



**Southwest Missouri
Council of Governments**

**Southwest Missouri Council of Governments
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, May 27, 2009
9:00 a.m.
Library Station, Frisco Room
Springfield, MO**

Members:

Kenneth Bacon – Nixa
Cindy Stephens – OTC
Robert Walster – Lawrence County
Allen Kunkel – MSU
George Cutbirth – Stone County
Ed Westerman – Clever
John Rice – Mt. Vernon
John Homer - Pleasant Hope
Dana Louderbaugh – Fair Grove
Tom Vicat- Strafford
Billy Dryer – Polk County
Jane Hood – MSU
Anita Davis – MSU
Chris Coulter – Greene County
Ed Westerman – Clever
Howard Fisk-Fisk Limo
Bill Marshall- Dade County
Cy Murray-Utility
Gail Noggle- City of Republic
Ken Miller-Strafford

Staff:

Dan Watts
Anita Davis
Jane Hood
Dorothy Wittorff-Sandgren

Guests:

Frank Miller – MoDOT
Valerie Robinson – MO DNR
Steve McIntosh – Congressman Blunt
Valerie Robinson-DNR
Jeff Seifried – OREP
Rhonda Headland – MDC
Bill Cheek – MSU
Natasha Longpine – OTO
Tim Conklin – OTO
David Rauch – Senator McCaskill
Dawne Gardner – MoDOT
Eric Kellstadt – MoDOT
Michelle Garand—Community Partnership
Frank Miller-MoDOT
Chris Berndt-SMESO
Stacey Burks-Senator Kit Bond's Office

Open Meeting

Billy Dryer called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance and introductions.

Approval of May 27, 2009 Agenda

Howard Fisk moved and Cindy Stephens seconded the motion to approve the May 27, 2009 meeting agenda, with changes. Motion carried.

Approval of March 25, 2008 Minutes

Howard Fisk moved and Bill Marshall seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the March 25, 2009 meeting. Motion carried.

Presentation and Reports**Transportation Program—Rideshare Presentation, Natasha Longpine—OTO**

Ms. Longpine presented Ozark Transportation Organizations Rideshare program. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation can be obtained by contacting Dan Watts. The website for the program is: OzarksCommute.com. The software covers all counties over to AR/OK/KS state line. Some of the benefits are:

- Improved air quality
- Save money/fuel
- Social
- Health
- Tax Benefits

OTO is working on promotion of the website at this time. Meetings with St. John's Hospital in Springfield and Jack Henry in Monett were successful in promoting the website portal. It was suggested that OTO fax out information to chambers of commerce. One issue with the program is the security of the users of the site. All information is kept confidential.

Legislative/Partner Agency Reports**Stacy Burks, Senator Bond's Office:**

The senate is out of session this week. They passed war supplemental is going to committee. Mr. Bond partnered with Senator Layhee to get additional funding for our National Guard shortage and equipment shortage. When they get back they will be working on a Railroad anti-trust and anti-tobacco bill. Senate will work on Supreme Court nominee confirmation. Committees are beginning work on health care bills, energy and climate bills. There was a hearing on climate change issues. The senator supports energy efficiency as long as it cost feasible. Commerce/transportation committee is working on a "mock" up reauthorization for transportation. We have not heard at this time on FEMA declarations for the "derecho" two weeks ago. Senator Bond's earmarks are up on the website.

Steve McIntosh, Congressman Blunt's Office

Last week the house passed out of committee an energy bill Blunt voted against because of concerns that energy costs would be detrimental. The bill would have been detrimental to people in the mid-west. Health care is the issue to watch. The congressman submitted high priority transportation projects for the area—OTO, MoDOT and SMCOG helped put these projects together. These projects will be on our website.

David Rauch, Senator McCaskill's Office

Credit card reform passed makes some improvements, but more work needs to be done. Work on the 2010 budget is beginning. Health care is major issue. Cap and trade: Ms. McCaskill is supportive of the cause but is concerned about the rate impact in the Midwest. Ms. McCaskill is in Sedalia doing a "mini economic development" conference. Help in identifying stimulus projects and how to access that money. She is also doing a grant writing clinic. She is watching developments regarding the FEMA declaration.

Valerie Robinson, MoDNR

There is a big transition at the agency. This is moving slowly. New budget starts in July. DNR hopes to continue the ombudsman program. There is a renewed emphasis on working at the lakes with inspections and working on water quality. There is discussion occurring about septic tanks.

Frank Miller, MoDOT District 8

Regarding the stimulus bill (ARRA), states were required to spend 50% by midway point and MoDOT has met this requirement early. There is a meeting tomorrow in the district 8 office and another meeting June 10th Jefferson City. These meetings are to mitigate any problems with project sponsors that have received stimulus funds. There is no margin for error on these projects. Any error could jeopardize any receipt of redistributed funds should that happen. MoDOT is letting Rte65 to six lanes in June. We are on track for Taney Como bridge. On the Rte 65 project in Buffalo, design is underway. There are many minor routes work occurring: Rte H up towards pleasant hope, ADA ramps in Branson for enhancement letting in June. There is a public meeting on June 25 for Stone 13 in Kimberling City. There are bids on a couple of resurfacing projects: Stone 13 to Rte 86, Willard intersection at Jackson Street and 160 to signalize the intersection. The Rte 60 project has been let for awhile; District 7 is administering this project and is expected to get under way this summer. There is possibly going to be another round of non-infrastructure grants with the Safe-Routes-to-School program.

Tim Conklin, Ozark Transportation Organization:

OTO board of directors worked on reasonable progress for stimulus bill. This requires all districts to have funds obligated by September 30. MoDOT wanted time to re-obligate money should that become necessary. Greene County committed their money to the Rte 65 project. The City of Springfield committed money to National Ave and James River interchange. Ozark, Nixa and Christian County committed their money on a Rte CC study. Cooperation across jurisdictions has been great. OTO is working on the TIP.

Ronda Headland, Missouri Department of Conservation:

There is a grant opportunity with the national fish and wildlife foundation. They are accepting pre-proposals that address invasive plant species. Conservation leadership has given employees incentive to retire. 150 employees have given intent to retire. Staff has been reduced and therefore staff functions are going to be looked at. The manager of the battlefield mall wants to incorporate native plants and wants to involve educators and students in every phase of the project. This is a multiyear project. Our new website will be rolled out in August 4.

Business**Financial Report, Jane Hood**

Handouts include income/expense statements. Under revenues it shows nearly 135K, this includes cash receipts, state grants. Under expenses there are staff expenses etc. On the mileage line, there hasn't been as much travel as anticipated but additional travel will occur for hazard-Mitigation updates. Homeland security is a pass through amount. The difference between expenses and revenue is 58K revenue but it is not shown in this report. Budget actual: some additional students were brought in that were not budgeted that is why that is over. Projects for outside services, 9k is for Bennet Spring project. Equipment and repairs are for copiers. SMCOG is now responsible for equipment repairs.

Kenneth Bacon moved and Robert Walster seconded the motion to approve the financial report for January-March, 2009. Motion Carried.

FY-2010 Proposed Operations Budget, Cindy Stephens

Ms. Stephens presented the FY-2010 operations budget to the board. A copy of the operations budget is available at the SMCOG offices. We are looking at an additional \$40,000, most due to Hazard-Mitigation Plan Updates. Because of a new MSU budget software issue, lines do not match up very well. This is a best effort to get it to match up. We are asking to email out materials to save money on printing when possible.

Cindy Stephens moved and Howard Fisk seconded the motion to approve the FY2010 Operations Budget for January-March, 2009. Motion Carried.

Executive committee nominations: Jane Hood

Thanks to Jeff Seifried, Dana Louderbaugh, and Nancy Edson. The following is slated for the executive committee:

Chair: Bill Marshall

Vice-Chair: Chris Coulter

Secretary Treasurer: Cindy Stephens

Past Chair: Billy Dryer

Members: Dana Loughderbaugh, Nancy Edson, and Jeff Seifried

This will be for the fiscal year starting in July. We are required to have two from county, two from city and two non-government.

Kenneth Bacon moved and Billy Dryer seconded the motion to approve nominations to the executive committee. Motion Carried.

Transportation Program, Dan Watts

TAC approved the transportation needs priority list for 2010 in early May included in your packet. SMCOG received the most funding in the state for the transportation program from MoDOT. The Google-Earth workshops were a success despite the weather, there was a decent turnout, but there is interest in doing another workshop.

Robert Walster moved and Bill Marshall seconded the motion to approve the 2010 transportation needs priority list. Motion Carried.

Homeland Security, Dorothy Wittorff-Sandgren

There is \$72,000 left to spend at the end of this year. We never know what expenses are until June 30 due to travel expenses etc. Many of the items came in under cost. \$81,000 could be de-obligated because of under bids. Two more trailers have been added. With these trailers we will have the entire region covered with trailers and cots. CERT trailer and command bus for Greene County fire (decommissioned for FEMA) and gave it to Region D for an asset but it must be updated for communication equipment. We have asked for an extension due to personal costs. We will ask to extend to September 30.

For 08: Approved 08 funding. We are waiting on signatures. We are getting the same amount for 2008 as 2007.

Economic Development/Interim Director Report, Jane Hood

Next report is due May 30. We are resurrecting the CEDS committee. We are working on getting some dates and times set up for this meeting. We are setting up an Elected Officials training for July 30th at

the Library Center on Campbell. This will be in the evening. The Missouri Extension is joining us for sponsorship. We are putting together EDA training in the later part of the summer. The news letter is going to be out in June. USDA is saying that ARRA projects are not necessarily "shovel ready" but can be "in theory" projects. USDA is saying that if you think you have a project that might work, get it to them. We are working with Alan Kunkle with the Community Caravan. We are working on the details of that. We are also working on fee structures for our services. We have come up with \$55 per hour for grant writing and are working on something for traffic counts. We are working on Hazard Mitigation plans for Lawrence and Webster County. We are waiting on SEMA for Dade County.

Adjourn

Howard Fisk moved and Cindy Stephens seconded to adjourn. Motion Carried.