



Enhancing the quality of our communities through regional cooperation

**Southwest Missouri Council of Governments
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, May 23, 2018

9:00 a.m.

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

Attendance :

Members:

Debra Hickey – City of Battlefield
Todd Wiesehan - Christian County
Amanda Bybee – TREKK Design
Cindy Stephens – OTC
David Rauch- City of Billings
Carl Carlson- Olsson & Associates
Gopala Borchelt – Toth & Assoc.
Jacob Hawkins – Christian County
Yolanda Lorge – Grupo Latinoamericano
Stan Whitehurst – Webster County
J. Howard Fisk – Fisk Transportation
John Benson – City of Marshfield
Larry Sutton – City of Rogersville
Allen Kunkel – MSU
John Forrester- Allgeier, Martin & Assoc
Chris Hopkins – City of Billings
Dennis Pyle – City of Monett
Gail Melgren – Tri States Water Coalition
Todd Polk – CFS Engineers
Amanda Sites – ShowMe Christian Co
Bill Monday – City of Buffalo
Shawn Barry – Toth & Assoc.
Chris Coulter – Greene County
Ed Westerman – City of Clever
Steve Bodenhamer – City of Strafford
Alice Wingo – CFO
Jerry Harman – City of Kimberling City

Partners and Guests:

Dennis Wiggins – MO Job Center
Theresa Ballew – MO Job Center
Ronda Burnett – MO Conservation
Brad Kelley – MO Conservation
Suzanne Murphy –USDA Rural Dev.
Andrew Schiller - MoDNR
Beth Schaller – MoDOT
Joelle Cannon- Senator Blunt's Office
Adam Timmerman- Congresswoman Hartzler's Office
Jeremy Pruett – Congressman Long's Office
Missouri State Rep. Elijah Haahr

Staff:

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

Open Meeting

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance – Chris Coulter

Introductions and Announcements— Chris Coulter

Approval of May 23, 2018 Meeting Agenda—Chris Coulter

Howard Fisk motioned and Cindy Stephens seconded to approve the Agenda for the May 23, 2018 meeting. Motion Carried.

Approval of March 28, 2018 Meeting Minutes— Chris Coulter

Ed Westerman motioned and Bill Monday seconded to approve as amended the minutes for the May 28, 2018 meeting. Motion Carried.

Legislative Reports

SMCOG Legislative Update - Jason Ray –Jason introduced Missouri Speaker Pro-Tem Elijah Haahr who updated the Board on Tax Reform that was just passed in the Missouri legislative session as well as potential transportation funding that will be going to the voters.

Missouri Legislative Update – Speaker Pro-Tem Elijah Haahr- Income tax cut from 5.9% to 5.5% will go into effect January 1, 2019. Another .1% will then occur each year until it reaches 5.1%. A separate corporate tax cut 6.25% to 4% will begin January 1, 2020. In order to make the bill revenue neutral, it also changes how multistate corporations calculate their taxable income.

Regarding transportation, the last day of session, they approved sending to voters a state gas tax increase of 2 ½ cents a gallon per year for 4 consecutive years which would total a 10 cent increase. The increase will go to help pay for road and bridge and the Missouri Highway Patrol. The last transportation sales tax increase was denied by the voters in 2014.

There were about 150 bills passed this year.

Joelle Cannon – Senator Blunt’s Office

The Senate is working on nominees this week. The VA Mission Act passed the House and is now in the Senate. It includes \$15 billion for Veteran Programs including the choice to see doctors outside the VA system. No infrastructure bill at this time. The old TIGER Grant is now called BUILD. Deadline is the end of June or early July. Let their office know if you are planning on applying so that they can provide you with a letter of support.

Jeremy Pruett – Congressman Long’s Office

There will be no Infrastructure bill at this time. They are breaking up some bills to get more done.

For example the 5 year reauthorization of the FAA was passed.

Question was asked regarding the Farm Bill. It will most likely be brought back up for a vote.

Adam Timmerman – Congresswoman Hartzler’s Office

Hope to have the Farm Bill brought back for a vote in June.

This week is mark-up week in the House.

Business Meeting

1. Financial Report FY 18 3rd Quarter- Jason Ray

Jason presented the FY 18 3rd quarter Financial Report.

Dennis Pyle motioned and Gail Melgren seconded to approve the FY18 3rd Quarter Financial Report. Motion carried.

2. Operations Budget FY19- Jason Ray

Jason presented the FY19 Operations Budget. Expecting an increase in revenues for FY19. Conservatively only including projects that are already under contract or in the process of contracting. We now have 3 full time staff and starting July 1, 2019, SMCOG will be funding 100% of

the Executive Director's salary which will be the first time with no outside assistance from the University. For the first time in a long time, SMCOG will be debt free to the University. *Cindy Stephens motioned and Howard Fisk seconded approval of the FY19 Operations Budget. Motion carried.*

3. Approval of Title VI Plan- Jason Ray

The Plan was discussed at the March Board Meeting and has been on the SMCOG Website as well as soliciting public comment. It was sent out to all the newspapers in the region. Asking for approval from the Board.

Cindy Stephens motioned and Howard Fisk seconded approval of the Title VI Plan. Motion carried.

4. Nominating Committee Report- Jason Ray

The Nominating Committee members were Cindy Stephens, Stan Whitehurst and Gail Noggle. The Nominating Committee Report showing proposed Non-Governmental Members and Executive Committee was distributed to the Board in their packets of information. The Executive Committee consisted of Chris Coulter, Chair, Dana Louderbaugh, Vice-Chair, Todd Weisehan Secretary/Treasurer, and John Benson, Allen Kunkel, Dennis Pyle, and Chris Berndt, members. The action to approve the report in the past has been done in May but it is scheduled for the June Meeting according to the SMCOG Bylaws. Chairman Chris Coulter asked if the Board wanted to move forward and vote on the proposed members and Executive committee now or wait until June. Gail Melgren said to move forward. Chairman Coulter asked for a motion to approve.

Gail Melgren motioned and Cindy Stephens seconded approval of the SMCOG Non-Government Members and the Executive Board.

Program/Project Reports –

Transportation Planning/Programs – Megan Clark

TAC appointments will be voted on at the June Board Meeting. We still have a couple vacancies to fill. Within the next couple of weeks we will be visiting all of our 10 county commissions to discuss with them their regional transportation needs. We are sending out letters regarding these meetings as well as posting on our website. Then in July, the TAC will prioritize all the needs and vote on them. At the August TAC Meeting we will prioritize bike and pedestrian needs. These will then go to MoDOT District meeting in October. The BUILD grant applications are due 7/19/18. The Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) used to replace diesel vehicles has a deadline of 6/29/18. The Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) is not out yet. MoDOT Commissioners Meeting will be held in Springfield at the MoDOT District Office on 7/11/18.

Homeland Security – Dorothy Wittorff-Sandgren

Dorothy Wittorff-Sandgren reported FEMA approved the purchase of boats from the 2016 money. The funding for 2017 is moving along. The 2018 process has started. We do not know how much money we will be receiving but are anticipating about \$300,000. This money is used to purchase or maintain equipment for public safety for the Homeland Security Region.

Grant Writing- Dorothy Wittorff-Sandgren

Ground has been broken for the Fair Grove Senior Center.

Engle's Senior Center in Buffalo finally received the official letter of approval of CDBG funds. Staff from CDBG will be coming down to meet with those involved in the project.

Hazard Mitigation Planning -Jason Ray

Jason reported that Stone County Hazard Mitigation Plan has been approved by FEMA. Still have Dade, Polk and Dallas Counties that we are working on. Working on flood plain buy-outs in downtown Monett and the Village of Bull Creek in Taney County. Also working on application to CDBG for Bull Creek's 25% match since they are a very low income community. Working on Notice of Interest for Saddlebrook to apply for future mitigation funds.

Other Projects –

- Two applications have been completed for the MoDOT's Safety Program to do some public education
- An application has been completed for USDA Community Facilities Technical Assistance Program.
- Talking to EDA see how we can restore our Regional Economic Development Planning Grant. They have asked us to put together a Scope of Work and budget. EDA also has a lot of disaster funds available. It is a 50/50 match requirement.
- Currently working on the City of Buffalo's Comprehensive Plan update.
- Working on an agreement with the City of Ozark to do a Comprehensive Plan update.
- Talking to the City of Willard about doing a Comprehensive Plan update.
- Talking to the City of Billings as well as a few other communities regarding Comprehensive Plans.
- Will be working on an ADA Transition Plan for Webster County
- May be doing some Sidewalk Inventories for various communities.
- FEMA is asking the States to work with local jurisdictions on repetitive loss infrastructure. After a disaster FEMA will replace infrastructure with up to a 15% improvement. That 15% comes from one pot of mitigation funds. There is another FEMA program for which they would like us to identify those communities with repetitive loss infrastructures and put together NOI and plan on how you can improve those structures in case a disaster should happen again. We want feedback from communities that have repetitive loss infrastructure situations.

Other Business

None

Partner Updates

USDA-Rural Development – Suzanne Murphy reported that the national office has put high priority on a couple of projects. One is the Opioid Crisis in rural America. They have grants up to \$150,000 for medical centers, treatment centers, etc. in the rural areas. Deadline is June 4.

Also a priority on Summer Food Program. They are looking for communities that have a site for a Food Program. Food will be provided for children and seniors.

Accepting grant applications for Community Facilities as well as equipment.

MO Dept of Natural Resources – Andy Schiller reported that their Red Tape Reduction is ongoing. The next date is 5/31/18.

A DNR Workshop for 7/31/18 will be in Springfield. Many State agencies will be there.

MO Dept of Transportation – Beth Schaller reported workers are out mowing and doing maintenance. Please pay attention. They will be hosting commission meeting in July. Will be approving the STIP. Getting ready for major work in paving I-44 from Sarcoux to Halltown. That will start June 1. The second phase of the Highway 65 rebuild will be going on at 65 and I-44 starting after July 4th. The Highway 65 6-lane project will be continuing from Evans Road to Highway CC.

MO Dept of Conservation – Ronda Burnett

The Department of Conservation held a meeting at Saddlebrook last night looking for conservation ideas to aid in prevention of erosion of the creek that goes through their community and how they can manage their common areas in a more natural way.

We have a new Conservation Area in Dallas County, near Windyville, which is a 671 acre area, mostly forested, and called the Alfred Newton Gossett Conservation Area.

We have more black bears in our regions than ever before, migrating in from Arkansas. We have 350 black bears that we are aware of. Make sure that any food is not outside.

Missouri Job Center – Dennis Wiggins reported that Change 1000 is a pilot program with a goal to employ 1000 people in the next 3 years.

Last week they had a Lunch & Learn with the Dept of Corrections regarding the issue of hiring those that have left incarceration.

Health Care hiring event coming up 6/4/18.

Build My Future event in the spring was very successful with over 1000 students.

Visited with all the county commissioners recently regarding town hall meetings.

Community Foundation of the Ozarks – Alice Wingo reported that they are in their 3rd year of the Growth in the Rural Ozarks (GRO) Program. Marshfield has been participating and Buffalo and Aurora are new to the program. They are working with a consultant out of Ohio.

Member Announcements

None

Adjourn

Howard Fisk motioned and Stan Whitehurst seconded. Motion Carried.

Todd Wiesehan, Secretary/Treasurer

Date Approved