



SOUTHWEST MISSOURI COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 14, 2025
3:00 p.m.
JVIC 1st Floor Conference

Attendees: Cindy Stephens, Allen Kunkel, Nathan Piche, Duane Lavery, Steve Childers, and Todd Wiesehan

Zoom Attendees: Howard Fisk, Jerry Harman, & Chris Coulter

Staff: Jason Ray, Courtney Pinkham, and Morganza Byrd

Open Meeting – Cindy Stephens

1. **Approval of January 14, 2025 Agenda** – Cindy Stephens

Motion made by Steve Childers and seconded by Todd Wiesehan to approve the January 14, 2025, Agenda. Motion carried.

2. **Approval of December 10, 2024 Minutes** – Cindy Stephens

Motion made by Steve Childers and seconded by Duane Lavery to approve the December 10, 2024. Motion carried.

3. Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Analysis and Language Access Plan (LAP) - Emailed prior to meeting. – Jason Ray

Jason stated that per HUD requirements we need to have a LEP and LAP in place. We had this in place, but we needed to update since translating in Russian has been added to our requirements.

Motion made by Howard Fisk and seconded by Steve Childers to approve. Motion carried.

4. 504 Grievance Procedures Emailed prior to meeting. – Jason Ray

Jason explained this has always been a HUD requirement, now MoDED is also requiring recipients of CDBG funds to have a 504 Grievance Procedures in place.

Motion made by Duane Lavery and seconded by Steve Childers to approve. Motion carried.

-Duane asked if the communities applying for these grants are also required to have this procedure in place.

-Jason answered that they do as well. Recently we assisted the City of Cassville to get theirs in place.

5. Resolution to Apply – CDBG-MIT Planning capacity Building Emailed prior to meeting. – Jason Ray

Jason stated this is a resubmission of an application that was previously denied. We were encouraged to resubmit after some clarification from CDBG. This is to fund a new planning position.

Motion made by Howard Fisk and seconded by Todd Wiesehan to approve. Motion carried.

6. Resolution to Apply – CDBG-MIT Taney County Master Plan Update Emailed prior to meeting. – Jason Ray

Jason stated that Taney County supports this grant application.

Motion made by Allen Kunkel and seconded by Steve Childers. Motion carried.

7. CDBG-MIT Sub-applicant Agreement: Cassville 7th Street Bridge Emailed prior to meeting. – Jason Ray

Jason noted that SMOG will be the sub-applicant to City of Cassville on the application. This application is to fund a bridge that has been washed out several years ago in a flood. Cassville ran out of time to go through a formal procurement process, so we are not able to do this has a fee for service. We will be reimbursed for actual expenses which is estimated to be roughly \$10,000 plus 4% of the grant. Having this approved prior to the application will give Cassville additional points in the grant process.

Motion made by Steve Childers and seconded by Duane Lavery to approve. Motion carried.

8. CDBG-MIT Sub-applicant Agreement: Cassville Pedestrian Bridge Emailed prior to meeting. – Jason Ray

Jason commented that this grant application is for a pedestrian bridge over a creek. City of Cassville already has this partially funded with TAP funds.

Motion made by Steve Childers and seconded by Allen Kunkel to approve. Motion carried.

9. CDBG-MIT Sub-applicant Agreement: Cassville WWTP Generator Emailed prior to meeting. – Jason Ray

Jason stated that this is for a backup generator for their Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). SMOG will hold a public meeting for all three of the City of Cassville applications tonight in Cassville. These CDBG funds are left over from the flooding disaster in 2017. CDBG had targeted five zip codes in our region that was affected by the flood. Cassville was not in one of these zip codes, but they do have funds available for areas outside of the designated zip codes.

Motion made by Steve Childers and seconded by Todd Wiesehan to approve. Motion carried.

-Nathan asked if Cassville already had a backup generator?

-Jason stated he did not believe they had one.

-Todd asked if cities were required to have a backup generator for their WWTPs?

-Steve responded he thought they did.

-Jason commented that they were able to get CDBG to acknowledge the need for grant funds to be used for generators.

10. CDBG-MIT Sub-Applicant Agreement: Bull Creek Water System Emailed prior to meeting. – Jason Ray

Jason explained that this grant is to construct a second well for Bull Creek, which was a suggestion from MoDNR. It will be constructed outside of the flood plain. Bull Creek had initially wanted to apply to have a manhole that is in the flood plain relocated, but they were to get funding for that project from Taney County.

Motion made by Howard Fisk and seconded by Chris Coulter to approve. Motion carried.

11. H2Ozarks Water Quality Survey Agreement Emailed prior to meeting. – Jason Ray
Jason explained that this is to build off the survey that H2Ozarks completed a few years back, they will also be updating information. This survey should be completed by July 2025.

Motion made by Duane Lavery and seconded by Steve Childers to approve. Jerry Harman abstained. Motion carried.

12. 2025 Meeting Times – Jason Ray

Jason stated Cindy Stephens has a class she is teaching that conflicts with our current meeting time. Jason emailed the executive committee prior to the meeting to see if meeting at 2 PM March through May would be acceptable. Everyone was available except Duane Lavery.

-Duane commented that his conflict will only affect one of the meeting dates.

-Jason stated that we will move our executive committee meeting for March – May to 2 PM.

13. Program/Project Updates – Jason Ray

Jason started off by stating SMCOG had received several denials for state-level CDBGs, but he also added that no projects in the SMCOG region were approved. We had four for the City of Crane, but they did not get a professional engineering report. We were disappointed in the denial for Taneyville, they had a high LMI rate. This was a similar situation that we saw in Crane. For Buffalo they hired a private grant writer, but we still provided assistance with that application, but it was denied as well. The notices just came out yesterday. Other RPCs are also irritated with how these awards are being handled. Jason stated that he believes that how they are scoring the applications is flawed, in the last round there was a 30-point spread in the final scores. The two staff that we work with we have had concerns with. One did not respond to emails for the first four months of their employment with CDBG and the other has come off as rude to our staff.

-Allen stated that the grading system should have three people scoring and should be regulated.

-Steve asked if Jason would be writing a letter to Brandon Jenson?

-Jason stated that yes, we will be in contact. Kelsi will be requesting a debriefing from CDBG.

Jason stated we were approached earlier last year by a private group asking us to write a grant choosing them as the only provider. Jason stated he did not think as a public organization that it was appropriate to just choose the first one that approached us, and we had several grants we were currently working on. Jason got a lot of opposition for this, even from OTO. OTO went forward with the application, and it has been denied.

EPA-SWIFR application that the committee approved previously has been submitted, a few weeks back, but we will not hear back for close to a year.

-Todd stated that he believes we should hear back this summer, but construction will not start till December.

A private development outside of Springfield in Greene County, Owen Silos, has been wanting to work with SMCOG in getting grants for trails.

-Chris Coulter stated the county is working with Owen Silos and have a meeting in a couple of weeks scheduled.

We have three CDBG Housing grants for affordable housing projects in Branson, 2.5 million each grant, for Cedar Ridge II, Spring Creek, Fall Creek III

SMCOG has been delayed in getting reimbursed by RHSOC for a training that we assisted with held at MU, for around \$40k, and now the invoice is in collections, but under MSU's name.

Luckily, the funding came in yesterday, and the check will go out today.

The Buffalo Survey was supposed to be published before the new year, but the committee would like some updates, we are working with Hollie Elliott to get the corrections.

Indian Point held it's kick off in December and had a decent attendance and lots of energy.

Branson's kick off for their comprehensive plan is this Thursday, we are getting a lot of support from city staff, we are working primarily with Mark Colussy.

We have entered into an agreement with Monett, they are forming their planning committee, and we have had meetings with them already. We will need to amend the agreement, they thought they already had a Transportation Plan previously completed, so that was removed, and needs to be added since it has not been completed.

Marionville has contacted SMCOG for a comprehensive plan, they have designated one individual to work on this. He is attempting to negotiate the contract for the city, he would like to just update the demographics of the plan, not changing the goals, but their last plan was over 10 years ago. Jason is collaborating with the mayor on this.

The Groves are wrapping up, Walnut Grove would like additional maps and are ready to adopt the plan. We are still working with Ash Grove, and it looks like they will most likely adopt the plan.

MoDOT SW Regional Bridge program, Jason received an email yesterday with several corrections to their data. We have submitted several bridges for this project. BFP / BRO The committee asked the counties to rank their submissions, and they are only looking at the top priority. MoDOT is looking at the submission from Greene County as previously funded since it is under a different program. Jason is supposed to respond back to this suggestion today. Jason will discuss at the TAC meeting tomorrow and see if they would like to appoint members to the regional bridge committee, instead of asking for volunteers from the TAC.

-Steve stated that it makes sense to have the TAC appoint these individuals. Todd, Allen, and Duane agreed.

Jason looked at the map of the bridges submitted this year. He is having staff look at the map and other statistics to see if we can find funding for these projects with other programs.

We are working on a LMI study for Kimberly City to help with additional funding resources.

Dues invoices are rolling in and will have a more detailed update next month.

14. Adjourn