grant 2<sup>nd</sup> round cycle is on their website.

**-CDBG** – Brandon Jenson

Brandon thanked SMCOG staff for attending the recent CDBG training, links to videos from this training will be available on their website. FY2023 CDBG applications should be opening soon. They have received approval for Mitigation Action Plan Amendment for capacity building. The 4317 funding (tied to certain zip codes) will be ending soon. Will open soon there regular 4317 funding. Build America Buy America Act will now be applied for iron and steel if needed for CDBG projects, they are working with HUD to see how this will be implemented. They will have a waiver available if it increases your project's cost by 25% or more.

**Member Updates**

Cindy Stephens welcomed Greenfield as the newest members of SMCOG and welcomed Representative Titus and David Knaut, OTO, as this was their first meeting.

Steve Childers commented the radio systems that their police used has updated to NIMS, Christian County has not switched yet because of the high cost. They had been working with former Congressman Long when he was still in office and he was able to secure \$8million of \$10million project so they could get this system for Christian County. He shared this to show how important it is to work with your elected officials.

Tim Selvey stated they are building a new Jail, new 911 Center and a new Health Department building in Lawrence County. (Mt. Vernon)

**Adjourn**

*Next SMCOG Board Meeting will be held on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023, at the Library Center in Springfield.*

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Steve Childers, Secretary

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Date Approve