



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 March 27, 2013
9:00 a.m.
Library Station, Frisco Room
Springfield, MO

Attendance

Members:

Rex Barclay, Dallas County
Steve Childers, Ozark
Kenneth Bacon, Dallas County
Gail Noggle, Republic
Dennis Wood, Stone County
Chris Hopkins, Billings
Todd Wiesehan, Christian County
Max Springer, Mt Vernon
Chris Coulter, Greene County
Bud Pierce, Billings
Ronald Houseman, Taney County
Nancy Edson, Rogersville
Garrett Anderson, Branson
Brian Bingle, Nixa
Steve Bodenhamer, Strafford
Brian Daugherty, Mid-Mo Bank –Mt. Vernon
Dana Louderbaugh, Fair Grove
Ed Westerman, Clever
Stan Whitehurst, Webster County

Partners:

Kristen Westerman, Springfield Chamber
Stacy Burks, Senator Blunt's Office
Alan Kunkel, MSU
Bill Cheek, MSU
John Peine, Missouri Career Center
Chris Berndt, SMESO
Star Kohler, S.W. MO Office on Aging
Frank Miller, MoDOT S.W. District
David Rauch, Senator McCaskill's Office

Staff:

Diane May
Dan Watts
Dave Faucett
Jane Hood
Dorothy Wittorff-Sandgren

Guest Speaker:

Connie Kronholm, DED/DWD

Open Meeting

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance – Chris Coulter

Introductions and Announcements—Chris Coulter

Approval of March 27, 2013 Meeting Agenda—Chris Coulter

Brian Bingle motioned and Alan Kunkel seconded to approve the agenda. Motion Carried.

Approval of January 13, 2013 Meeting Minutes—Chris Coulter

Alan Kunkel motioned and Bud Pierce seconded to approve the minutes. Motion Carried.

Guest Speakers:

“Certified Work Ready Communities”—Connie Kronholm

Certified Work Ready Communities is an ACT (American College Testing program) sponsored initiative that came out of the Governor’s Conference last September. This is an Economic Development Program that determines the work force potential in a given county. Certification is based on the National Career Readiness certificate that is also based on an ACT program. Three skill set areas are tested and a print out of the certificate is given to the participant to show potential employers their skills. As an economic development tool, this program allows a county to show a potential business that a work force exists in the county. Several counties in our area are in the process of becoming certified including Greene, Christian, Stone and Taney. This is all offered at no cost to the counties. The first step is putting together a community leadership team including participation from the chamber of commerce, economic developers, elected officials, work force investment board, K-12 and community college representatives, and local stakeholders. Two years are given to reach the goals set out in the application process, a certain percentage of businesses using the program and a certain percentage of workers participating in the program.

“On the Move”—Frank Miller

The “On the Move” program is the planning initiative as part of the development of the Long Range Transportation Plan. The goal is to make a link between economic development/community development and transportation. MoDOT is attempting to garner public comments in preparation for the Long Range Transportation Plan. With a one cent tax proposal making its way through the Missouri house and senate, MoDOT wants to have as much public input as possible, so that the improvement plan developed mirrors the wants and needs of the driving public in the event money becomes available.

Legislative Reports

Senator McCaskill’s Office—David Rauch

A challenge to fund transportation exists at the federal level as well. The gas tax has not kept up with spending and money that is sent to the states has been subsidized with general revenue. Congress is currently in recess for the Spring break. The FY13 extension of the federal budget expired at the end of March; however, a continuing resolution was passed to fund the operations of the federal government before recess. A budget resolution was also passed in both the House and Senate that calls for expenditure reductions and a balanced budget in the House and expenditure reductions and higher taxes in the Senate. Senator McCaskill is going to continue to serve on the Armed Services Committee, the Commerce Committee, the Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee.

Senator Blunt’s Office—Stacy Burks

Senator Blunt was able to get continued funding for inspectors at meat packing plants in the continuing resolution. Not allowed in the continuing resolution was for continued traffic control at small airports. Potential furloughs are a possibility for all federal agencies except the Bureau of Prisons. Gun control and immigration are on the horizon in the senate.

Business

Financial Report (January-February 2013)—Diane May

Diane May reported on the January-February financial statements. She reported no abnormalities in the statement. Expenses and revenues are reported both with the Homeland Security pass through and without. Our carry forward is at \$52,000 but it is still coming down. SMCOG will be invoicing for several projects in the next months.

Max Springer motioned and Nancy Edson seconded to accept the January-February 2013 Financial Report. Motion carried.

Transit Plan Adoption—Dan Watts

Mr. Watts asked the group to approve the transit plan. The plan has been available for a week on the website for review.

Nancy Edson motioned and Brian Bingle seconded to approve the 2013 Transit Coordination Plan. Motion Carried.

Executive Committee Report—Chris Coulter

A. Associate Membership Proposal

Three levels (Bronze, Silver and Gold) were proposed for the Associate Member Program. The program is designed to bring other partners to the table as non-voting members. Associate members would also be sponsors of SMCOG events. A menu of services will be provided. Sponsorship fees will be discussed.

Steve Childers motioned and Dana Louderbaugh seconded to approve an Associate Membership level. Motion carried

B. By-laws Amendment

Proposed amendments to the by-laws were handed out for review. The amended by-laws will be voted on at the next meeting.

C. Appointment of Strategic Plan Task Force

As part of developing a business plan for SMCOG, development of a strategic plan is integral. Because of the expense of developing a strategic plan, SMCOG would like to move forward in house. The Strategic Plan task force is made up of 2 county officials, 2 city officials. Several have agreed to serve on this committee; however, some have not been contacted at this point. The individuals proposed for this task force are as follows:

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|------------------|----------------|
| Cindy Stephens | Brian Bingle |
| Bill Cheek | Nancy Edson |
| Alan Kunkel | Chris Coulter |
| Garrett Anderson | Steve Childers |
| Dennis Wood | |

Director’s Report—Diane May

The Hazard Mitigation plans are moving forward. The Lawrence County plan has been submitted for FEMA review. The Stone County plan is approved pending adoption. Polk, Dade and Dallas plans are in process. Dorothy is working with Dallas County officials to get meetings scheduled. Homeland Security regionalization is up for review right now. The process is changing for funding and the roll of the RPC is under review for the entire state. Transportation planning program is continuing with sidewalk assessments and the FY14 work program. The transportation budget is expected to be nearly the same. The CDBG grant program is continuing. The low-water crossing inventory is continuing with Lawrence and Dallas counties both being at about 50% complete. The land use suitability analysis is completed and we will be working with counties to get this completed for the entire region. A second round of the Broadband initiative is expected to be underway soon with a focus on Health Care needs as related to broadband. Our budget will be approximately \$15,000.

Partner Agency Updates

Ozark Region Workforce Investment Board—John Peine

The Missouri Career Center is totally funded by federal funds. Due to the sequestration the state has closed three career centers across the state and not retained many employees. The closures were in Moberly, Caruthersville, and Mexico. In Monett, all the staff have been pulled.

Adjourn

Cindy Stephens, Secretary/Treasurer

Date Approved