



**Southwest Missouri Council of Governments
Board of Directors Annual Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 25, 2022
9:00 a.m.
Virtual via Zoom**

Attendance:

Members:

Chris Hopkins - Billings
Allen Kunkel - MSU
Angela Leist - Forsyth
Cindy Robbins - Nixa
Anna Evans – Show Me Christian Co
Cary Charles – OTC
Howard Fisk – Fisk Transportation
Todd Wiesehan – Christian County
Hollie Elliott – Dallas Co Economic Dev
Brad Gray - Willard
Beth Barnum – Fair Play
Stan Whitehurst – Webster County
Callie Linville – Springfield City Utilities
John Forrester – Allgeier, Martin
Sam Rost – Marshfield
Steve Walensky - Cassville
Chris Warwick - Bolivar
Hank Smythe – Stone County
Gail Noggle – Bolivar & Polk Co Alliance
Lindsey Reichert – Paragon Architecture
Devin Sonnenfelt – White River Electric Coop
Duane Lavery - GroMarshfield
Isabella Karallas - TREKK
Hanna McMurray -
Neil Brady – Bartlett & West
Cameron Smith – Ozark
Kathy Carnahan - Fordland
Chena Simons - Branson
Chris Coulter – Greene County
Ken McClure - Springfield
Martha Smartt - Strafford
Matt Morrow – Spfd Chamber

Chris Berndt - SMESO
Jerry Harman – Kimberling City
Nancy Edson – Esterly, Schneider
Ralph Phillips – Christian County
Rick Artman – Green Co. Highway
Russ Douglas – Webster County EMD
Sharmin Palmer – Village of Taneyville
Mark Wallace – Show Me Christian Co
Sherry Coker – OTC
Melissa Mau – Ash Grove
Megan Bischof – Ozark
Steve Schultz – Bartlett & West
Tina Didreckson - Crane
Bob Senninger – Lawrence County
Stephen Short – Fair Grove

Partners and Guests:

Erin Engelmeyer – Sen. Hawley’s Office
Beth Schaller - MoDOT
Mike Ussery – Congressman Long’s Office
Stacy Burks – Red Cross
Theresa Sampaio – MoDED
Sara Fields - OTO
Drew Cannon – Congresswoman Vicki Hartzler
Alex Cobb - SeniorAge
Rob Hunt – MoDNR
Laura Laramore – Mo Higher Ed/Workforce
Ronda Burnett – Mo Dept of Conservation
Dan Wadlington – Senator Blunt’s Office
Dennis Wiggins – Ozarks Region Career Center
Alice Wingo – CFO
Ron Seyl - MoDED

Chris Gant - SEMA
Michelle Roofener – Mo Higher Ed/Workforce

Jason Ray
Jane Hood
Dorothy Wittorff-Sandgren
Chris Kempke
Lexi Mason
Courtney Pinkham
Jake Phillips
Thomas Cunningham

Staff:

Open Meeting

1. Call to Order – Chris Coulter

2. Introductions and Announcements

3. Approval of March 23, 2022 Meeting Agenda – Chris Coulter

Gail Noggle motioned and Sam Rost seconded to approve the March 23, 2022 Agenda. Motion carried.

4. Approval of January 26, 2022 Meeting Minutes— Chris Coulter

Sam Rost motioned and Gail Noggle seconded to approve the January 26, 2022 Minutes. Motion carried.

Chris Coulter announced that he has another meeting at 9:30am and will turn the meeting over to Vice-Chair Duane Lavery at that time.

Legislative Reports

-Dan Wadlington - Senator Blunt's Office

The administration is asking for \$15 billion for COVID testing & distribution of vaccines worldwide. Senator Blunt is not supportive at this time as previous appropriated money has not been spent yet. On Monday the White House will release the proposed federal budget. Howard Fisk shared that Senator Blunt was responsible for bringing \$25-28 million to Southwest Mo. Education to be used by MSU and OTC.

-Erin Engelmeyer – Senator Hawley's Office

Senator Hawley gave opening remarks in the Senate Judiciary Committee Hearing yesterday regarding Judge Jaskson's confirmation. The hearing can be viewed on C-SPAN. Senator Hawley has proposed the American Energy Independence Act for 2022 to bring American energy back to full production.

-Mike Ussery – Congressman Long's Office

The Congressman has introduced the Internet Exchange Act which would increase efficiency to the end user. They have also been in talks with MoDOT to discuss pending projects

-Drew Cannon – Congresswoman Hartzler's Office

The House is in recess this week. The Congresswoman and Senator Hawley have introduced the Banning Insider Trading in Congress Act which would prohibit members of Congress & spouses from holding or trading individual stocks. Congresswoman Hartzler is working on reducing the cost of fertilizer prices. It has gone up by over 300%, a 13 year high.

-State Legislative Reports – No legislators attended due to session. Jason Ray reported that Senator Hough has sponsored the re-authorization to Fast Track Workforce Incentive Grant through 2029 and Representative John Black has sponsored a bill that would create Targeted Industrial Manufacturing Enhancement (TIME) zones.

Business

1. TAC Appointment for Stone County – Jason Ray

Currently Stone County representatives on TAC are Hank Smythe, Jerry Harman and Steve Seaton as Alternate. The Stone County commissioners would like to make Jerry Harman as Alternate and Steve Seaton as representative along with Hank Smythe.

Howard Fisk motioned and Gail Noggle seconded to approve making Jerry Harman as Alternate and Steve Seaton as one of the representatives on TAC. Motion carried.

2. Program Updates – Jason Ray

Jason and staff highlighted some of the projects from the detailed Program Report that was emailed out to members on 3/21/22.

Chris Kempke shared that the CEDS committee will be working on updating the regional COVID recovery plan and data which will be due the end of December. In addition, the CEDS Plan update is due 9/30/22.

Gail Noggle asked if SMCOG could provide a refresher to CEDS committee on what will be required for the update. Jason then explained the CEDS and its history.

Thomas Cunningham reviewed Hazard Mitigation Planning.

Lexi Mason reviewed the grant writing projects.

Jake Phillips was introduced and reviewed projects including comp plans he is working on.

Other Business – Duane Lavery

Three volunteers are needed for the Nominating Committee. If anyone is interested in running for a position on the Executive Committee, please let us know. If you are interested in serving on the Nominating Committee, please contact SMCOG staff.

Partner Updates

-MO Dept of Transportation – Beth Schaller

MoDOT has a draft road and bridge plan on their website. The draft STIP will come out in May.

They will probably be applying for Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight & Highway Projects (known as INFRA) Grants Program for improvements to I-44 through the Springfield corridor.

-Ozarks Transportation Organization – Sara Fields

OTO held a public meeting open on the internet regarding I-44 & Highway 13. The website is

www.north13study.com. The price tag is \$70 – 30 million, subject to change. They are applying for a NFRA grant for \$70 million on a \$125 million project. They are applying for a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant for the MM corridor to US60 in Republic. They are doing an FF corridor study for Battlefield.

-MO DNR – Rob Hunt

They are looking forward to what will happen at the State level on the ARPA funds.

They should be having a lot more funding for loans and grants coming up for wastewater and drinking water projects. They will be putting together projects that involve environmental and safety projects including Brownfield projects.

MO Dept of Conservation – Ronda Burnett

Missouri is the 1st state in the nation to combine our State Forest Action Plan and our State Wildlife Action Plan. It includes watershed priorities and conservation opportunities. Included is an interactive map.

-Ozarks Region Workforce Development – Dennis Wiggins

Momentum event was held last week. Springfield held a hiring event with 8-9 departments represented with hundreds of job openings. There were about 80 job seekers attending. A couple roundtables will be coming up at the center. Dennis will be retiring from the job center and joining the Taney County Partnership in Branson

-MO Dept of Economic Development – Theresa Sampaio

In preparation of the ARPA funds going through DED, they issued an RFI due 3/18/22 and received over 500. The application is to come out in July. You can still apply for the funds in July. They hope to have regulations out in April.

-SeniorAge – Alex Cobb

All the community centers remain open as well as delivery of meals. Tax program will end 4/15/22. All appointment slots are taken. SeniorAge assists people in applying for Medicare. They are the local hub for the America Vista program.

-Community Foundation of the Ozarks (CFO) – Alice Wingo (cfozarks.org)

Fair Grove Foundation has a grant round available for their area. Applications due 3/31/22. The Coover Rural Schools Grant is for children health issues. Applications due 4/20/22. The Let's Get to Work Fund is ongoing and is for 14 counties. Impact 100 out of Ozark is a women's giving circle group with applications due 5/31/22.

-Red Cross – Stacy Burks

For 80 years, March is Red Cross month. They are needing volunteers in local communities. There are Red Cross mobile apps which you can download. Today is Red Cross Giving Day.

-SEMA – Chris Gaut

Duane introduced and welcomed Chris Gaut representing the Missouri State Emergency Management Agency. SEMAtraining.com will provide you with information and training opportunities.

Adjourn

Martha Smartt motioned, and Stan Whitehurst seconded. Motion Carried.

Todd Wiesehan, Secretary/Treasurer

Date Approve