



**Southwest Missouri Council of Governments
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 26, 2019
9:00 a.m.**

**Springfield-Greene County Library Center - Auditorium
4653 S. Campbell Ave., Springfield, MO 65810**

Attendance :

Members:

Bob Senninger – Lawrence County
Randy Owen – Webster County
Stan Whitehurst – Webster County
Mark Maples – Stone County
Gail Nogle – Bolivar
Hank Smythe – Stone County
Becky Baltz - TREKK
Todd Wiesehan - Christian County
J. Howard Fisk – Fisk Transportation
Bill Monday - Buffalo
Cindy Stephens - OTC
Roger Dewalt – Merriam Woods
John Forrester-Allegeier, Martin
Nathan Meyer- Olsson & Associates
Andrew Novinger – Anderson Engin.
Debra Hickey - Battlefield
Jerry Harman – Kimberling City
Chris Murphy - Marionville
Doris Rapp - Marionville
Sheila Wyatt – Taney County
Steve Seton - Hurley
Chris Hopkins - Billings
Dennis Pyle - Monett
Hank Smythe – Stone County
Lindsay Reichert – Paragon Arch
Hollie Elliott – Dallas County
Cindy Robbins - Nixa
Dana Louderbaugh – Fair Grove

Joel Hornickel - Branson
Danny Perches – Springfield Chamber
Jonas Arjes – Taney County Partnership
Angela Leist - Forsyth
Mark Trog – Merriam Woods

Partners and Guests

Cary Charles - OTC
Alice Wingo - CFO
Frank Miller – MoDOT
Drew Cannon – Congresswoman.Hartzler's Office
Alex Cobb – Senior Age
Sherry Coker – OTC
Dan Wadlington – Senator Blunt's Office
Mary Rajek – Mo DED
Christa Atchison- Mo DED
Theresa Sampaio – Mo DED
Suzanne Murphy – USDA Rural Dev
Tammy Jahnke – MSU
Zeke Hall - MoDOT
Lynn Wehrmeier - DWD

Staff:

Jason Ray
Jane Hood
Megan Clark
Dorothy Wittorff-Sandgren

Open Meeting

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance – Chris Coulter

Introductions and Announcements— Chris Coulter

Approval of June 26, 2019 Meeting Agenda—Chris Coulter

Howard Fisk motioned and Gail Melgren seconded to approve the Agenda for the June 26, 2019 meeting. Motion Carried.

Approval of May 22, 2019 Meeting Minutes— Chris Coulter

Dennis Pyle motioned and Howard Fisk seconded to approve the minutes for the May 22, 2019 meeting. Motion Carried.

Chris Coulter then brought to the board's attention that the May 22, 2019 minutes incorrectly listed Bill Monday as being from Bolivar instead of Buffalo.

Chris Coulter motioned that the Minutes reflect that correction. Seconded by Dana Louderbaugh. Motion carried.

Legislative Reports

SMCOG Legislative Update - Jason Ray

The Missouri General Assembly ended their session on 5/17/19 and increased State aid to the Regional Planning Commissions by 1/3. Several years ago the state RPC's received up to \$25,000/year in state funds but it is now down to \$4000-\$8000/yr. That should go up next fiscal year. We do not collect enough membership dues to cover the match that we incur each year so the state funds is very important and we appreciate this increase.

Last General Session there was a 911 bill that set up regional coordination centers for 911.

SMCOG has been identified as the center for an 18 county region in SW Missouri.

SMCOG tracked over 100 bills in this year's session.

The MO General Assembly approved \$500,000 for the state's 2020 Complete Count Census Commission. MACOG has a seat on that commission. It does not look like any of that money will be received by our local Complete Count Committee efforts.

The Supreme Court just had a ruling on Friday that would affect land use. We are looking into that as we work in land use planning.

Dan Wadlington – Senator Blunt's Office

The Senate has been working on appropriating \$4.5 billion to fund facilities for unaccompanied minors that have come across the border. The current money runs out the end of July. If you are applying for a BUILD grant, the Senator's office can write letters of support.

Drew Cannon – Congresswoman Hartzler's Office

The House is working on similar humanitarian bill and a security bill for voting integrity.

Business Meeting

1. Approve Proposed Amended Bylaws – Jason Ray

Jason sent out an email prior to the meeting regarding the Bylaws. Proposed changes are to separate the Secretary/Treasurer position into two separate positions on the Executive Committee. (These changes are being made due to new fiscal policy tied to application for EDA re-instatement of funding that we are working on. This has been discussed at prior Board Meetings.) In the version of amended Bylaws that we are asking you to approve, there is an error in Sect 5.8. We forgot to remove the duties of the Treasurer portion of the old Secretary/Treasurer

position. The Sect 5.9 has the new duties of the new Treasurer position. Also in your packet is a draft update dated 7/9/19 for the Executive Committee clarification amendment. According to our Bylaws, any amendment to the Bylaws requires 20 days notice to full membership. We did not have 20 days when we caught the error and are asking you to approve the amended bylaws as is. There is a provision in the Bylaws that allows the Executive Committee to amend the Bylaws for clarification purposes only. We think that clarifying the roles of the officers would be allowed under that provision. Therefore, the Executive Committee will be asked to vote on the clarification amendment at their 7/9/19 meeting which will correct the duties error. There were not questions nor comments.

Cindy Stephens motioned and Howard Fisk seconded to approve the proposed amended bylaws Motion passed.

2. Approve Master Operating Agreement (MOA) – Jason Ray

The MOA has been in place for 30 years and was needing to be updated and the new one satisfies EDA for our requested re-instatement of funding. We have discussed this in previous board meetings and various versions have been reviewed and changed by MSU staff and attorneys.

This is the final version and was sent out to you electronically before this meeting.

SMCOG is a standalone quasi- governmental entity.

Dana Louderbaugh motioned and Bill Monday seconded to approve the Master Operating Agreement with MSU. Motion carried.

3. Nominating Committee Report- Dana Louderbaugh

A. Dana Louderbaugh, Chair of the Nominating Committee reported that the committee met via phone conference. The list of proposed Executive Committee nominees along with Non-Governmental Members were handed out.

The nominated Executive Committee is Chair-Chris Coulter, Vice-Chair–Dennis Pyle, Treasurer–Cindy Stephens, Secretary–Todd Weisehan, Past-Chair– Steve Childers, At-Large Members– John Benson, Allen Kunkel, Mark Maples and Bill Monday.

Dana Louderbaugh motioned and Howard Fisk seconded approval of nominations for Executive Committee and officers. Motion carried.

B Nominated Non-Governmental Members were Bill Monday, Howard Fisk, Chris Berndt, Danny Perches, Alice Wingo, Starr Kohler, Allen Kunkel, Yolanda Lorge, Cy Murray, Cindy Stephens and Jonas Arjes. (According to bylaws, Non-Governmental Members are voted on by the Governmental Members of the Board.) (Full list handed out.)

Dana Louderbaugh motioned and Dennis Pyle seconded approval of the Non-Governmental Members. Motion carried.

4. Appointment of Transportation Advisory Committee – Chris Coulter

Nominated TAC Members were the same as last year and recommended by their respective County Commissioners.

Jonas Arjes motioned and Cindy Stephens seconded approval of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC). Motion carried.

5. Program/Project Reports – Jason Ray

On May 30 SMCOG celebrated the 30 year Anniversary. Thanks to all that attended. The Fred & Diane May Planning Scholarship Fund raised \$5000. The 1st Regional Leadership Award was given to Howard Fisk, one of the original members of SMCOG and founding member of TAC.

Still working with DED CDBG on disaster funds within the 65616 zip code around Branson.

Working on the regional Complete Count Committee and setting up first meeting.

A. Transportation Planning/Programs – Megan Clark

One traffic count is available for each community each year and the new year starts next week so let us know if you want one. Megan has met with all 10 of the County Commissions regarding their road & bridge needs and prioritized their top 10. Of the 10, 3 will go to the TAC. At the July TAC meeting 10 regional will go to the District Meeting in October. In August, TAC will discuss pedestrian needs. If you would like sidewalk inventories done, let us know. We will be doing one for Battlefield next week. More money for bridges may become available. The Cost Share Program (50%) will be opening up again but will probably be tied to Economic Development. We do not have all the details yet. Megan attended the NADO Regional Transportation Conference where she accepted an award for the low water crossing inventory that was done in Dade, Dallas & Polk counties.

B. Hazard Mitigation Planning –Megan Clark

Christian and Webster Counties kick-off meetings coming up.

C. Grant Writing & Administration – Brandon Jenson & Dorothy Wittorff-Sandgren

Seymour Emergency Application grant NOI about to be submitted.

The final paperwork for the Fair Grove Senior Center has been submitted.

Grant application submitted to do NFIP workshops in the region.

Attended the Stone County Economic Development Summit and then applied for a grant to do an Economic Development study for them.

D. Homeland Security – Dorothy Wittorff-Sandgren

The 2016 if finished. The 2017 has money left over so completing additional project with those funds. For 2019 should receive \$380,133.12 which is \$11,000 less than last year. Next meeting is 7/17/19.

E. Other Activities – Jason Ray

We are working on the James River Watershed Management Plan again. There was an 11 month delay due to DNR changes.

On 5/22/19 we hosted a regional housing forum. Had about 70 in attendance. We put together information from that forum and is in your packet. We are compiling different levels of studies that might be done and how we can assist. Have reached out to housing service providers. More to come on this.

Partner Updates**USDA Rural Development – Suzanne Murphy**

Suzanne expressed the importance of the 2020 Census .and how important it is to community eligibility and being honest on the census. They are still accepting applications for loans and grants. The year ends 9/30/19.

Single family housing loans available. Call if questions.

MO Dept. of Transportation – Frank Miller

The draft STIP is out for comment right now. These are the projects that are planned over the next 5 years. Fairly routine things including resurfacing, bridge work, etc. The Long Creek bridge is included. The I-44 Design Project is from Joplin to Halltown which is for bridge work. The Route 160 project to Willard is under contract.

Community Foundation of the Ozarks – Alice Wingo

CFO partnered with MSU which did a study on the GRO Program. Found it to be very effective and well known in the region. Another funding opportunity called Mission Related Investment Program. CFO takes 2% of their overall assets and invest back into the communities through loans, lease-purchases, etc. If you have a community development program and are interested in learning more about this, please contact CFO. On 11/8/19 CFO will have an Affiliate Conference and they would like to invite you to hear their keynote speaker Ben Winchester with University of Minnesota Extension. He is a national rural socialist speaking on Reframing the Rural Narrative. Encouraging rural communities on repositioning yourselves to the outside world. It will be at the Darr Center and he will speak at about 9:30am. I will provide more information.

Missouri DED – Mary Rajek

DED will have disaster response assistance. Surveys for businesses who were affected by the spring flooding will be going out and will be used to determine how assistance will be delivered. If questions please contact.

Member Announcements

Each member gave a short update on happenings in their communities.

Adjourn

Gail Melgren motioned and Danny Perches seconded. Motion Carried.

Todd Wiesehan, Secretary/Treasurer

Date Approved