

**Southwest Missouri Council of Governments**

**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, March 27, 2019**

**9:00 a.m.**

**Springfield-Greene County Library Center - Auditorium**

**4653 S. Campbell Ave., Springfield, MO 65810**

**Attendance :**

**Members:**

Steve Seaton –Hurley

John Benson – Marshfield

Max Springer – Mt. Vernon

Jonas Arjes – Taney Co Partnership

Danny Perches -Springfield Chamber

Hank Smyth – Stone County

Andrea Sitzes – Show Me Christian Co

Mark Maples – Stone County

Stan Whitehurst – Webster County

Dana Louderbaugh – Fair Grove

Sam Burt – Seymour

Todd Wiesehan - Christian County

J. Howard Fisk – Fisk Transportation

Isaac Petersen – Cassville

Angela Leist – Forsyth

Rex Wood – Rockaway Beach

Chris Hopkins – Billings

Cary Charles – OTC

Larry Sutton – City of Rogersville

Carl Carlson- Olsson & Associates

Allen Kunkel – MSU

Callie Linville – City Utilities

Russel Anderson – Rockaway Beach

Steve Bodenhamer – Strafford

Steve Walensky – Cassville

Cy Murray – White River Electric

Jerry Harmon- Kimberling City

Dennis Pyle - Monett

Jon Holmes – Aurora

Hollie Elliott – Dallas County ED

Andrew Novinger – Anderson Engineering

Debra Hickey – Battlefield

Frank Schoneboom - Battlefield

**Partners and Guests:**

Jeremy Pruett – Congressman Long’s Office

Beth Schaller – MoDOT

Zeke Hall - MoDOT

Drew Cannon – Congresswoman.Hartzler’s Office

Alice Wingo – CFO

Alex Cobb – Senior Age  
Leslie Carrier – League of Women Voters

Lynne Shea – Associated Electric

Sherry Coker – OTC

Shea Lane – Catholic Charities

Dan Wadlington – Senator Blunt’s Office

Suzanne Murphy – USDA Rural Devel.

Sheila Thomas – Table rock Lake Chamber

Christa Atchison- MO DED

Theresa Sampaio – MO DED

**Staff:**

Jason Ray

Jane Hood

Megan Clark

Thomas Hughes

Bailey DeJorge

Adam Olinger

Dorothy Wittorff – Sandgren

**Open Meeting**

**Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance – Chris Coulter**

**Introductions and Announcements—** **Chris Coulter**

**Approval of March 27, 2019 Meeting Agenda—Chris Coulter**

*Dana Louderbaugh motioned and Howard Fisk seconded to approve the Agenda for the*

*March 27, 2019 meeting. Motion Carried.*

**Approval of January 23, 2019 Meeting Minutes—** **Chris Coulter**

*Hank Smythe motioned and Larry Sutton seconded to approve the minutes for the*

*January 23, 2018 meeting. Motion Carried.*

**Legislative Reports**

**SMCOG Legislative Update - Jason Ray**

The SMCOG office helped coordinate a Planners Day at the State Capitol in Jefferson City on 3/6/19. We had 20 plus planners and RPC Executive Directors from across the state attend. We met with many State Representatives and Senators from the SMCOG region and were introduced on the House and Senate Floors.

**Dan Wadlington** – Senator Blunt’s Office

Congress is talking about a 25 cent gas tax increase over the next 5 years, however, this would only catch up on the arears. There would be no new money.

**Jeremy Pruett -** Congressman Long’s Office

Congress was scheduled to be in their Districts last week and Congressman Long visited many communities in his District. There is a 25 cent gas tax over 5 years in the Transportation Committee but has not been finalized. Also talk of doing a Bond in addition.

**Drew Cannon –** Congresswoman Hartzler’s Office

This week there are two bills subject to a rule, the Pay Check Fairness Act and the opposition to President Trump’s military transgender policy.

**Business Meeting**

1. **Regional Complete Count Committee –** Jason Ray

The SMCOG Executive Committee voted to establish a Regional Complete Count Committee for the 2020 Census. Handouts on how the data is used and how it affects local governments were distributed. The Regional Complete Count Committee will offer support to local governments if they want to set up a committee. There will be education on how to participate online, etc. We will be the designated liaison with the State Complete Count Commission. If you would like to serve on the SMCOG Regional Complete Count Committee contact Jason or Jane. The State demographer says that Missouri left $8 billion in federal funds on the table in 2010 due to low count.

**2. Program/Project Reports - (**updates handed out in packet)

**A. Transportation Planning/Programs –** Megan Clark

HB 822 and SB 430 are both looking at increasing the gas tax. The needs letter was sent out for the Prioritization Process. The federal Fast Act ends in 2020 which is the current federal transportation funding. This could mean a reduction in $35 million to MoDOT and the STIP would have to change. Traffic Counts have been completed for Bolivar and Mt. Vernon. (A reminder that as a member you receive a free traffic count each year.) We have begun a sidewalk inventory for the City of Monett and have a contract with the City of Battlefield to do a sidewalk inventory and assessment

**B. Hazard Mitigation Planning** –Megan Clark

Dade County Hazard Mitigation Plan has been submitted. MOA’s for Webster and Christian Counties updates have been submitted. Beginning to set up meeting schedule.

The Haz Mit Plans are important as they give local governments and school districts access to federal Haz Mit Funds.

**C. Grant Writing & Administration –** Jason Ray and Dorothy Wittorff-Sandgren

We continue to work on two large flood plain buyout projects. One in Bull Creek (15 properties) and the other in Monett (4 properties). That is a partnership with CDBG and SEMA.

We received the grant contract from DNR for the James River Watershed Management Plan. We have been working on this for 3 years and had to switch funding resources because the federal funds had expired which DNR did not realize.

Fair Grove Senior Center complete and will have ribbon cutting in April.

Engles Senior Center in Buffalo working with SHIPO

Working with EDA to restore the Planning Grant. (See handout.)

**D. Homeland Security** – Dorothy Wittorff-Sandgren

See handout. The 2016-17 is closing out after water rescue training. Getting started on 2018. Application open to apply for 2019.

**E. Other Activities** – Jason Ray

We have finished the City of Ozark Comprehensive Plan and it has been adopted. We are updating the Willard Comp Plan and about to start on the Comp Plan for the City of Strafford. We will be doing a proposal with the City of Billings. The City of Springfield has asked that we participate in their Comp Plan process which is about to begin.

This year, 2019, is the 30th year anniversary for SMCOG and we will be having an event to celebrate that. Save the date 5/30/19 for an event that evening.

The Cost of Living data collection will be 4/11/19 - 4/13/19.

**Partner Updates**

**USDA Rural Development** – Suzanne Murphy

Rural Business Development Grants (RBDG) are available right now. Application is only 3 pages. It is for businesses. Also available are Community Facilities Grant which includes fire trucks, police cars, etc. Give Suzanne a call. Water and Waste Funds available also. There are different population and income requirements.

**MO Dept. of Transportation –** Beth Schaller

The 65 rebuild is coming up this summer. MoDOT will be rebuilding 65 from Sunshine to James River Freeway. You can go their website to get signed up for any updates. The start date will be announced after May 1.

The Highway Commission will be meeting in Springfield on 4/2/19. MoDOT’s Annual Innovation Showcase will be going on that same day so the Commissioners can attend.

The I-44 Design Build Project is coming up which involves several bridges on I-44, mainly in Lawrence County. It is a $36 million project to rebuild 19 bridges. The project will finish the end of 2020.

MoDOT had a public meeting regarding the Long Creek Bridge in Taney County. That road serves 8000-9000 cars per day. Over 300 people attended which set a record. That project will begin in 2022.

**Missouri Career Center** – Jane Hood for Dennis Wiggins

The Rural Micro Grants have been awarded. Six organizations in six counties were the recipients and those were announced.

**Community Foundation of the Ozarks (CFO) –** Alice Wingo

Alice updated the activities from the GRO communities.

Recently awarded Rural Ozarks Health Initiative Grant which is a partnership with MO Foundation for Health. Four communities received $10,000 for health related needs.

On 4/6/19 sponsoring a candidate’s school for people interested in running for office.

**Missouri DED –** Christa Atchison & Theresa Sampaio

Introduced themselves and the services they will provide for Missouri DED. They are the new representatives for Missouri DED in the SMCOG region.

**Member Announcements**

Members went around the room and gave a short update on happenings in their community.

**Adjourn**

*Howard Fisk motioned and Larry Sutton seconded. Motion Carried.*

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Todd Wiesehan, Secretary/Treasurer Date Approved