



Southwest Missouri  
Council of Governments

*Enhancing the quality of our communities through regional cooperation*

**Southwest Missouri Council of Governments  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday May 27, 2015  
9:00 a.m.  
Library Station, Frisco Room  
2535 N. Kansas Expressway, Springfield, MO 65806**

**Attendance**

<b>Members:</b>	<b>Partners and Guests:</b>
Sharon Anderson, Ash Grove	David Stokely, Senator McCaskill’s Office
Rex Barclay, Dallas County	Dan Wadlington, Senator Blunt’s Office
Brian Bingle, Nixa	Steve McIntosh, Senator Blunt’s Office
Chris Berndt, SMESO	Matt Hough, Congressman Long’s Office
Steve Bodenhamer, Strafford	Frank Miller, MoDOT
Steve Childers, Ozark	Ronda Headland, MDC
Rick Davis, Polk County	Audrey Gaines, MDC
Nancy Edson, Rogersville	Sara Fields, OTO
Richard Harralson, Pleasant Hope	Natasha Longpine, OTO
Chris Hopkins, Billings	
Allen Kunkel,	<b>Staff:</b>
Dana Louderbaugh, Fair Grove	Diane May
J. Everett Mitchell, Willard	Dorothy Wittorff-Sandgren
Cy Murray, White River Valley Electric	Jason Ray
Sam Rost, Marshfield	Dave Faucett
Mike Scofield, Taney County	Jane Hood
Cindy Stephens, OTC	
Stan Whitehurst, Webster County	
Dennis Wood, Stone County	

**Open Meeting**

**Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**—Brian Bingle

**Introductions and Announcements**—Brian Bingle

**Approval of May 27, 2015 Meeting Agenda**— Brian Bingle

*Nancy Edson motioned and Cindy Stephens seconded the motion to approve the agenda for the May 27, 2015 meeting. Motion Carried.*

**Approval of March 25, 2015 Meeting Minutes** – Brian Bingle

Staff was unable to complete the minutes due to problems with the audio recording. Approval of the minutes deferred to the next Board meeting.

**Guest Speaker** – Natasha Longpine, Chair, Ozarks Clean Air Alliance.

The Clean Air Alliance is a voluntary organization focused on improving regional outdoor air quality through education and outreach. The Alliance has been organized since 2008 and covers all of the SMOG counties and Cedar County. The organization's clean air plan addresses the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ground level ozone (Ozone Advance program) and PM Advance which is fine Particulate Matter pollution (PM<sub>2.5</sub>). Ms. Longpine discussed things contributing to poor air quality, including natural sources, mobile emissions, industry, and utilities. Half of our emissions are from mobile sources and a brief overview of the region's compliance with EPA's air quality standards since 2008. The region has been able to stay in attainment through efforts undertaken but EPA continues to lower the standards and is now taking comment on its proposal to lower the standards to between 65-70 parts per billion. Right now the region is at 68 ppb. If EPA chooses the lower standard, most areas will be out of compliance. Ms. Longpine discussed the various types of education initiatives that are underway as well as the Clean Cities Program through the Department of energy, agricultural outreach and a diesel emissions reduction program for school buses and other larger vehicles. Springfield City Utilities is considering installing smart meters at homes. The Alliance has an anti-idling policy that they are willing to share; alternative transportation modes are also being promoted. No one knows what EPA's decision will be on the standards, but the region should be able to meet the standards voluntarily with on-going efforts.

Greene Christian, Stone and Taney are the counties that could be considered for emissions, but right now these counties have among the lowest emission ratings in the state. Cedar County is almost in non-attainment, as well as Jasper County because of wind patterns. Nancy Edson asked if there is anything else needed from the local governments. Ms. Longpine responded not at this point, but perhaps later. Questions were raised on the penalties for no-attainment. It would impact transportation projects, requiring modeling when at capacity to show that the project wouldn't increase the problem. Brian Bingle asked about status of federal legislation regarding unfunded mandates. Senator Blunt co-sponsored a bill about sending such new rules to a committee to decide what the affordability is, which would then be sent to Congress to decide. The Clean Air Alliance is a voluntary organization and does not have funding source. The group meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of month at the Environmental Resources Center.

### **Legislative Reports**

#### **Senator McCaskill's Office** – David Stokely

Congress is in recess. Senator McCaskill is holding a workshop in Warrensburg on the procurement process. Congress approved a 60 day extension to the highway trust fund. There is still disagreement on how to get a new transportation bill enacted.

#### **Senator Blunt's Office**—Steve McIntosh/Dan Wadlington

Steve McIntosh reported that there is pushback on EPA's proposed changes to standards for clean air attainment. He also concurred that nothing is on the table for a new highway bill. Dan Wadlington said there is bi-partisan support for funding off-system bridges.

#### **Congressman Long's Office** – Matt Hough

Congressman Long has been holding meetings on domestic violence and resources available in rural counties. He also co-sponsored H.R. 1555 (Scrub Act of 2015) that would establish a commission to review existing federal regulations and identify those that should be repealed to reduce the cost of regulations on the economy.

## **Business**

### **New Staff Introductions – Diane May**

Diane May introduced Jason Ray, recently hired to replace Dan Watts. Mr. Ray provided a brief summary of his responsibilities in his previous position as the Deputy Director of the Harry Truman Coordinating Council.

### **Executive Committee Report – Brian Bingle**

The Executive Committee met on May 18<sup>th</sup> to review and discuss the response received from EDA regarding SMCOG's request for reinstatement in the Partnership Planning Program. EDA declined to reinstate SMCOG in the program. EDA has several concerns but MSU's financial management responsibility is a key issue. Following the meeting, Allen Kunkel asked MSU's counsel to review the EDA letter to see if there may be something we could do. Allen reported that the university counsel felt that EDA has a legitimate concern. It was discussed that some of EDA's issues could be addressed through updating and amending the cooperative agreement between SMCOG and MSU. Question was raised if anyone had legal capacity to assist SMCO and also what are the bare minimum requirements that EDA wants. The primary issues in the cooperative agreement would be financial management responsibility, intellectual property rights and equipment. Mr. Kunkel noted that EDA wants SMCOG to be a separate organization outside of the university. Diane May stated that SMCOG is the only EDA district organization operated through a university so it is atypical. Dennis Wood asked how SMCOG could possibly repay the deficit to MSU in order to go totally independent. Steve MacIntosh related experiences of other districts and said it is possible, but the board of directors must take a more active role in raising sufficient funds and working out deals with the local financial institutions to keep the money available as needed.

### **Financial Report, March – April 2015 – Diane May**

Diane May reviewed the financials. Budget to Actual, we are well below budget, with actual expenses through April of \$12,942. There was no new income during May, but invoices will be sent out in June. Dorothy Wittorff-Sandgren reviewed the financials for the homeland security program, noting that all the income we anticipated coming in by May hasn't occurred yet due to a glitch in the OHS homeland security software. She also noted that there is a \$2000 saving on the general operating account. A question was raised regarding the status of the carry forward deficit; Ms. May indicated that the carryforward deficit should be reduced by the end of the fiscal year. *Nancy Edson motioned and Steve Childers seconded the motion to approve the financial report for March-April 2015. Motion carried.*

### **Strategic Plan Status Report – Diane May**

There has been little activity on strategic plan activities the past month due to focus on replacing staff and project work. Staff will get the surveys on member needs and service interests as soon as possible. Jane Hood discussed associate memberships and requested that members please contact her if they had recommendations on organizations and businesses that should be contacted regarding associate membership. The committee membership lists have circulated and staff will be contacting the committees to set up meetings in the near future.

### **Program/Projects Status Report**

**Transportation Planning Program.** Jason Ray reported on the development of the FY2016 transportation work program. Some of the work program tasks have been consolidated which will provide greater flexibility in carrying out work activities and will make it easier to prepare the financial reports for MoDOT. The next TAC meeting will be held on July 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Homeland Security Regionalization Program.** Dorothy Wittorff-Sandgren reported that Missouri is getting approximately \$1M less than last year in Homeland Security grant funds and Kansas City is no longer a UASCE so will be included in the funding distribution to the regions. Region D will receive approximately \$150,000 less than last year. Ms. Sandgren also reported that the Broadband FirstNet program is being cancelled. This project involved conducting a series of meetings for obtaining input from area emergency services providers on the development of the plan for dedicated high speed communications for emergency services providers. Representatives from Washington DC met in April and determined that they had the input needed from the meetings already conducted so the remaining project meetings are being terminated. This does mean a loss of a few thousand dollars of expected income to SMCOG. In response to a question raised, the FirstNet project is not the same as the Broadband Phase II project that included inventory of critical infrastructure and anchor institutions that was completed in the prior year.

**Hazard Mitigation Planning.** Dave Faucett reported that the Christian County and Webster County Hazard Mitigation Plans are both about half way through the planning process with work underway on the technical reports. Another round of meetings will be scheduled during the summer with the intent to submit the draft plans to SEMA in October. Brian Bingle asked if it is the purpose of the planning process for local governments to incorporate the disaster mitigation strategies into their local plans. Mr. Faucett said yes that it is intended that the local jurisdictions incorporate the mitigation strategies into plans and regulations, such as building codes, as may be appropriate.

#### **Partner Updates**

**Missouri Department of Conservation.** Ronda Headland reported that MDC is the only state conservation department that has a unit dedicated to working with private land owners. Marching orders are to work with private land owners to help them to engage in practices that will meet their goals while also helping to conserve forest, fish and wildlife habitats. They are currently focusing on three activities. A survey of private landowners' needs and concerns is being conducted with the help of intern Audrey Gaines. MDC is also hosting four conservation open houses in the Harry S. Truman Coordinating Council area to meet with land owners to discuss conservation needs. The urban wildlife biologist is accepting proposals to advance wildlife conservation in urban areas. Volunteerism is a component of this program. Maximum funding through this program is \$10,000, with proposal due in late August.

**Ozarks Transportation Organization.** Sara Fields reported that FTA funding is available for 5310 program transit vehicles for any non-profit service organization that provides transit into Springfield for social services purposes. This program requires a 20% local match. The application deadline for the current year is quite soon, but this funding is available every year. Question was raised if the Veterans Home would be an eligible entity. Ms. Fields responded that may be a possibility and would check.

**Next Board Meeting.** June 24, 2015

**Adjourn.** There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

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Cindy Stephens, Secretary/Treasurer

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Date Approved