



Enhancing the quality of our communities through regional cooperation

**Southwest Missouri Council of Governments
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, January 24, 2018

9:00 a.m.

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

Attendance :

Members:

Steve Bodenhamer – City of Strafford
Dana Louderbaugh – City of Fair Grove
Ed Westerman- City of Clever
Hank Smythe- Stone County
Todd Wiesehan - Christian County
Amanda Bybee – TREKK Design
Cindy Stephens – OTC
Max Springer – City of Mt. Vernon
Brian Dougherty – Lawrence County
Carl Carlson- Olsson & Associates
Gopala Borchelt – Toth & Assoc.
Mark Trog – City of Merriam Woods
Roger Dewalt – City of Merriam Woods
Stan Whitehurst – Webster County
Steve Childers – City of Ozark
Dan Dunbar – American Legion Post 434
Glen Smith – American Legion Post 434
J. Howard Fisk – Fisk Transportation
John Benson – City of Marshfield
Jerry Harmon – City of Kimberling City
Doris Rapp – City of Marionville
Chris Murphy – City of Marionville
Jennifer Fliflet – Village of Coney Island

Chris Coulter – Greene County
Allen Kunkel – MSU
Mike Scofield – Taney County
Chris Hopkins – City of Billings
Dallas Joplin – CFS

Partners and Guests:

Alice Wingo - CFO
Dennis Wiggins – MO Job Center
Rhonda Burnett – MO Conservation
Stacy Burks – American Red Cross
Suzanne Murphy –USDA Rural Dev.
Alex Cobb – Senior Age
Theresa Ballew – DED/DWD
Cynthia Collins – MO Job Center

Staff:

Jason Ray
Jane Hood
Megan Clark
Dorothy Wittorff-Sandgren
Simon Nogin

Open Meeting

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance – Chris Coulter

Introductions and Announcements— Chris Coulter

Request to Amend the January 24, 2018 Agenda – Chris Coulter –

Request made to move Legislative Reports up to Item 5, before the Guest Speaker.
Dana Louderbaugh motioned and Cindy Stephens seconded amending the January 24, 2018 Agenda to reflect moving Legislative Reports up to Item 5. Motion Carried.

Approval of January 24, 2018 Meeting Agenda—Chris Coulter
Cindy Stephens motioned and Ed Westerman seconded to approve the Agenda for the January 24, 2018 meeting. Motion Carried.

Approval of December 6, 2017 Meeting Minutes— Chris Coulter
Correction of Minutes on page 2, ORE should be OEWRI.
Howard Fisk motioned and Dana Louderbaugh seconded to approve as amended the minutes for the December 6, 2017 meeting. Motion Carried.

Legislative Reports

Jason Ray – bills that SMCOG is tracking include SB611 which caps sales tax, SB734 that adjusts fuel sales tax rate, HB1291 which changes certain class counties regarding road & bridge expenses, and HB1291, HB1479, HB1699, and HB1836 all regarding sales and use tax.

Governor Greitens released his budget proposal this week which includes eliminating all money for Regional Planning Commissions and a \$10 million cut to MoDOT planning grants.

We will be at the Capitol in Jefferson City next week on 1/31/18 for Planners Day at the Capitol.

Joelle Cannon – Senator Blunt’s Office – Government shut down for a couple days and then spending bill was passed to get us to 2/8/18. Issues that are being discussed for next spending bill is Children’s Health Insurance Program, Community Health Centers, Flood Insurance Reauthorization. Debt Limit will be coming up as well as Infrastructure Bill.

Guest Speaker – Theresa Ballew from Missouri Department of Economic Development, Division of Workforce Development spoke on the National Career Readiness Certificate and Work Ready Communities.

Business Meeting

2nd Quarter Financial Report – Jason Ray

Jason reviewed the 2nd Quarter Financial Report for October-December 2017.

Dana Louderbaugh motioned and Howard Fisk seconded approval of the October-December 2017 Financial Report.

Program/Project Reports –

Transportation Planning/Programs – Megan Clark reported that the Transit Coordination Plan (addresses the needs of senior citizens, disabled and low income.) is coming to a close after working on it for a year. This Plan is done every 5 years. The MoDot Construction Guide for 2018 is out. As MoDot is resurfacing the lettered routes, keep in mind that MoDot may only be responsible for the resurfacing and may not include sidewalk ramp ADA compliance. This may fall on the community so be aware of agreement with MoDot. MoDot has a Buckle Up & Phone Down campaign going on. There are a few bills proposed to increase the gas tax for roads.

Low Water Crossing Inventory for Dade, Dallas and Polk counties is being finished and will then go back to the counties to prioritize.

The MO Department of Conservation (MDC) is interested in effects of streams and low water crossing improvements. MDC can provide training as to how to improve the structures of low water crossings so

that communities get the “biggest bang for their buck,” and have a more resilient structure, and not damage the stream environment. We will be setting up a date for this training if enough communities are interested.

Homeland Security – Dorothy Wittorff-Sandgren reported that 38% of FY16 funding has been spent. In a holding pattern now because most of the remaining funds will be going for boats because of all the flooding we have had. FEMA will need to approve.

Have just started FY17 and have just been told that they are moving ahead with FY18.

Grant Writing – Dorothy Wittorff-Sandgren reported that Fair Grove has chosen a contractor for the Fair Grove Senior Center.

Hazard Mitigation Plans- Jason Ray reported we are doing an application for the Village of Bull Creek for flood buyout of 16 properties and the City of Monett for 4 properties. Bull Creek is also paired with a CDBG application to cover their 20% match.

Application to USDA several months ago for \$50,000 is being held up due to federal budget.

Megan Clark reported that Lawrence County has been approved and Stone County will be sent out this week. We are in the middle of working on Polk and Dallas County. Dade County will begin in July.

Other Projects –Jane Hood reported that the Cost of Living data collection for the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce was completed. It is done 3 times per year.

Jason Ray reported we are starting the Comprehensive Plan for Buffalo. Have been working on the James River Watershed Management Plan with the Ozarks Water Watch, OEWRI, and James River Basin Partnership.

DNR 604 funds for RPC’s should be coming available. If you have any wastewater systems that have permit violations or are interested in wastewater regionalization with other communities or subdivisions, we could do a feasibility study.

We attended a press conference for Cox College. They have been awarded \$2.2 million grant from EDA and used the SMCOG region as the service area to qualify for the funding. We are the federally designated economic development district so that made sense. Cox College trains nurses for the area. This was possible because we updated our CEDS Plan.

An example of how important Planning is in being able to access federal and state dollars.

Howard Fisk commented on how important it is for communities to know what your assets are and Planning in your communities for trying to attract new businesses.

Partner Updates

USDA-Rural Development – Suzanne Murphy reported they are waiting on the Continuing Resolution from Congress. If you are interested in any of their programs, please contact them.

MO Dept of Conservation – Rhonda Burnett reported that MDC puts together a report for the past year. She highlighted some of the report. If the black bear population gets to 500, there is a likely chance that a hunting season for black bears could open up.

MDC will be providing workshops with CRPM to educate Planners on Conservation planning tools.

Missouri Career Center – Dennis Wiggins reported the State of the Workforce Luncheon will be 2/20/18. The MoMentum Survey is completed and will be presented at the luncheon.

Member Announcements

Howard Fisk shared that he is working on trying to preserve small family cemeteries in SW Missouri.

Stacey Burks of the American Red Cross asked that fire departments be made aware that the Red Cross can provide services to families that have had fires. Some have not been making referrals.

Adjourn

Dana Louderbaugh motioned and Cindy Stephens seconded. Motion Carried.

Todd Wiesehan, Secretary/Treasurer

Date Approved
