



Southwest Missouri  
Council of Governments

*Enhancing the quality of our communities through regional cooperation*

**Southwest Missouri Council of Governments  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday May 22, 2013  
9:00 a.m.  
Library Station, Frisco Room  
Springfield, MO**

**Attendance**

**Members:**

Cindy Stephens, OTC  
Steve Childers, Ozark  
Brian Bingle, Nixa  
Gail Noggle, Republic  
Dennis Wood, Stone County  
David Watson, Marshfield  
Todd Wiesehan, Christian County  
Stan Whitehurst, Webster County  
Ed Westerman, Clever  
Howard Fisk, Fisk Transportation  
Chris M. Hopkins, Billings  
Chris Coulter, Greene County  
Bud Pierce, Billings  
Karen Robson, Willard  
David Gardner, Willard  
Nancy Edson, Rogersville  
Brian Bingle, Nixa

**Partners:**

Steve McIntosh, Senator Blunt's Office  
Stacy Burks, Senator Blunt's Office  
David Rauch, Senator McCaskill's Office  
Bruce Hively, USDA  
Chris Berndt, SMESO

**Staff:**

Diane May  
Jane Hood  
Dan Watts  
Dave Faucett  
Dorothy Wittorff-Sandgren

**Open Meeting**

**Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance** – Chris Coulter

**Introductions and Announcements**—Chris Coulter

**Approval of May 22, 2013 Meeting Agenda**—Chris Coulter

*Cindy Stephens motioned and Bud Pierce seconded to approve the agenda. Motion Carried.*

**Approval of March 27, 2013 Meeting Minutes**—Chris Coulter

Cindy Stephens noted that her name is misspelled on Page 3

*Howard Fisk motioned and Nancy Edson seconded to approve the minutes as amended. Motion Carried.*

## **Legislative Reports**

### **Senator McCaskill's Office—David Rauch**

Immigration compromise is set to go to the Senate for debate. This was a huge bipartisan effort on the Judiciary Committee to get this out for debate. WRDA(Water Resources Development Act) Bill is through the Senate. It is major infrastructure avenues for water resources. The overall U.S. deficit is less than anticipated for FY14. This can be attributed to economic growth and budget cuts. The Senator has been active with sexual assault issue. She chairs 2 subcommittees, consumer protection and financial contract and oversight. Today she is at a hearing on the medical equipment industry. The future of Fort Leonard Wood is being discussed. The Dewey Short visitor center is the first LEED certified building (ARRA Project) in Stone County. This was an ARRA funded project. David Rauch announced he is retiring and Gail Melgren is named as his successor.

### **Senator Blunt's Office—Stacy Burks/Steve McIntosh**

Senator Blunt has met with various groups regarding "Obamacare." In his analysis, one issue is employers are only hiring part-time employees due to provisions in the law that stipulate employee benefits be provided for full time employees. The Senator was able to get a purple heart for an individual from Vietnam and was able to personally present the individual with his medal. Nominations for IRS and EPA are moving to the full House. Mental illness and gun control still on the plate and the Senator is trying to move the issue forward. The full gun bill has been pulled from the floor. Steve McIntosh is cutting back to covering 6 counties (Barry, Stone, Lawrence, Jasper, Newton and McDonald)

## **Business**

### **Financial Report (March-April 2013)—Diane May**

Diane May reported on the March-April financial statements. She reported no unusual issues in the statement. Expenses and revenues are reported both with the Homeland Security pass through and without. The deficit has been reduced by around \$10,000. SMCOG will be invoicing for several projects in the next months.

*Steve Childers motioned and Cindy Stephens seconded to accept the March/April 2013 Financial Report. Motion carried.*

### **By-Laws Change—Chris Coulter**

Adding associate memberships to the bylaws...section 3.13 of the bylaws.

*Gail Noggle motioned and Cindy Stephens Seconded to accept the by-law amendments. Motion carried.*

### **Committee Appointments—Chris Coulter**

Nominating: Todd Wiesenhan  
Garrett Anderson  
Jeff Siefried

Budget: Gale Noggle  
Brian Bingle  
Cindy Stephens

**Strategic Planning Committee Report—Chris Coulter**

The Committee has been focusing on the future of SMCOG. One item of discussion is the relationship with MSU and how SMCOG can become independent. The committee went over some notes from a session held a couple years ago with Steve Etcher. We are currently reviewing the current mission statement and determining if it needs to be changed.

**Transportation Report—Dan Watts**

SMCOG is working on compiling a list of sidewalk needs and finalizing the sidewalk inventory. Additionally, updating the 2014 Work Program is in progress. Mr. Watts continues to serve on the MACOG Transportation Sub-committee.

**Homeland Security— Dorothy Wittorff-Sandgren**

Fy10 is almost finished. \$15,000 is left but it has been obligated. FY11 is down to \$14,000 and we've just started with FY12. FY13 is still up in the air and it's to be determined the amount of funding that will be available.

**Director's Report—Diane May**

Ms. May provided a summary that detailed project updates. Stone and Taney County hazard mitigation plans are completed and awaiting final approved letter from FEMA. Lawrence County is completed and we are working on adoption resolutions. Polk, Dade and Dallas are still in progress. Dorothy is working with Dallas County.

CDBG-The low-water crossing inventory is moving forward. Lawrence County is nearing completion and Dallas County is around 50% complete. SMCOG is also busy building the data base for Land Use Suitability. Dave Faucett met with Fair Grove to begin the first phase of the Land Use Suitability and integrating the information into their comp plan.

Mo Broadband- SMCOG has started on the first phase. Mr. Faucett met with the technical team two weeks ago.

Structures Project- SMCOG will be reviewing the critical facilities. The next phase will be to review ALL structures. This project relates to emergency managers. Critical anchor institutions need to know the bandwidth of all critical infrastructure.

**Other Business:**

Municipal Official's Training Workshop will be July 25<sup>th</sup>.

Jane Hood and Dan Watts are working with Jeff Seifried, Springfield Regional Economic Partnership (Springfield Chamber) to put together a transportation workshop, addressing transportation funding in smaller communities.

**Partner Agency Updates**

**USDA-Rural Development —Bruce Hively**

USDA is receiving their second half allocation. USDA has some deadlines coming up: Rural Energy Assistance Program deadline is May31. This is open to Ag business and small retail in areas less than 5,000 population. Also, the Rural Business Opportunities Grant. There are 2-7 grants available. USDA will have infrastructures grants available. Water, Waste and Community Facilities are going to be highly competitive in the future. Most money will be available in the form of subsidized loans.

**Adjourn** – Motion made by Howard Fisk. Seconded by Bud Pierce.

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Cindy Stephens, Secretary/Treasurer

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Date Approved