



**Southwest Missouri Council of Governments
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 24, 2024**

9:00 a.m.

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

Attendance:

Zoom Attendees:

Joe Kelley – Mt Vernon
Stan Whitehurst – Webster County
Logan McGhee – USDA RD
Nathan Piche – Indian Point
Michael Nesbitt – Nesbitt Construction
Ben DeClue – Ozark

Sheila Wyatt – Taney County
Ronda Burnett – MDC
Ashley Venolia – USDA RD
Anna Evans – SMCC
Janice Piper – SeniorAge
Devin Sonnenfelt – SMCC

Members:

Dawne Gardner – Kimberling City
Tina Didreckson - Crane
Cindy Stephens – OTC
Martha Smartt – Strafford
Bob Senninger – Lawrence County
Jerry Harman – H2Ozarks
Callie Linville – CU
Chris Tabor – Republic
Andy Novinger – Own, Inc
Tommy VanHorn – Battlefield
Allen Kunkel - MSU
Randy Owens – Webster County
Jon Holmes – Aurora
J. Howard Fisk – Fisk Limousine
Rusty MacLachlan – Greene County
John Crawford – Dallas County
Bradley Jackson – Christian County
Justin Orf – CJW Transportation
Neil Brady – Bartlett West
Hollie Elliott – Dallas County

Todd Wiesehan – Christian County
Chris Daugherty – Hurley
Steve Short – Fair Grove
Kathy Smith – N Form
Chris Berndt – Western Taney Co Fire District
Danny Perches – Springfield
Nancy Edson – Esterly, Schneider & Associates
Brandon Justin - Nixa
Debi Mace - Forsyth
Chris Coulter – Greene County
Scott Godbey - Nixa
Sam Rost – Marshfield
Steve Dalton – Branson West
Donna Stewart – Willard
Kyle Lee – Bolivar
Cameron Smith – Ozark
Mark Crabtree – Battlefield
Duane Lavery – GRO Marshfield
Tracy Slagle – Liberty Utilities

Partners and Guests:

Payton Ruddy – Congressman Alford’s Office
Brad Keller – MoDOT
Tucker Jobs – Senator Schmidt’s Office
Noah Snelson – Congressman Burlison’s Office
Erin Engelmeyer – Senator Hawley’s Office

Mike Ussery – Senator Schmidt’s Office
Theresa Sampaio – DED
David Knaut – OTO
Beth Schaller – MoDOT
Randall Willoughby – MoDNR

Mark Wallace – Codefi
Allen Brandes – MU Extension

Staff:

Jason Ray
Jane Hood
Aishwarya Shrestha
Michael Kohler
Courtney Pinkham

Averin Jackson
Evan Cook
Pratika Banjara
Jake Phillips

Open Meeting

1. Call to Order – Cindy Stephens

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Introductions and Announcements

4. Approval of January 24, 2024, Meeting Agenda – Cindy Stephens

Sam Rost motioned, J. Howard Fisk seconded to approve the January 24, 2024 Agenda with the addition of item 3 under the Business section, Authorization for an EDA Grant. Motion carried.

5. Approval of December 6, 2023, Meeting Minutes— Cindy Stephens

Dawne Gardner motioned, Chris Tabor seconded to approve the December 6, 2023 Minutes. Motion carried.

Legislative Reports

-Erin Engelmeyer – Senator Hawley’s Office

Senator Hawley does a weekly interview with KY3, this is a good way to stay informed on his ongoings.

-Tucker Jobs – Senator Schmitt’s Office

Senator Schmitt is most concerned about the budget. Congress has passed two resolutions to extend the budget deadline. He would like to see the budget go back to individual amendments, instead of one amendment for the entire budget.

-Noah Snelson – Congressman Burlison’s Office

The Congressman has been getting a lot of questions on the status of the Farm Bill, at this time it has not moved forward. He is meeting with the Corps of Engineers today; they have had constituents reach out regarding issues with the Corps. Also, he has introduced permits for the Clean Water Act. Voted no on the Continuing Resolution (CR) because it increased the debt.

- Dawne Gardner thanked the congressman for his work with the Corps. They have had many complaints regarding the Corps in Kimberling City

-Payton Ruddy – Congressman Alford’s Office

Payton stated that Congressman Alford had a great first year. He introduced 15 pieces of legislation. He voted no on the Continuing Resolution (CR). The Congressman has visited the border recently and is now traveling within his district.

Business

1. Amend the RLF Plan Financing Policies, Section 2: Allowable Borrowers, and Section 4: Loan Size – Jason Ray gave an overview.

Nancy Edson motioned, and Allen Kunkel seconded approval to Amend the RLF Plan Financing Policies, Section 2: Allowable Borrowers and Section 4: Loan Size as presented. Motion carried.

2. Resolution to Request a 12-Month No Cost Extension for the RLF Disbursement Phase – Jason Ray

Nancy Edson brought up that in the 2nd Whereas paragraph the last date should be 18th day of February 2024.

Jerry Harman motioned, and Martha Smartt seconded to approve the Resolution to Request a 12-Month No Cost Extension to RLF Disbursement Phase, with the correction in the 2nd Whereas paragraph, the last date should be 18th day of February 2024. Motion carried.

3. Approve the EDA Partnership Planning Grant Application and Appoint Jason Ray as the Authorized Representative – Jason Ray gave an overview.

Chris Coulter motioned, and Todd Wiesehan seconded to approve the EDA PP Grant Application and Appoint Jason Ray as the authorized individual as presented. Motion carried.

4. Program Updates – Jason Ray & Staff

Jason gave updates on grant writing as Kelsi was out for her birthday. We are hiring another Grants Administrator. DNR 604(b) applications are anticipated to be released in February. Usually a 30-45 day call for projects. RPC's can apply on behalf of other organizations & communities. Have seen a lot of success with this program primarily used for stormwater management plans or flood management plans. Up to \$45,000 available, no match required. Also available through USDA Rural Development is the Rural Business Development Grant (RBDG) for communities under 50,000 population. Projects up to \$100,000 easier to get approved. Can be used for ED studies, plans, etc. Open until the end of February. No LMI required. You can contact Ashly Venolia at USDA RD phone # 660-654-5037.

Economic Development – SMCOG is contracting with the Springfield Chamber of Commerce and working with the eFactory, and the MSU-SBDC on a MO Technology Corp. Planning grant which was submitted on 9/26/23 and awarded in November. Additional information is available in the Program Report handout.

Aishwarya gave the Transportation Update.

Jason shared that in April, CDBG will open up 2 years' worth of annual allocations which will be open for 5 months. This is open to any community outside of Springfield. Has to meet 3 objectives: surveying low to moderate income populations, elimination of slum & blight, emergency assistance related to national disasters. In September we will have CDBG Mitigation funds available focusing on Branson, Bull Creek area, however, they have 50% of funding available for outside the focus regions.

Jake gave updates on Comprehensive Plans (see Program Report handout.)

Other Business – Cindy Stephens

None

Partner Updates

-MoDOT – Beth Schaller/Brad Kelly

Brad mentioned they are finalizing the STIP, later in February they will reach out to Aishwarya to see if there are any projects to be added. Beth stated it is important for each county to get their needs sent to Aishwarya for the TAC prioritization meetings. MoDOT has a lot of construction projects happening this year, you can sign up on their website for email and text updates on road construction progress.

-Ozarks Transportation Organization (OTO) – David Knaut

David commented on their 5310 projects; Enhancing Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities project is now open. OTO will be applying for a RAISE grant. The Safe Streets for All public input meetings will start next week, and they do have an online survey on their website.

-USDA RD – Ashley Venolia

Ashley shared that the RDBG deadline will be February 28th, 2024, there is no max amount, no cost sharing, and no LMI requirements. If you have a specific project in mind, please reach out to their office. This grant consists of 2 different types and their staff will help determine which one you should apply for. Outside of the RDBG, most of their projects are open access, so you can apply at any time. Ashley's office phone number is 417.831.5246 extension 4. Feel free to reach out directly.

-Randall Willoughby – MoDNR

No update

-MDC – Ronda Burnett

Ronda stated that MDC has released their 2023 highlights. She shared 3 of these highlights that focused on the SMCOG region.

1000th school added to their archery program opened at Greenwood School, MSU campus.

The new Shephard of the Hills Conservation Center broke ground in Branson.

MDC Introducing the Johnny Morris Institute of Fisheries, Wetlands and Aquatic Systems which is a partnership with MU.

-MoDED – Theresa Sampaio

Theresa announced that they have hired a new SWMo Project Manager, Brian Schwartz, formerly of the Branson Job Center.

-Janice Piper – SeniorAge

Janice shared that SeniorAge offers a tax counseling program that will be starting soon. Their Patient Companion program is still growing.

Member Updates

Jerry Harman with H2Ozarks mentioned that they have a DNR grant that they are administering, and he has flyers with more information at the check-in table.

Mark Wallace with Codefi stated that they are working with a large region to increase the Tech Economy. Their Tech 2030 report is now out and can be found on their website. They also have a school program working with youth. If you have an interested school district, please reach out to him.

Howard Fisk thanked SMCOG for providing a Zoom option and making the meeting more accessible.

Adjourn

Next SMCOG Board Meeting will be held on March 27th, 2024, at the MO Job Center in Springfield.

Steve Childers, Secretary

Date Approve