



Enhancing the quality of our communities through regional cooperation

Southwest Missouri Council of Governments

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 28, 2018

9:00 a.m.

**Springfield-Greene County Library Center - Auditorium
4653 S. Campbell Ave., Springfield, MO 65810**

Attendance :

Members:

Dana Louderbaugh – City of Fair Grove
Hank Smythe- Stone County
Todd Wiesehan - Christian County
Amanda Bybee – TREKK Design
Cindy Stephens – OTC
Max Springer – City of Mt. Vernon
Carl Carlson- Olsson & Associates
Gopala Borchelt – Toth & Assoc.
Mark Trog – City of Merriam Woods
Roger Dewalt – City of Merriam Woods
Stan Whitehurst – Webster County
J. Howard Fisk – Fisk Transportation
John Benson – City of Marshfield
Larry Sutton – City of Rogersville
Allen Kunkel – MSU
Cy Murray – White Water Electric
Gail Noggle – City of Bolivar
Randy Owens – Webster County
Gail Melgren – Tri States Water Coalition
Todd Polk – CFS Engineers
Dennis Pyle – City of Monett
Chris Hopkins – City of Billings
Shawn Barry – Toth & Assoc.
Chris Coulter – Greene County
Jon Holmes – City of Aurora
Dallas Joplin – CFS Engineers
Alice Wingo - CFO

John Forrester – Allgeier, Martin & Assoc
Dennis Wood – Stone County
Mark Maples – Stone County

Partners and Guests:

Ronda Burnett – MO Conservation
Suzanne Murphy – USDA Rural Dev.
Andrew Schiller - MoDNR
Frank Miller – MoDOT
Beth Schaller – MoDOT
Tessa Jasper – Senior Age
David Stokely – Senator McCaskill's Office
Jeremy Pruett – Congressman Long's Office

Staff:

Jason Ray
Jane Hood
Megan Clark
Dorothy Wittorff-Sandgren
Zeke Hall
Bailey Dejonge
Adam Olinger

Open Meeting

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance – Chris Coulter

Introductions and Announcements— Chris Coulter

Approval of March 28, 2018 Meeting Agenda—Chris Coulter

*Cy Murray motioned and Howard Fisk seconded to approve the Agenda for the March 28, 2018 meeting.
Motion Carried.*

Approval of January 24, 2018 Meeting Minutes— Chris Coulter

*Howard Fisk motioned and Dana Louderbaugh seconded to approve as amended the minutes for the
January 24, 2018 meeting. Motion Carried.*

Legislative Reports

Jason Ray –Missouri Speaker Pro-Tem Elijah Haahr attended the TAC meeting last week and gave an update of the State Legislature and transportation funding. He has a tax reform bill being worked on that has some transportation funding. There are also two other bills that would increase the gas tax.

Other bills we are tracking are HB1947 would allow 4th class cities to sell municipal services such as water and waste water by approval of majority vote of council or board instead of 2/3 vote. HB 2242 is a municipal expenditure data base. Dana Louderbaugh explained that this would require all municipalities to send a monthly report to the Jefferson City of every dollar spent and how spent, every month. She and others voiced opposition to this bill and encouraged members to contact their representatives.

We are pleased that Congress passed a budget bill and the government is funded through the fiscal year. The bill was favorable to RPC's and development organizations. EDA, USDA Rural Development, HUD, Department of Transportation and EPA received additional funding.

David Stokely – Senator McCaskill’s Office

Congress passed the Omnibus Spending Bill of which Senator McCaskill voted against. She feels that appropriation bills are to be considered individually not all lumped together. However, it is good that it passed as there are many good things in the bill. Mr. Stokely encouraged members to let him know of issues that they are interested in and how the Senator can assist.

Jeremy Pruett – Congressman Long’s Office

As has been discussed the Omnibus Bill did pass. For the southern counties in our region, Congressman Long had requested additional Visa's on the H-2B Vista Program however, that language was removed at the last minute which reverts back to original language authorizing DHS to increase those numbers if they so choose. Congressman Long has written a letter asking DHS to increase those. Regarding transportation, the Senate leadership has said that they did not believe an infrastructure package could get through the Senate this year so House leadership has decided to split it up into 5 or 6 smaller bills in hopes of getting them through the Senate. The Congressman filed a bill two weeks ago to help farmers. EPA has interpreted a law from last year saying that farms are the same as toxic waste facilities so farmers have to go by regulations that toxic waste facilities have to deal with. This bill would change that.

Howard Fisk asked the federal staffers about the upcoming Census forms. He has heard that there could be a question of citizenship on the forms. He is concerned that it might discourage some from completing it and affect the numbers from Missouri which in turn could affect the federal dollars that comes to Missouri. Chris Coulter added that it was a good concern.

Business Meeting

-One of the TAC representatives for Taney County had to resign and Rick Ziegenfuss has been representing Taney County as their Alternate Representative. We are asking that you officially appoint Rick Ziegenfuss of Hollister as one of the official TAC representatives for Taney County on the TAC.

*Dennis Pyle motioned and Howard Fisk seconded approval of Rick Ziegenfuss to represent
Taney County on the TAC. Motion carried.*

-Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan

Copies of the final Plan were made available and it is online on the website. We have been working on this plan for about a year. It covers all the public transit providers and human service agencies in the rural areas of the SMCOG region. No federal transit funds are spent unless the project that they are funding is identified in this Plan so it is important for the rural areas. We are requesting that you approve the Plan. Chris asked for questions/comments. There were none.

Todd Wiesehan motioned and Dana Louderbaugh seconded approval of the Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan. Motion carried.

-Title VI Plan

Title VI is part of the 1964 Civil Rights Laws. Any recipient of federal funds is required to have a Title VI Plan in place. SMCOG has been working on this Plan to identify how we can fulfill the requirements. We have also worked with the MSU attorney to make sure that it matches their Title IX Plan. (Title VI and Title IX are essentially the same thing with Title IX being for institutions of higher learning.) The Plan is on our website now for public comment and we have sent out an email with the link as well as providing a notice in all the rural newspapers in our region. We will be voting on this Plan at our next Board meeting. Chairman Chris Coulter encouraged members to review the plan before our next Board meeting.

Program/Project Reports –

Transportation Planning/Programs –

Megan Clark thanked the Board for approving the Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan and recognized the interns for their assistance in the Plan.

The Low Water Crossing Inventory has been completed for Dade, Dallas and Polk Counties. Maps and data discs were sent out the counties with the final report available on the SMCOG website. Letters were sent out to counties notifying them that the Transportation needs assessment has begun. Please complete the form or you can complete the online form. Those will go to the TAC at their July meeting.

MoDOT has put more money in their Cost Share Program.

If you have received Transportation Alternative Program grant funds in the past or plan to apply for them in the fall, make sure that you are following all the ADA requirements because you will be asked to certify that you are compliant. That includes having an ADA Transition Plan. Megan can assist you with that.

Homeland Security –

Dorothy Wittorff-Sandgren reported that FY16 has over \$200,000 spent and still waiting to hear about decision if they will be able to purchase boats to be used in all the flooding. FEMA has still not approved. A one year extension has been approved. Purchases for FY17 are starting. Applications for FY18 will be opening up around 4/4/18.

Staff from Homeland Security in Jefferson City came down this month to conduct an audit and everything was good.

Grant Writing-

Fair Grove has their contractor for their Senior Center and is moving forward. Jason attended their ground breaking ceremony 2 weeks ago.

Engle's Senior Center in Buffalo finally received the official letter of approval of CDBG funds. SMCOG has contracted with them for the administration.

-Jason Ray reported we have completed 2 buyout applications to SEMA. One for the Village of Bull Creek for flood buyout of several properties and the City of Monett for a couple properties. We submitted an emergency application to CDBG for Bull Creek's 25% match. It is an incredibly low income community.

Hazard Mitigation Plans-

Lawrence, Stone and Taney approved. Finishing up Dallas and Polk Counties and will be submitted by the first week of June and will be kicking off Dade County in July.

Other Projects –

--Working with the City of Buffalo to update their Comprehensive Plan.

-Talking to a couple of other communities on land use mapping and comprehensive plan.

-We have been working on the James River Watershed Management Plan with the Ozarks Water Watch, OEWRI, and James River Basin Partnership. Gopala Borchelt with Toth & Associates has been helping with that project also. We had amended our SMCOG budget in December to account for some pass through funds for that project that would be going to our sub-recipients that we are working with. DNR has now realized that these funds are expiring earlier than they had thought initially so we will be transitioning from our current funding source for this project to a different federal funding source. Current funding does not require a local match, however, the new funds do. We are looking at SMCOG budget to see if we could use some funds towards the match.

-Looking at putting together a coalition to look at the absence of natural gas in a donut hole of our region.

Other Business

Chairman Coulter announced it is time to form a Nominating Committee for next year's officers and asked for volunteers. Gail Noggle, Cindy Stephens and Stan Whitehurst volunteered.

Partner Updates

USDA-Rural Development – Suzanne Murphy reported they now have a budget. If you are interested in any of their programs, please contact them. USDA is encouraging communities to apply for Broadband funds. Especially communities under 20,000.

MO Dept of Natural Resource – Andy Schiller reported that he is the new Community Assistance Coordinator in the DNR regional office. He is putting together a financing workshop scheduled for 7/31/18 at the Springfield-Greene County Library Center with various agencies presenting.

MO Dept of Transportation – Frank Miller reported that MoDOT is updating their Long Range Transportation Plan which was last updated in 2014. There were 4 goals in the plan, economic development, system maintenance, improving safety, connections & choices, and they will be adding congestion & system reliability based on the increased traffic that we are now seeing Statewide. Will probably be going out for public comment sometime in April after the Commissioners meeting.

There is also a public comment period going on regarding the Public Comment Plan.

We are working on the update to the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). It will be going out for public comment in May.

Beth Schaller reported that the STIP for this District is mostly focused on maintaining the roadways.

There may be some other projects that could be updated. There are currently several bills in the Missouri Legislature being debated regarding transportation. MoDOT has put together a "Citizens Guide to Transportation" to educate the legislature and citizens. The Buckle Up Phone Down Challenge continues.

MO Dept of Conservation – Rhonda Burnett shared information on two websites: Vibrantcitieslab.com and Missouri Conservation Resource Science division will be rolling out a new website on June 1 which will include all the in house research that is done. It is science based information that is used to make all of MDC's recommendations. MDC has now had their 6th confirmed wild wolf sighting in Missouri.

Member Announcements

Members gave one minute updates of progress in their communities.

Adjourn

Howard Fisk motioned and Dennis Wood seconded. Motion Carried.

Todd Wiesehan, Secretary/Treasurer

Date Approved