



**Southwest Missouri Council of Governments
Board of Directors Annual Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 24, 2022**

9:00 a.m.

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

Attendance:

Members:

Chris Hopkins – Billings
Todd Wiesehan – Christian County
Dennis Wiggins – Taney County Partnership
Cindy Robbins – Nixa
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
Garen McElroy – Great River Engineering
Sam Rost – Marshfield
Steve Seaton - Hurley
Stephen Short – Fair Grove
Duane Lavery – GroMarshfield
Martha Smartt – Strafford
Andrew Novinger – Anderson Engineering
David Casaletto – H2Ozarks
Steve Dalton – Branson West
Megan Bischof – Ozark
Tina Didreckson – Crane
Bob Senninger – Lawrence County
Callie Linville – City Utilities
Neil Brady – Bartlett & West
Rick Davis – Polk County
Tonia Castaneda – Springfield CVB
Vicki Pratt – SBDC
Cameron Smith – Ozark
Kyle Lee – Bolivar
Gayle Noggle – Bolivar
Allen Kunkel – MSU

David Taylor – Cox Health
Ken McClure – Springfield
Andrea Sitzes – Arvest Bank
Kristen Haseltine – Show Me CC
Mark Wallace – Show Me CC
Jerry Harman – H2Ozarks

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
Mark Webb – Greene Co HWY Dept
Katherine Trombetta – MJC
Laura Laramore – Workforce Development
Bill Owen – State Rep #131
Hanna Knopf – MoDOT
Beth Schaller – MoDOT
Ronda Burnett - MDC

Staff:

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

Open Meeting

1. Call to Order – Cindy Stephens

2. Introductions and Announcements

3. Approval of August 24, 2022 Meeting Agenda – Cindy Stephens

Bill Monday motioned and Howard Fisk seconded to approve the August 24, 2022 Agenda. Motion carried.

4. Approval of June 22, 2022 Meeting Minutes— Cindy Stephens

Allen Kunkel motioned, and Bob Senninger seconded to approve the June 22, 2022 Minutes. Motion carried.

Legislative Reports

-Dan Wadlington - Senator Blunt's Office

After Labor Day Congress will vote on the appropriation bill, Senator Blunt does not think it will pass.

-Erin Engelmeyer – Senator Hawley's Office

President Biden's office will be making an announcement regarding student loan debt.

-Mike Ussery – Congressman Long's Office

Senator Long believes that the appropriation bill will be ready by Thanksgiving break.

Jason Ray asked when NOFA for the State/local Security program would be released and for clarification on how funds can be used.

-MO. Rep. Bill Owen – The legislature is in special session. Governor Parson has asked for extending tax credits for agricultural bill and a 50-basis point reduction in the income tax.

Business

1. TAC Update – Aishwarya Shrestha

Thanked TAC members for their time and effort, she then presented the prioritization as included in the meeting packet.

a. *Motion made by Bill Monday and seconded by Howard Fisk to approve the Road and Bridge Prioritization. Motion carried.*

b. *Motion made by Howard Fisk and seconded by Allen Kunkel to approve the Bike and Pedestrian Prioritization. Motion carried.*

2. RLF Plan Amendments – Jason Ray

Presented the RLF Plan amendments as included in the meeting packet.

Motion made by Bill Monday and seconded by Allen Kunkel to approve the amendments to the RLF Plan Motion carried.

3. Program Updates – Jason Ray & Staff

Jason introduced SMCOG's new Grants Administrator, Kelsi Burton who started on Monday.

EDA announced an award for a project that SMCOG's been working on for 3 years in partnership with the City of Springfield. EDA as issued a \$1.5 million grant to expand Le Compte Rd. leading into the Springfield Underground from Division Street. We started working on this before the pandemic. It will allow for more truck capacity which will allow those businesses in the underground to expand. It's anticipated to create 100 new jobs with over \$28 million in private investments.

Program Updates were included in the meeting packet.

Aishwarya highlighted open grant applications (Land and Water Conservation Fund, Traffic Engineering Assistance Program, and Railroad Crossing Elimination Program). She also highlighted a free complete street training on September 23 in Springfield.

Other Business – Cindy Stephens

None

Partner Updates

-MoDOT – Beth Schaller

Construction on east bound I-44 should be done before Labor Day. Continued safety improvements on 65 in Christian and Taney counties, they will be blasting on Mondays and Wednesdays. Beth addressed that the TAC list is the grassroots to getting projects addressed by MoDOT. They also reminded everyone to pay attention in work zones, and to slow down, they are seeing more concerns.

Jane Hood asked when the completion dates are for Lawrence County bridges on 96 highway. Beth responded they are trying to have it done by November. Next year they will be working on the bridges in Lawrence County on I-44. There are many 1950's bridges that will be worked on next year.

-MO Dept of Conservation – Ronda Burnett

Encourages everyone to attend the 6th Annual Partners Round Table on September 28th and 29th here in Springfield at the Whiteriver Conference Center. Free to attend.

-Ozarks Region Workforce Development – Katherine Trombetta

The city council has approved the acceptance of the EDA \$5 million grant and in addition, several new positions at the Job Center. The EDA grant starts October 1st. They are partnering with the Elks Lodge on Bennet St for a hiring event focused on hiring veterans. Also, they have their iCreate event coming up on October 28th which will be held at OTC. They need manufacturing exhibitors and schools to participate. This event is for high school juniors and seniors and capped at 1000 attendees.

-MoDHEWD – Laura Laramore

Reported they have an online platform to assist employers.

-MO Dept of Economic Development – Theresa Sampaio

ARPA funding is in full swing, Broadband grants are open until September 29th. They have details on the DED website. Theresa has taken a position as regional manager; they will have a new project manager for this area soon.

-SeniorAge – Alex Cobb

Community centers are having record numbers now. Alex mentioned he is also the director for Drury Leadership Collaborative. They are holding a non-profit leadership conference on October 14th.

-Red Cross – Stacy Burks

Stacy recently spent 2 weeks in St. Louis after there recent flooding. She asked people to think about how prepared they are for a disaster, and then for leaders to think about how prepared their community is for a disaster. Red Cross first and foremost purpose is to shelter individuals in case of a

disaster. She would like to work with communities to help plan and prepare for a disaster. She also reminded everyone that they have free smoke alarms.

Member Updates

-Jerry Harman with H2Ozarks announce the 22nd annual shoreline clean up the 1st and 2nd weekend of October.

-Andrea Sitzes with Arvest Bank announced that on August 15th they launched the Arvest Opportunity Fund. Their largest shareholder, Jim Walton, has set aside \$20 million of his private funds for individuals who might not be quite bankable. There is a financial literacy piece required to help individuals get loans.

-Mark Wallace with Show Me Christian County. Broadband Initiative Study is drawing to a close.

Adjourn

Howard Fisk motioned, and Chris Hopkins seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion Carried.

Steve Childers, Secretary

Date Approve