



**Southwest Missouri Council of Governments
Board of Directors Annual Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 27, 2021
8:00 a.m.**

Oasis Convention Center, 2546 N. Glenstone Ave., Springfield, MO

Attendance:

Members:

Chris Coulter- Greene County
Anna Evans – Show Me Christian Co
Andy Novinger – Anderson Engineering
Cindy Stephens – OTC
Becky Baltz – TREKK Design
Cary Charles – OTC
Howard Fisk – Fisk Transportation
Todd Wiesehan – Christian County
Hollie Elliott – Dallas Co Economic Dev
Crystal Warren – Fair Grove
Dane Seiler – CJW Transportation
Joel Hornickel – Branson
Stan Whitehurst – Webster County
Randy Owens – Webster County
Dana Louderbaugh – Fair Grove
John Forrester – Allgeier, Martin
Callie Linville – City Utilities
Jared Rasmussen – Olsson
Sam Rost – Marshfield
Hank Smythe – Stone County
Stephen Short – Fair Grove
Lindsay Reichart – Paragon Architecture
Ken McClure – Springfield
Duane Lavery - GroMarshfield
Grant Selvey – Lawrence County
Jacob Marler – Ash Grove
Allen Kunkel - MSU
Brendan Griesemer - Springfield
Cindy Robbins – Nixa
Jake Phillips - Branson
Jon Holmes - Aurora
Bob Senninger – Lawrence County

Jason Haymes – Mt. Vernon
Mark Maples – Stone County
Jay Wynn – CJW Transportation Consultants
Nancy Edson – Esterly, Schneider
Neil Brady – Bartlett & West
Steve Schultz – Bartlett & West
Shawn Barry – Toth & Assoc
Jennifer Wilson – N-FORM
Jerany Jackson – Great River Engineering
Jerry Harman – Kimberling City
Joe Kelly – Mt. Vernon
John Montgomery – Ozark Greenways
Kathy Smith – N-FORM
Max Springer – Mt. Vernon
Matt Miller – Toth & Assoc.
Ralph Phillips – Christian County
Tim Selvey – Lawrence County
Steve Seaton – Hurley
Tina Didreckson – Crane
Tyler Barnes – Toth & Assoc
Wayne Blades – Stone County
Robin Rees – Oak Star Bank
Steve Childers – Ozark
David Roush – Billings
Gail Noggle – Econ Development Alliance
Rick Davis – Pleasant Hope

Partners and Guests:

Erin Engelmeyer – Sen. Hawley’s Office
Steve Campbell - MoDOT
Jeremy Pruett – Congressman Long’s Office

Mike Ussery – Congressman Long’s Office
Stacy Reese – MoDot
Stacy Burks – Red Cross
Natasha Longpine - OTO
Ron Seyl – MoDED
Sara Fields - OTO
Alex Cobb - SeniorAge
Andy Schiller – MO DNR
Drew Cannon – Congresswoman Vicki Hartzler
Mary Rajek - MoDED
Sonya Anderson – Sen. Blunt’s Office
Rob Hunt - MoDNR
Theresa Sampaio – Mo DED
Alice Wingo – CFO
Ronda Burnett – MDC
MO Rep Alex Riley

MO Rep Betsy Fogle
MO Rep Bill Owen
MO Rep Mike Stephens
MO Rep Mitch Boggs

Staff:

Jason Ray
Jane Hood
Avery Knese
Dorothy Wittorff-Sandgren
Aishwarya Shrestha
Thomas Cunningham
Lexi Mason
Courtney Pinkham
Hanna Schinstock
Ryan Smith

Introductions – Chris Coulter

Annual Report – Jason Ray

Guest Speaker - Treasurer Scott Fitzpatrick

Presentation of 2021 SMCOG Regional Leadership Award – Jason Ray

Dana Louderbaugh was presented the SMCOG Regional Leadership Award for 2021

Open Business Meeting

Call to Order – Chris Coulter

Approval of October 27, 2021 Meeting Agenda—Chris Coulter

Cindy Stephens motioned, and Howard Fisk seconded to approve the October 27, 2021 Meeting Agenda. Motion Carried.

Approval of August 25, 2021 Meeting Minutes— Chris Coulter

Steve Childers motioned, and Cindy Stephens seconded to approve the Minutes for the August 25, 2021 meeting. Motion Carried.

Legislative Reports

-Sonya Anderson - Senator Blunt’s Office

Prior to the summer recess the Senate passed the Infrastructure Bill which Senator Blunt was active in negotiating. It is currently in the House. Negotiations are continuing on the Appropriations Bill. Last week, passing by a unanimous voice vote was the State, Local, Tribal and Territorial Fiscal Recovery, Infrastructure, and Disaster Relief Flexibility Act. It allows local government and counties to use certain COVID relief funds for new categories of spending and makes changes to expenditure deadlines.

-Erin Engelmeyer – Senator Hawley’s Office

Senator Hawley joined Senator Tim Scott in co-sponsoring legislation that would keep the IRS from monitoring checking accounts of transactions of \$600 or more, which was part of the Build Back Better plan. Today, in a Senate Hearing, he is questioning Attorney General Garland regarding the FBI getting involved in local school board activities. The supply chain continues to be a problem, so he is introducing “Make in America, Sell in America Act.” Another bill introduced is Big Tech Act. Their phone number is 417-869-4433.

-Mike Ussery – Congressman Long’s Office

He addressed the change in ARPA funds act and how it could be used. The Congressman introduced a bill regarding supply chain.

-Drew Cannon – Congresswoman Vicki Hartzler’s Office

Congresswoman is concerned about the current Build Back Better bill. She is looking at sponsoring a companion bill to a Senate bill.

State Legislative Reports

-State Rep. District 134 – Representative Alex Riley

They are not in session at the present time, however, there has been a lot of work regarding how to spend the covid funds, rural broadband, etc. This is also a redistricting year.

-State Rep. District 135 - Betsy Fogle

She just finished her freshman year and serves on the State budget committee.

-State Rep. District 131 – Representative Bill Owen

He sponsored the Land Bank Bill for Springfield this past session and came close to passing. It has received a lot of interest from other communities. He is now working with MML who is on board with it to help get it passed next session. A group started a couple of years ago called Restore Springfield was started to try to rebuild housing stock in Springfield.

-State Rep. District 157 – Representative Mitch Botts

Encouraged people to visit their representatives in Jefferson City. It does make a difference.

Business

1. Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Report Approval (presented prior to meeting)– Jason Ray

Steve Childers motioned and Gail Noggle seconded to Approve the Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Report. Motion carried.

2. Approve FY2021 4th Quarter Financial Report– Jason Ray

Jason reviewed the 4th Quarter Financial Report which was sent out prior to meeting.

Bob Senninger motioned and Steve Childers seconded to Approve the FY2021 4th Quarter Financial Report. Motion carried.

Partner Updates

-MO Dept of Transportation – Steve Campbell

They are facing a large number of employees leaving and taking higher paying positions. This will be a challenge for MoDOT.

-Ozarks Transportation Organization (OTO) – Sara Fields

Thankful that the MO Legislature passed the fuel tax. This will allow them to match federal highway funds. Their top priority is I-44. They also have 117 projects on their list that need to be funded.

-MO Dept of Natural Resources – Andy Schiller & Rob Hunt

Continuing with staff changes. Hannah Humphries will be one of the Deputy Directors. They are discussing use of ARPA funding. Have sent out surveys to communities.

–MO Dept of Conservation – Ronda Burnett

Missouri Outdoor Recreational Access Plan developed to increase outdoor recreational opportunities on private land. MDC provides payments to private landowners who open their land for public recreational activities.

-MO Dept of Economic Development – Theresa Sampaio & Mary Rajek

DED Director Rob Dixon has left DED and Maggie Kost is acting director. Christa Atchison has also left DED for the private sector. CDBG-CD is open for applications. They have received 20 so far. It is an open funding cycle.

-SeniorAge- Alex Cobb

Working on the Medicare Open Enrollment with seniors. They are also the grant holders for the Affordable Care Act. So they are helping anyone age 18-and above with determining their health care options.

They produce and deliver over 2 million meals for seniors over the past year.

-American Red Cross – Stacy Burks

They are also having staff position openings. This is also the end of Fire Prevention Month. They can come to your community to talk about their program and prevention.

Chris Coulter noted that this is Max Springer’s last meeting as he is retiring as City of Administrator in Mt. Vernon. He also thanked the Associate Members and their sponsorships.

Adjourn

Steve Childers motioned, and Hank Smythe seconded. Motion Carried.

Todd Wiesehan, Secretary/Treasurer

Date Approve