



**Southwest Missouri Council of Governments
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 26, 2020
9:00 a.m.
Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

Attendance :

Members:

Chris Berndt - SMESO
Cindy Stephens - OTC
Bob Senninger – Lawrence County
Stan Whitehurst – Webster County
Steve Childers - Ozark
Todd Wiesehan – Christian County
Dennis Pyle - Monett
Howard Fisk – Fisk Transportation
Sam Rost - Marshfield
Martha Smartt - Strafford
Duane Lavery – GRO Marshfield
Randy Owens – Webster County
Joel Hornickel – Branson
Cindy Robbins – Nixa
Shawn Barry – Toth & Assoc
Gail Noggle – Bolivar
Neil Brady – Bartlett & West
Kathy Smith – N-Form Architecture
John Forrester - Allgeier, Martin & Assoc
Hollie Elliott – Dallas County
Steve Schultz – Bartlett & West
Devin Fisher – White River Electric
Allen Kunkel - MSU
Yolanda Lorge – Grupo Latinoamericano
Madi Hires – Christian County
Chris Hopkins - Billings
Chena Simmons - Branson
Cary Charles - OTC

Dana Louderbaugh – Fair Grove
Andrea Sitzes – Show Me Christian Co
Jerry Harman – Kimberling City
Brendan Griesemer - Springfield
Angela Leist – Forsyth
Danny Perches - SREP
Hank Smythe – Stone County
Mark Maples – Stone County
Stan Arnoldy – Saddlebrooke

Partners and Guests

Zeke Hall – MoDOT
Clayton Campbell – Senator Hawley's Office
Stacy Burks – Red Cross
Mary Rajek – MoDED
Lynn Wehmeier – Workforce Development
Natasha Longpine -OTO
Pamela Duitsman – MU Extension
Randall Willoughby - DNR
Theresa Sampaio – MoDED
Dan Waddlington – Senator Blunt's Office
Dennis Wiggins – Ozark Region Workforce Development
Stephen Short -- MoDC

Staff:

Jason Ray

Jane Hood

Dorothy Wittorff-Sandgren

Brandon Jenson

Jack Wendel

Aishwarya Shrestha

Will Mansfield

Open Meeting

Introductions and Announcements— Dennis Pyle

Approval of August 26, 2020 Meeting Agenda—Dennis Pyle

Duane Lavery motioned and Randy Owens seconded to approve the Agenda for the August 26, 2020 meeting. Motion Carried.

Approval of June 24, 2020 Meeting Minutes— Chris Coulter

Dana Louderbaugh motioned and Bob Senninger seconded to approve the Minutes for the June 24, 2020 meeting. Cindy Stephens noted a correction in the minutes which should read Sherry Coker is from OTC and not OTO. Motion Carried.

Legislative Reports

Clayton Campbell – Senator Hawley’s Office

There is no agreement at this time for additional COVOD Relief funds. Negotiations continue. The Senator has proposed a Rehiring American Plan in the Coronavirus Relief Plan.

Business Meeting

1. Program Updates – Jason Ray

Jason updated the Board on new staff. The Program Updates were emailed out to membership along with Agenda and Minutes, prior to meeting. Jason and staff reviewed the report.

Jason added that SMCOG just received notification yesterday that EDA is moving forward in the review process with our request for \$1million Revolving Loan Fund. The EDA RLF is very flexible and can be used to create and retain jobs by both private and public entities in our region.

Partner Updates

Mo Dept of Transportation – Zeke Hall reported there have been several modifications due to the Coronavirus including changes in STIP, reduced hours, changes in traffic, etc.

Ozarks Transportation Organization- Natasha Longpine – OTO is working on long range transportation plan looking out to 2045. They are also delaying their Transportation Improvement Program for their region until next year.

Ozark Region Workforce Development Board -Jason Ray reported for Dennis Wiggins. The Springfield northside office opened up again last week. Two drive through hiring events have been done as well as one in in partnership with the Hollister Chamber of Commerce. The state has held two virtual hiring events in July and August and hopes to have one in September. There are 1000 job openings in their 7- county area.

Mo Dept of Economic Development – Mary Rajek reported that DED is continuing to work on COVID response. The Missouri Development Finance Board is offering a Small Community Working Capital Relief Loan Program which is a loan with 0 interest for the 1st year, 1% the sec-

ond year, and never is above 2.5%. It is available up to 4 years. If you have additional questions, let her know. DED is continuing to collect data as to how the virus is impacting communities and they are distrusting that data.

Community Foundation of the Ozarks – Alice Wingo reported that CFO opened a COVID Grant Fund which is ongoing. Also working closely with affiliates. Since March they have granted out \$2.6 million for COVID Relief. Also working with the Musgrave Foundation. Ash Grove has just become the 50th Affiliate the end of May. Currently grant rounds from Ash Grove and Mt. Vernon are available. The GRO Program has just added Eldon, Hermann and Carthage.

Workforce – DESE – Lynn Wehmeier reported that the State is purchasing a platform to host virtual job fairs. Funding is available for Dislocated Workers.

Red Cross – Stacy Burks reported that they have been responding to several house fires. Red Cross is working with the state health department to arrange hotel rooms for displaced people in a disaster instead of large groupings. Working with local health departments to do virus antigen testing.

Member Announcements

Howard Fisk asked about upcoming revenues for the future, particularly transportation. Discussion was held by members regarding sales tax and how the virus has affected their budget. Several of the communities reported that their sales tax is up.

Adjourn

Howard Fisk motioned, and Cindy Stephens seconded. Motion Carried.

Todd Wiesehan, Secretary/Treasurer

Date Approved