



SOUTHWEST MISSOURI COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Executive Committee Meeting

Tuesday, June 10, 2025

3:00 p.m.

Jordan Valley Innovation Center (JVIC)

524 N. Boonville Ave., Springfield, MO 65806

[Virtual option via Zoom](#)

MEETING AGENDA

1. Approval of June 10, 2025 Agenda – ACTION ITEM
2. Approval of May 13, 2025 Minutes – ACTION ITEM
3. CDBG Administrative Services Agreements (ASAs) – ACTION ITEMS
 - a. [Fair Play Roadway Improvements](#)
 - b. [Kimberling City Sidewalk Improvements](#)
 - c. [Crane Creek Park Improvements](#)
 - d. [Crane Ballfield and Trail Improvements](#)
 - e. [Pierce City Roadway Improvements](#)
 - f. [Greenfield Downtown Revitalization](#)
 - g. [Branson Compton Drive WWTP Improvements](#)
4. Hazard Mitigation Plan MOAs
 - a. Christian County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan
 - i. [SEMA-SMCOG-County MOA](#)
 - ii. [SMCOG-Christian County Match Commitment MOA](#)
 - iii. [SMCOG-MACOG MOA](#)
 - b. Webster County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan
 - i. [SEMA-SMCOG-County MOA](#)
 - ii. [SMCOG-Webster County Match Commitment MOA](#)
 - iii. [SMCOG-MACOG MOA](#)
5. [Elevate Branson ARPA Grant Administration Agreement](#)
6. [Branson comprehensive Plan – Amendment 1](#)
7. SW MO Film Office – Discussion
8. FY26 Budget – Discussion
9. Program and Project Updates – Discussion

10. Adjourn

CLOSED SESSION (if needed and as authorized by RSMo 610.021)

The SMCOG Executive Committee may vote to go into closed session pursuant to RSMo 610.021(3) to discuss personnel matters involving identifiable individuals.

This meeting is open to the public in accordance with Missouri law. A copy of this agenda was posted for public view at the SMCOG office, physically located at, Roy Blunt Hall, Office 122, 910 S. John Q Hammons Pkwy., Springfield, MO 65897 on June 9, 2025, and online at smcog.org.

SMCOG complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. For more information or to obtain a Title VI Complaint Form, see www.smcog.org, or call (417) 836-6900. Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact Jason Ray at (417) 836-6977 at least 4 working days prior to the meeting date.

SMCOG
c/o MSU-CRPM
901 S. National Ave.
Springfield, MO 65897



Southwest Missouri Council of Governments
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 13, 2025
3:00 p.m.
JVIC 1st Floor Conference

Attendees: Cindy Stephens, Duane Lavery, Steve Childers, Commissioner Wayne Blades, Allen Kunkel, Chris Coulter, Nathan Piche, Todd Wiesehan, & J Howard Fisk,

Zoom Attendees: Jerry Harman

Staff: Jason Ray, Morganza Byrd, and Courtney Pinkham

Guests: Ken Childers, David Carr, and Monte Dobson

Open Meeting – Cindy Stephens

1. Approval of May 13, 2025 Agenda – Cindy Stephens

*Motion made by Duane Lavery and seconded by Howard Fisk to approve the May 13, 2025, Agenda.
Motion carried.*

2. Approval of March 11, 2025 Minutes – Cindy Stephens

*Motion made by Steve Childers and seconded by Allen Kunkel to approve the March 11, 2025 minutes.
Motion carried*

3. SW MO Film Office – Jason Ray

Jason introduced David Carr and explained that there were materials in the meeting packet.

-David introduced Monte and Ken as fellow board members of the Ozarks Film Foundry, and that Ken would be applying as the film commissioner.

-Ken explained that with the SHOMO Act, they are working on getting this more out in the public. He discussed that the numbers are on the rise. \$12.4 million out of \$16 million used of the tax credit, generating \$33 million.

-Monte explained that they are working on building deeper ties in the community, working with the MO Film Commission, Andrea, and the Gillioz. They got funding from the Hatch Foundation to fund that office space. There is a need for trained industry crews in the region. The Hatch Foundation funding they received went to training in these fields.

- Ken is on the Film in MO board, which helped to get this tax credit. It is sunseting in 2029, they are working to get this extended. The Hallmark Chief Christmas movie was only going to shoot one day in the football stadium in KC, but because of this tax credit, they pulled from shooting in Canada to shooting all of the movie in KC. Husch Blackwell is helping to advocate for this extension. They have received multiple letters of support, Greene County, Gillioz, Plotline, Capes Sokol, Pee Salsich, SRAC, Traverse Media; & Cole Payne.
- Steve asked why having a film commission is important for SWMO.
- Ken responded because the opportunity to bring the film industry to our region could have an economic impact.
- Monte stated he met with Jonas Arjes from Springfield COC and discussed this as a way to utilize underused spaces.
- Ken continued that having a commissioner to reach out to the local governments to ensure all permits are filed. This gives a unified space. This will also give Ken the opportunity to go through training and education programs that will help the region.
- Steve stated that he does support and believes it is the correct fit for SMCOC to support.
- Monte stated that the MO film office was announced as one of the top 7 emerging places to film. Tim Daly, who filmed here last summer, stated that the filming in this region was like filming in Disneyland because of the diversity of locations
- Ken stated that they want the Film Foundry to be a resource center for the region.
- Monte stated that he works for Show Me Power, working with economic development, and that they allow him to work in the film commission because they see the Economic development possibility.
- Steve asked Jason what the SMCOC needed to move on this.
- Jason stated that this would need to get approved by the board.
- Steve stated this feels more organized than the pitch last year. Steve stated further that he knows that the EC needs to make the recommendation to the Board, but how should we handle board members who might not understand the difference now, from last year?
- Jason stated that we explain why we tabled and the difference that they have made since last year.
- Howard stated he was the one to table, and he was afraid that because at that time, he did not think it was sustainable, and it seems like it is now.
- Cindy asked for a summary of interactions with the Springfield CVB
- Monte stated they have been working with Mark Hecquet, and they are passing on things to them, CVB as a film page that leads to the OFF. Cora Scott, with the city of Springfield, has reached out to engage as well
- Wayne asked if they have reached out to other communities, COCs in the region.
- Monte stated that is where they are at, building out the connections with groups in the region, trying to build the community ties. He stated they planned to use SMCOC to help build these connections
- Wayne asked if any other organization was trying to start a film commission in our region.
- Monte responded that their former board member, John Farmer De la Torre, is working with the city of Forsyth to become a film commissioner.
- Steve stated that John seems like he is working rogue, instead of as an organized organization.

- David stated that since John only has Forsyth's support, he will only be able to work with Forsyth, while if they move forward, they can work with the entirety of the rest of the region.
- Duane asked how Film in MO is funded.
- David stated that they are privately funded, through donations, fundraising, and grants.
- David, Ken & Monte left the meeting.
- Duane asked what the importance of AFCL is for their organization.
- Allen stated that he thought it helps to open doors as a legitimate agency
- Cindy asked that they do more, but this will help them expand. Further, she stated that with the Route 66 centennial in 2026, it feels important to have this in place.
- Jason stated that the previous pitch felt like it was more about getting travel for marketing. With this pitch, it seems different. Do we want to leave it for John Farmer Del Torre to possibly expand, or do we back this organization?
- Steve stated the Greene CO commission letter of support was big. His focus is on the possibility of bringing this industry to our region is a business we want to get into. If this makes it easier for films to shoot here, and then the word gets out, it could be good for our economy.
- Howard stated that he would like for this to work, but is unsure if this is the correct group. He feels that they should have had someone from the CVB or another organization here to advocate for them.
- Duane stated he is for this, but he is still wondering what they want exactly from us.
- Steve stated to give it to the board and see what they think.
- Wayne asked if we did not make a recommendation, if we could still pass it to the board to review. He went on to say that last time he was opposed, but this time he is optimistic, but would like to discuss it within his region to see how they feel.
- Allen stated that they are getting money from CFO, and the Hatch Foundation, which means a lot.
- Steve stated he would abstain since Ken Childers is his brother. But he has heard a lot about this, he has done a lot of his own research, and he is for this.
- Cindy recapped that Wayne would reach out to people in Taney, Cindy will contact Mark with the Springfield CVB, Andrea with the Mo film commission, and the Hatch Foundation

4. SMCOG Capital Insights Recap– Jason Ray

- Jason was out of state for the March meeting and was interested in getting feedback from the committee on how this meeting was.
- Cindy stated she was skeptical, but we had good attendance for legislators.
 - Duane agrees with Cindy.
 - Cindy felt it was helpful for local individuals to explain why some proposals affected their communities differently.
 - Duane stated we could bring this up at the full board meeting to get more feedback.
 - Chris stated he attended online and commented that many others did too. But we need to remind them to keep politics out and focus on matters that affect our region.
 - Jason stated he did not know the Congressman was attending, but he had asked for them to focus on their work on the House Transportation Committee.

5. Program/Project Updates – Jason Ray

Jason started by saying we are nearing the end of our fiscal year, so terms are coming up. Nathan informed him that this is his last meeting, and he is moving to KC. Jason thanked him for his service. We have moved into our new location, which is in a construction zone. We are still settling in. We will have another move, since our new furniture has not been ordered yet. We did get a new copier from the SEES; we had agreed to pay the cost of \$850 for refurbishing, but somehow this was paid by another department. This was in our budget, so we can remove that line. Project-wise, we have had several projects under FEMA's BRIC program that were frozen, and that program has now been eliminated; SEMA has rerouted funding, so Hazard Mitigation plans are delayed, but not canceled. We had plans for three county hazard mitigation plans to be funded under BRIC. SEMA has pivoted those three county hazard mitigation plans to use some disaster funds they currently have available. We have a major project with a sewer that is on the verge of collapsing into a sinkhole. The BRIC program was the one that could have helped, but it has been cut. CDBG has also had proposed cuts. EDA has also been zeroed out of the federal budget. We have had positive conversations with Senator Schmitt's office regarding this funding. Previously, Jason had announced that none of our CDBG applications were funded; since then, CDBG has funded Greenfield's water tower project. CDBG competitive cycle is open; we are resubmitting the ones not funded from the last round and have some new ones. We are waiting to hear back on some planning capacity CDBG grants, one for a new planner, that we have not filled. We were waiting to hear back on this announcement. The other big one was the Taney co master plan that was submitted. We submitted to AARP for a grant to cover the cost of a Dallas County transit and active transportation Plan. We are still waiting to hear back on the grant we submitted for the City of Crane under the Recreational Trails Program (RTP), we believe it will be funded. Branson wastewater retaining wall, we are a sub-applicant on the grant. This project started when we were still going through MSU on grants. This has changed, so we created an administrative agreement so the university could be reimbursed, which ended March 31, 2025. The city was working on an amendment, which we did not receive, so we created one near the end of March. They said it was too late to get passed. Branson stated they would need a new agreement; we started this, but MSU stated it did not work for them. .. We also had some overage that we are working on through a budget amendment. This grant ends in June. Currently, RHSOC is behind on processing claims for equipment that was purchased, this funding was frozen but we have worked to streamline the claims process and are working to get everything caught up now that funding is unfrozen.

6. FY26 Budget – Jason Ray

Jason stated he just got the 3rd quarter FY25 budget report, he has been working with Morganza on correcting a few items. We are waiting for some CDBG funds to be reimbursed totaling about \$140,000. Regional transportation safety grant, we were going to hire a consultant, which we had not done yet, and now the program is under scrutiny, so we are waiting to release the RFP. This is the snapshot of where we are by the end of March. The bylaws state the budget needs to be complete by 30 days before the end of the fiscal year, so he is working to get this so he can have the FY26 fiscal budget.

-Howard stated that this is an improvement from the past. He has great respect for Jason and his work.

7. Adjourn

Motion made by Howard Fisk and seconded by Chris Coulter for the SMCOG Executive Committee to go into closed session pursuant to RSMo 610.021(3) to discuss personnel matters involving identifiable individuals. Motion carried

Voting Aye;

Allen Kunkel
Steve Childers
Todd Wiesehan
Chris Coulter
Duane Lavery

Howard Fisk
Jerry Harman
Nathan Piche
Wayne Blades
Cindy Stephens