



Southwest Missouri Council of Governments  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, December 2, 2020  
9:00 a.m.  
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Attendance :

Members:

Cameron Smith - Ozark  
Cindy Stephens - OTC  
Bob Senninger – Lawrence County  
Chris Hopkins - Billings  
Lindsey Reichert - Paragon Architecture  
Isaac Petersen - Cassville  
Ralph Phillips – Christian County  
Mark Maples – Stone County  
Howard Fisk – Fisk Transportation  
Hank Smythe – Stone County  
Todd Wiesehan – Christian County  
Dennis Pyle – Monett  
Hollie Elliott – Dallas CO Economic Dev.  
Jerry Harman – Kimberling City  
Andrea Sitzes – Show Me Christian CO  
Allen Kunkel – MSU  
Megan Bischof - Ozark  
Steve Childers - Ozark  
Chena Simmons – Branson  
Ron Mersch - Olsson  
Neil Brady – Bartlett & West  
Stan Whitehurst – Webster County  
Dana Louderbaugh – Fair Grove  
Cary Charles – OTC Workforce Dev.  
Mary Lilly Smith – Springfield  
Lynne Shea – Associated Electric  
Devin Fisher – White River Valley Electric  
Kathy Smith – N-Form Architecture  
Duane Lavery – GRO Marshfield  
Sam Rost – Marshfield  
Brendan Griesemer - Springfield

Gail Noggle – ED Alliance Bolivar/Polk CO  
Steve Bodenhamer - Battlefield  
Cindy Robbins - Nixa  
Joel Hornickel - Branson  
Randy Owens – Webster County  
Becky Baltz – TREKK  
Bonnie Witte-Schulte – Lawrence CO. EM

Partners and Guests

Beth Schaller – MoDOT  
Clayton Campbell – Senator Hawley’s Of-  
fice  
Frank Miller -MoDOT  
Christa Atchison – MoDED  
Chad Zickefoose - MoDOT  
Natasha Longpine -OTO  
Zeke Hall - MoDOT  
Michelle Garand – CPO  
Theresa Sampaio – MoDED  
Dan Waddington – Senator Blunt’s Office  
Pamela Duitsman – MO Extension  
Dennis Wiggins – Ozark Region Workforce  
Development  
Allice Wingo – CFO  
Drew Cannon – Congresswoman Hartzler’s  
Office  
Ronda Burnett – MDC

Staff:

Jason Ray  
Jane Hood  
Dorothy Wittorff-Sandgren

Brandon Jenson  
Thomas Cunningham  
Jack Weindel  
Aishwarya Shrestha

Will Mansfield  
Kjella Page  
Hanna Schinstock

### Open Meeting

Introductions and Announcements— Dennis Pyle

Approval of December 2, 2020 Meeting Agenda—Dennis Pyle

Vice Chair Dennis Pyle added under Other Business on the Agenda, a presentation by Chad Zickefoose of MoDOT.

Cindy Stephens motioned and Dana Louderbaugh seconded to approve the revised Agenda for the December 2, 2020 meeting. Motion Carried.

Approval of October 28, 2020 Meeting Minutes— Dennis Pyle

Dana Louderbaugh motioned and Cindy Stephens seconded to approve the Minutes for the October 28, 2020 meeting. Motion Carried.

### Legislative Reports

Dan Waddlington – Senator Blunt’s Office

Hoping that a stimulus bill will be agreed upon before Christmas. Highway Bill was extended a full year.

Clayton Campbell – Senator Hawley’s Office

No agreement at this time on another COVID relief bill. Senator Hawley will be looking at any legislation closely to make sure it supports jobs and workers. Clayton’s phone number is 417-771-9588 if anyone has questions or needs assistance.

Drew Cannon - Congresswoman Hartzler’s Office

Congresswoman Hartzler is concerned that a lot of the CARES Act money has still not been spent. As of a month ago, \$1.2 Trillion had not been spent. She will be watching what legislation is proposed.

### Business Meeting

1. Appointment of Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) member for Polk County – Jason Ray

Recommendation by Polk County to appoint Gail Noggle as one of their representatives on the TAC.

Motion made by Howard Fisk and seconded by Cindy Stephens to appoint Gail Noggle as a Polk County Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) member. Motion carried.

2. Program Updates – Jason Ray

Program Reports were emailed to members prior to meeting. (See Program Report.) Jason announced there will be a new Grant Administrator shortly as well as a Long-Term Recovery Coordinator. Staff reviewed highlights of the report.

Presentation on Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) by Chad Zickefoose- MoDOT Congress extended the highway funds for another year so MoDOT has asked communities and counties for new TAP project applications. They are due 1/29/21 at 4:00pm. He reviewed the requirements. Projects must be a minimum of \$125,000 with a 20% match. Announcements of awards will be the end of March 2021.

[Chad.Zickefoose@modot.mo.gov](mailto:Chad.Zickefoose@modot.mo.gov) Phone: 417-895-7638

## Partner Updates

MoDOT – Frank Miller, Beth Schaller,

Frank Miller reported that they plan to continue with new construction cycle this next year using last year's Prioritization. MoDOT did a little better than expected with their revenues due to increased motor vehicle sales tax. Gas tax was under by 8%.

Beth Schaller reported on their construction projects including those that are wrapping up.

Ozarks Transportation Organization (OTC) – Natasha Longpine

Working on their Long- Range Transportation Plan for 2045. If you have not taken their survey, please do so. <http://destination2045input.questionpro.com>. Also looking at financial plan for trails investment study.

MO Dept of Conservation (MDC) – Ronda Burnett

November issue of Conservation Magazine featured Mike Kromrey and the Watershed of the Ozarks. You can view that issue as well as past issues on the MDC website. In 2020, there have been 10,000 feral hogs removed. Ronda has been participating in the Springfield Comprehensive Plan update. If any communities have creeks flowing through your towns and would like assistance in how you might be able to use the natural resource and manage it, MDC can assist you. Grow Native Program administered through the Missouri Prairie Foundation has a guide that you can download. Shows where you can purchase native plants and who can assist you. They also offer memberships and certifications.

Ozark Region Workforce Development Board – Dennis Wiggins

The annual Momentum Survey is now out and online. He encouraged everyone to take the survey. <https://www.research.net/r/Momentum2021a>

Virtual roundtable discussions were recently held focusing on manufacturing and health care.

Will hold a construction round table in February 2021. All job centers State wide beginning 11/20/21 went to appointment only status.

MO Dept of Economic Development (MoDED) – Theresa Sampaio

Mary Rajek will now be leading the DED CDBG team, statewide. Theresa Sampaio and Christa Atchison will continue as SW Regional Managers. She encouraged everyone to use the [www.showmestrong.mo.gov](http://www.showmestrong.mo.gov) website. It has a lot of economic recovery data on it.

Community Foundation of the Ozarks (CFO) – Alice Wingo

Alice gave an update on the success of the GRO Communities and what they have accomplished. CFO has launched a Charitable Giving Guide to let people know where there are needs in their community. It includes over 600 organizations.

## Member Updates

Gail Noggle shared that Bolivar has announced that Tracker Marine will be adding 300 new jobs. She thanked DED and the Missouri Career Center for their assistance to Bolivar in making that happen. Dennis Pyle shared that one of Monett's existing businesses will be expanding and agreed that the assistance from partner agencies was very helpful. Howard Fisk suggested that since we are meeting virtually now that me might try to get updates from different state departments. Dana Louderbaugh from Fair Grove is looking to hire an executive assistant.

## Adjourn

Howard Fisk motioned, and Sam Rost seconded. Motion Carried.

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Todd Wiesehan, Secretary/Treasurer

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Date Approved