



Southwest Missouri Council of Governments
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 22, 2020
9:00 a.m.

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

Attendance :

Members:

Bob Senninger – Lawrence County
Gail Hinghan – Saddlebrooke
Hank Smythe – Stone County
Jerry Harman – Kimberling City
Cindy Stephens - OTC
Chris Hopkins – Billings
Becky Baltz - TREKK
John Benson – Marshfield
Cary Charles – OTC
Steve Seton - Hurley
Brendan Griesemer - Springfield
Hollie Elliott – Dallas County
Stan Whitehurst- Webster County
Randy Owens – Webster County
Chris McPhail - Battlefield
Debra Hickey - Battlefield
Lynne Shea – Associated Electric
Bill Monday – Buffalo
Duane Lavery – GRO Marshfield
Callie Linville – City Utilities
Stan Arnoldy - Saddlebrooke
Todd Wiesehan – Christian County
Neil Brady – Bartlett West
Allen Kunkel - MSU
Joel Hornickel - Branson
Howard Fisk – Fisk Transportation

John Forrester– Allgeier, Martin & Assoc
Andrew Novinger – Anderson Engineers

Partners and Guests

Beth Schaller - MoDOT
Stacy Burks – Red Cross
Dan Wadlington – Senator Blunt’s Office
Joelle Cannon – Senator Blunt’s Office
Ron Seyl – MO DED
Dennis Wiggins – Ozark Region Career
Center
Clayton Campbell – Senator Hawley’s
Office

Staff:

Jason Ray
Jane Hood
Megan Clark
Brandon Jenson
Courtney Pinkham
Will Mansfield

Open Meeting

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance – Chris Coulter

Introductions and Announcements— Chris Coulter

Approval of January 22, 2020 Meeting Agenda—Chris Coulter

Cindy Stephens motioned and Hank Smythe seconded to approve the Agenda for the January 22, 2020 meeting. Motion Carried.

Approval of December 4, 2019 Meeting Minutes— Cindy Stephens

Bill Monday motioned and John Benson seconded to approve the Minutes for the December 4,, 2019 meeting. Motion Carried.

Legislative Reports

Jason Ray – Congress approved a spending package which includes \$333 Million for EDA, a \$29 million increase from last year. SMOG has applied for EDA Planning Grant and the Denver regional office has told us it looks like we will probably be approved. If approved, we would get that money starting April 1st.

USDA Rural Development has a \$228 million increase from last year.

HUD (CDBG) received \$60 million increase from last year. Department of Labor and Department of Transportation received increases in funding also.

The Missouri legislature has seen a record number of 1100 bills pre-filed. We are watching adjustments to Missouri FAST Track program, TIF reform legislation, and Senator Sandy Crawford is looking to expand CID's to include telecommunications.

Joelle Cannon – Senator Blunt's Office

Senate is focused on the impeachment procedure right now. Cox Health recently received a \$1 million grant for rural communities. The rescission on the bridge funding was turned off.

Clayton Campbell – Senator Hawley's Office

The United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) was passed and should be good for Missouri Agriculture.

Business Meeting

1. Program/Project Reports – Jason Ray

The Staff Program Reports were handed out in the Board packets and were reviewed.

CDBG is conducting public hearings on 1/30/20 regarding hazard mitigation funding.

-Transportation Planning – Sidewalk inventories for Mt. Vernon and Morrisville completed.

Megan reminded everyone that each member is eligible for a free traffic count each year.

The annual prioritization process will begin this spring. Make sure your needs are on the list.

-Hazard Mitigation Planning – Important that communities participate in their county hazard mitigation plan. It is required by FEMA and we are finding that when applying for CDBG mitigation dollars they are asking, did they participate in the county hazard mitigation plan. Working on Christian and Webster County hazard mitigation plans.

-Grant Writing & Administration –Working on Monett Floodplain Buyout and Bull Creek Buyout. Also, working with Seymour, Branson, Cassville, Rockaway Beach, Saddlebrook on various grants or preparing for grant applications for their communities.

-Homeland Security –Dept of Homeland Security has been shifting some staff so we are a couple of months behind on FY-19 grant cycle

- Comprehensive Planning –Working on Comprehensive Plans for Strafford and Billings. About to do plans for Branson, Battlefield and Nixa. We are scheduling out 2 years in advance for Comprehensive Plan so if you would like one completed, contact our office.
- Housing –RFP was sent out to find company to do a housing study. No RFP’s were received. We were wanting for determine cost so we could find funding for a study. Are looking at other options.
- Economic Development- Waiting on EDA to review our EDA Planning Grant application. Stone County Economic Development Study is being conducted.
- Census 2020 – The official count was started yesterday in Alaska. You will start seeing PSA’s on Census 2020. Courtney Pinkham was introduced as the new Census Coordinator. Four radio segments will be taped with the League of Women Voters that will air on KSMU regarding the Census. We plan on having a St. Patrick’s Day Parade on 3/14/20. A Census training event will be held on 2/4/20. The national Planning Magazine is wanting to do an article on Missouri APA and what SMOG is doing regarding the Census count.
- Other – We have an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer. William Mansfield will be working with regional disaster recovery and resiliency, etc.

Partner Updates

MO Dept. of Transportation – Beth Schaller
 Has started the Marshfield interchange project. Working on Highway 60 in Nixa. In mid-March will start working on bridges near Halltown on I-44.

Ozark Region Workforce Development Board – Dennis Wiggins
 The Momentum Survey is still open, and he encouraged everyone to take it. The results will be presented at the Momentum Luncheon on 2/19/20 at the Whiteriver Conference Room at Bass Pro. The Career Center will be holding a multi-industry job fair on 2/29/20. There will be 46 employers there. Will do county visits in the next couple of months with the Career Center bus.

MO DED – Ron Seyl
 Let DED know if their team can assist with new businesses in your communities.

Member Announcements

Adjourn

Howard Fisk motioned and John Benson seconded. Motion Carried.

Todd Wiesehan, Secretary/Treasurer

Date Approved