



**Southwest Missouri Council of Governments  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, October 28, 2020  
9:00 a.m.  
Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

**Attendance :**

**Members:**

Chris Berndt -SMESO  
Cindy Stephens - OTC  
Bob Senninger – Lawrence County  
Gail Melgren – SW MO Water  
Lindsey Reichert - Paragon Architecture  
Chris Coulter – Greene County  
Cassie Cunningham – White River Valley Electric  
Mark Maples – Stone County  
Howard Fisk – Fisk Transportation  
Hank Smythe – Stone County  
Todd Wiesehan – Christian Count  
Dennis Pyle – Monett  
Hollie Elliott – Dallas CO Economic Dev.  
Jerry Harman – Kimberling City  
Andrea Sitzes – Show Me Christian CO  
Allen Kunkel – MSU  
John Forrester – Allgeier, Martin & Assoc  
Joel Keller – Greene County  
Chena Simmons – Branson  
Martha Smartt – Strafford  
Neil Brady – Bartlett & West  
Bob Dixon – Greene County  
Sherry Coker – OTC Workforce Dev.  
Yolanda Lorge – Grupo Latinoamericano  
Sydney Allen - Bolivar  
Callie Linville – City Utilities  
Dana Louderbaugh – Fair Grove  
Cary Charles – OTC Workforce Dev.  
Mary Lilly Smith – Springfield  
Lynne Shea – Associated Electric  
Devin Fisher – White River Valley Electric  
Danny Perches – SREP

Kathy Smith – N-Form Architecture  
Duane Lavery – GRO Marshfield  
Sam Rost – Marshfield  
Joel Hornickel – Branson  
Brendan Griesemer - Springfield  
Randy Owens – Webster County  
Joel Hornickel – Branson  
Cindy Robbins – Nixa  
Shawn Barry – Toth & Assoc  
Gail Noggle – Bolivar  
Frank Schoneboom - Battlefield  
Melissa Mau – Ash Grove  
Steve Schultz – Bartlett & West  
Madi Hires– Christian County  
Angie Snyder – Ozark Headwaters  
Becky Baltz – TREKK  
Bonnie Witte-Schulte – Lawrence CO. EM

**Partners and Guests**

Beth Schaller – MoDOT  
Clayton Campbell – Senator Hawley’s Office  
Stacy Burks – Red Cross  
Mary Rajek – MoDED  
Lynn Wehmeier – Workforce Development  
Sara Fields -OTO  
Zeke Hall - MoDOT  
Ron Seyle - MoDED  
Theresa Sampaio – MoDED  
Dan Waddlington – Senator Blunt’s Office  
Joelle Cannon – Senator Blunt’s Office

Dennis Wiggins – Ozark Region Workforce Development  
Stephen Short – MDC  
Alicia Wingo – CFO  
Drew Cannon – Congresswoman Hartzler’s Office  
Ronda Burnett – MDC  
Britni O’Connor - MoDOT  
Christa Atchison – MoDED  
Toby Dogwiler – MSU

**Staff:**  
Jason Ray  
Jane Hood  
Dorothy Wittorff-Sandgren  
Brandon Jenson  
Thomas Cunningham  
Jack Wendel  
Aishwarya Shrestha  
Will Mansfield  
Kjella Page  
Hanna Schinstock

## **Open Meeting**

**Introductions and Announcements—** Chris Coulter

**Approval of October 28, 2020 Meeting Agenda—**Chris Coulter

*Howard Fisk motioned and Cindy Stephens seconded to approve the Agenda for the October 28, 2020 meeting. Motion Carried.*

**Approval of August 26, 2020 Meeting Minutes—** Chris Coulter

*Dana Louderbaugh motioned and Bob Dixon seconded to approve the Minutes for the August 26, 2020 meeting. Motion Carried.*

## **Legislative Reports**

**Dan Waddington –** Senator Blunt’s Office

The Senate will not be in agreement on the stimulus plan until after the election on Tuesday. Senator Blunt announced last week that Missouri received \$91.5 million for expanding Broadband in Missouri which was 20% of the national allocation.

**Joelle Cannon –** The Supreme Court nomination ended on Monday. The Continuing Resolution expires 12/11/20.

**Clayton Campbell –** Senator Hawley’s Office

Senator Hawley recently sent a letter to HHS asking for the authorization of \$175 billion for the Provider Relief Fund to be made available to areas like ours being impacted by COVID-19.

**Drew Cannon -** Congresswoman Hartzler’s Office

Waiting to see what sectors are in need of assistance from the passage of the COVID-19 bills in the spring. According to the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, as of 10/8/20, there is still \$1.7 Trillion available from the \$4 Trillion that was authorized by Congress for COVID-19 relief. Operation Warp Speed is in operation and the goal is to produce 300 million doses of vaccine, with initial doses available by January 1. Two are in phase 3 trials at this time. No matter what happens in the election, they will still be pushing broadband in Congress. Missouri has 300,000 that do not have internet or very slow internet as well as 54,000 farms.

## **Business Meeting**

**1. Fiscal Year Annual Report 2020 –** Jason Ray

Jason presented the 2020 Annual Report through a PowerPoint presentation.

*Howard Fisk motioned and Gail Noggle seconded to Approve the FY2020 Annual Report. Motion carried.*

## **2. Approve FY2020 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Financials – Jason Ray**

The Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2020 financials were emailed out prior to meeting. Jason reviewed the financials.

*Motion made by Bob Senninger and seconded by Cindy Stephens to Approve the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Financials. Motion passed.*

## **3. Approval of CEDS Committee Policies – Brandon Jenson**

The CEDS committee is created under the EDA Planning Partnership Program.

The proposed CEDS Committee Policies were emailed out prior to the meeting. They are similar to the Board approved TAC Policies. Brandon reviewed the CEDS Policies.

*Motion made by Cindy Stephens and seconded by Dana Louderbaugh to Approve the CEDS Committee Policies. Motion carried.*

## **4. Other Business – Jason Ray**

Jason thanked the members and complimented them on the great relationships and support we have.

## **Partner Updates**

### **MoDOT – Beth Schaller**

As a result of the Comprehensive Plan, MoDOT's Multi-Model unit met with Webster County and pursued a CARSI Grant which is a Federal Rail Safety Administration grant. It has been awarded and are working with FRA.

The design build bridges project on I-44 (Lawrence County portion) is coming to an end. Should be complete by the middle of November. It has been very successful so they will be looking at all bridges from Oklahoma to Conway on I-44 in 2022.

Driveway permits are up this year which is an economic indicator. MoDOT will be putting a call out for TAP grants for 1 year. Trying to recruit snow plow drivers for this winter. Will move forward with the STIP process this next year.

### **Ozarks Transportation Organization (OTC) – Sara Fields**

Appreciate the Comprehensive Plans that SMOG has been doing. Will help them in their planning as well. Please take the survey which is on their website. If you complete the survey there is a chance to win a \$50 gift certificate.

### **MO Dept of Conservation (MDC) – Ronda Burnett**

MDC recently completed their 4<sup>th</sup> Conservation Partners Round Table, held virtually. About 300 participated. The annual CWD sampling weekend is coming up in November. It is held the first week of firearm deer hunting season. This year it will be voluntary.

MDC is still working to eradicate feral hogs. MDC has undergone a vast reorganization this past year. Ronda reviewed a few changes.

### **MO Higher Education & Workforce Development – Lynn Wehmeier**

They are continuing the virtual job fairs. Two are coming up in November and 3 in December.

The Springfield Job Center is one of the greatest community assets in Springfield. They are very innovative.

### **MO Dept of Economic Development (MoDED) – Mary Rajek**

The Show Me Strong Recovery website has been updated to provide good data sets including health, economic recovery and social impact data. There seems to be a lot of interest from companies looking at Missouri communities to locate/expand their business. The unemployment rate is down to 4%.

### **Community Foundation of the Ozarks (CFO) – Alice Wingo**

They have granted out \$3 million since May for non-profits and communities to meet needs as a result of COVID-19. In May, Ash Grove became the 50<sup>th</sup> affiliate community. Nevada became the 51<sup>st</sup> in October and Fair Grove has made a commitment to become an affiliate. There are several grant rounds open right now that you can access from the CFO website.

**Adjourn**

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

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Todd Wiesehan, Secretary/Treasurer

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Date Approved