



Southwest Missouri Council of Governments
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 24, 2021
9:00 a.m.
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Attendance :

Members:

Andrea Sitzes – Show Me Christian CO
Cindy Stephens - OTC
Tia Clemens - Olsson
Callie Linville – City Utilities
Cary Charles - OTC
Shawn Barry – Toth & Assoc
Chris Hopkins - Billings
Mark Maples – Stone County
Howard Fisk – Fisk Transportation
Gail Noggle – ED Alliance Bolivar/Polk Co
Todd Wiesehan – Christian County
Steve Bodenhamer - Battlefield
Hollie Elliott – Dallas CO Economic Dev.
Jerry Harman – Kimberling City
Dale Maisel- Clever
Danny Perches – Spfd Chamber
Steve Childers - Ozark
Chena Simmons – Branson
Joel Hornickel - Branson
Neil Brady – Bartlett & West
Stan Whitehurst – Webster County
Dana Louderbaugh – Fair Grove
Max Springer – Mt. Vernon
Sherry Coker - OTC
Devin Fisher – White River Elec. Coop.
Kathy Smith – N-Form Architecture
Duane Lavery – GRO Marshfield
Sam Rost – Marshfield
Brendan Griesemer - Springfield
Hank Smythe – Stone County
Jon Holmes - Aurora
Melinda Robertson – Polk County
Stephen Short – Fair Grove
Randy Owens – Webster County

Melissa Mau-Ash Grove
Brad Gray - Willard
John Forrester – Allgeier Martin
Lindsay Reichart – Paragon Architecture
Mary Lily Smith – Springfield
Yolanda Lorge -Grupo Latinoamericano
Bill Monday – Buffalo
Max Manning – Reeds Spring

Partners and Guests:

Beth Schaller – MoDOT
Clayton Campbell – Sen. Hawley’s Office
Frank Miller -MoDOT
Christa Atchison – MoDED
Laura Larmore – MO Higher Ed
Lindsay Farrow – Rep. Alex Riley office
Zeke Hall - MoDOT
Stacy Burks – Red Cross
Ron Seyl - MoDED
Pamela Duitsman – MO Extension
Dennis Wiggins – Ozark Reg Career Center
Alicce Wingo – CFO
Drew Cannon – Congrswmn Hartzler’s Off.
Ronda Burnett – MDC
Sonya Anderson – Sen. Blunt’s Office
Sherri Rhuems – SW Region Career Center
Andrew Seiler - MoDOT
Stan Arnoldy – CFO
Rick Artman – Greene County
Dan Waddington – Sen. Blunt’s office
MO Rep. Bishop Davidson – District 130
Andy Schiller – MO DNR
Alex Cobb – SeniorAge
MO Rep. Travis Smith – District 155

Dan Engerman- MO Sen. Karla Eslinger of-
fice District 33

Staff:

Jason Ray
Jane Hood
Dorothy Wittorff-Sandgren
Hanna Schinstock

Thomas Cunningham
Jack Weindel
Aishwarya Shrestha
Courtney Pinkham

Open Meeting

Introductions and Announcements— Cindy Stephens

Approval of March 24, 2021 Meeting Agenda—Cindy Stephens

Howard Fisk motioned and Sam Rost seconded to approve the revised Agenda for the March 24, 2021 meeting. Motion Carried.

Approval of January 27, 2021 Meeting Minutes— Cindy Stephens

Gail Noggle motioned and Steve Childers seconded to approve the Minutes for the January 27, 2021 meeting. Motion Carried.

Guest Speaker

Andrew Seiler from Missouri Depart of Transportation gave an update on Off-System Bridge Re-
placement and Rehabilitation (BRO).

Legislative Reports

Sonya Anderson – Senator Blunt’s Office

The \$1.9 Trillion American Rescue Plan that was passed included money for state and local COVID relief. The PPP Extension Act of 2021 has passed the House and now in the Senate. The Presidents cabinet nominations have all be confirmed.

Clayton Campbell – Senator Hawley’s Office

Regarding the American Rescue Plan, they have had several questions from local governments as to when they can expect guidance from the Treasury about how they can use the money. They expect the Treasury to release something by May 11.

Drew Cannon - Congresswoman Hartzler’s Office

The American Rescue Plan includes \$350 billion for states and local governments. The National Association of County Governments or National League of Cities websites where they have estimates as to the amount they will receive. His office has been asked when the second round of funding will be released. It will need to be released within 12 months of the first round. This money will be able to be spent on broadband and water/waste water projects. Earmarks are back. The rules and regulations from the House have not been sent out yet.

State Legislative Reports

Senate District 33 – Karla **Eslinger’s** office – Dan Engermann

Senator Eslinger’s district overlaps into SMCOG area covering Webster County. They have been working with SMCOG and Webster County on some highway projects. Senator Eslinger has sponsored SB265 regarding workforce and education. She is also concerned about legislation regarding Sheltered Workshops, Wayfair and Fuel Tax.

Business Meeting

1. Approval of Market Study Recipients – Jason Ray

This is part of the CARES Act funds from EDA. Part of the funds is being used for community Market Studies.. The CEDS Committee and a sub-committee along with SMOG staff put together a scoring criteria. Only 3 applications were received. The CEDS committee is recommending that all 3 be approved by the full Board. The 3 communities are Ozark, Republic and Buffalo.

Duane Lavery motioned, and Dana Louderbaugh seconded approval of the Market Study Recipients. Steve Childers from the City of Ozark abstained. Motion carried.

2. Program Updates – Jason Ray & Staff

Program Reports –See Program Report for full list of activity that was emailed out prior to meeting.

- The money that communities and counties receive from the American Rescue Plan is based on HUD criteria. The Treasury should release guidance by the middle of May.

-Transportation Planning -Aishwarya Shrestha

SMOG participated in MoDOT's Statewide Planning Partner meeting, TAP Application meeting, and Unfunded Needs meeting. The deadline for MoDOT's Cost Share Program applications is 4/16/21. Staff is updating Regional Transportation Plan

-Hazard Mitigation Plans –Thomas Cunningham

Christian and Webster County plans are completed and fully approved by FEMA. Staff is working on Barry County. Cassville is working on re-entering the NFIP. Staff working with Saddlebrooke for a grant to replace a culvert.

-Homeland Security -Thomas Cunningham

FY19 purchasing is 70% complete. We received signed contract for FY20. The state allocation for FY21 is slightly higher. Award not complete yet. Next RHSOC meeting is 4/21/21.

-Grant Writing & Administration -Jason Ray

Closing out floodplain buy outs for Bull Creek & Monett. Waiting to hear back on several CDBG applications.

-Comprehensive Planning – Jason Ray

Working on Battlefield, Republic and Christian County.

-Economic Development-Jason Ray

EDA Revolving Loan Fund was awarded from EDA

Partner Updates

MoDOT – Frank Miller & Beth Schaller

MoDOT develops a high priority Unfunded Needs List in case additional funding becomes available. Some of the 2019 projects on the Unfunded Needs List will begin this summer.

Frank put a link to the list in the chat box.

Beth reported they have had complaints on trash on the roadways. Previously they have used incarcerated crews for cleanup but that has ended for now due to COVID. They will be holding an April Trash Bash to encourage volunteers to participate. In 2019 they spent \$5.5 million and in 2020 \$6.5 million to clean up trash. Summer construction on projects has started and they have already had 9 trucks hit across the State. Please slow down in construction zones! On the MoDOT website under SW region they have all the projects listed.

MO Dept of Natural Resource (DNR) – Andy Schiller

Their water specialists have provided a lot of online training for operators to renew their certificates. Contact them for additional information.

MO Dept of Conservation (MDC) – Ronda Burnett

They are noticing a lot more trash along their waterways. NDC conducts quarterly surveys and people have reported experiencing nature close to where they live since COVID began. NDC would like to see that continued. NDC and the American Conservation Heritage Foundation just hosted the Missouri National Archery in Schools Tournament that was held at the Branson Convention Center. More than 3000 students attended. The Missouri Arbor Day is coming up on 4/2/21. The Andy Dalton Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center has opened in Western Greene County. Snagging season is open for paddlefish now and includes Table Rock Lake.

Ozark Region Workforce Development Board – Dennis Wiggins

The Momentum Survey results are available which Jason will be sharing the link. The Momentum event was a recorded event this year held on 2/24/21 due to COVID. Businesses are expanding and needing workers, however, there seems to be people not getting back into the workforce.

Dept of Higher Education - Workforce Development - Laura Larmore

They have offered virtual training online during COVID. On 3/15/21 most of the Job Centers opened up. In the last 2 months employers served in the SW region has been 865 with over 8000 services provided. Total number of calls is over 17,000. Walk-in traffic has been over 3000 with appointments.

Community Foundation of the Ozarks (CFO) – Alice Wingo

Today is Give Ozarks Day Rally for Recovery. There are 150 non-profits that you can give to. You can give up until 7pm this evening.

American Red Cross – Stacy Burks

March is Red Cross month. Red Cross has changed the way they respond to disasters due to COVID but will still provide services to the communities and individuals.

MoDED – Christa Atchison

They have partnered with the Gro Program to work provide assistance. DED has a high activity level of projects. Many openings and expansions of businesses but workers are needed to fill the jobs.

SeniorAge – Alex Cobb

They have a vaccination hotline which he will include the number in the chat box. Tax deadline has been extended to May 17th. They have applied to become a Hub for the Vista Program through HUD. They will have a virtual Health Expo in May. They will begin reopening soon by starting with programs first.

Member Updates

Adjourn

Dana Louderbaugh motioned, and Howard Fisk seconded. Motion Carried.

Todd Wiesehan, Secretary/Treasurer

Date Approved