

**Southwest Missouri Council of Governments
Board of Directors Business Meeting
Wednesday, May 28, 2008, 9 a.m.
Library Station
Springfield, MO 65802**

Attendance

Members:

Ed Westerman, Clever
Bill Marshall, Dade County
Dana Louderbaugh, Fair Grove
Jim Krischke, Republic
Nancy Edson, Rogersville
Tom Vicat, Strafford
Frank Preston, Taney County
Allen Kunkel, MSU
Cindy Stephens, OTC
Jeff Seifried, OREP
J. Howard Fisk, Transportation
Cy Murray, White River Electric
Dorothy Knowles, Southwest MO Office on Aging
Yolanda Lorge, Grupo Latinamericano
Chris Berndt, SMESO

Guests/Partners:

Steve McIntosh, Congressman Blunt's office
Stacy Burks, Senator Bond's office
Eric Kellstadt, MoDOT D7
Frank Miller, MoDOT D8
Natasha Longpine, OTO
Bill Cheek, MSU
Valerie Robinson, MDNR/SWRO

Staff:

Anita Davis, SMCOG
Dan Watts, SMCOG
Dorothy Wittorff-Sandgren, SMCOG

Open Meeting

Cindy Stephens called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance and introductions.

In absence of a quorum at the start of the meeting, Stephens suggested we begin with Legislative Reports.

Legislative Reports

Stacy Burks, Senator Bond's Office

Congress is in recess. The big issues before the Senate: "let's get real about the future of energy" tour, carbon cap and trade issues, taxes on utilities (the technology is not there to capture carbon). Carbon sequestration is the next step to answer what to do with the carbon: injecting the carbon into the ground (research and development stage at this point). City Utilities and partners are doing a 3-year test of carbon sequestration and a geological survey. The tests will involve food-grade carbon dioxide. This is a \$2.5 million dollar project. Also discussions of diesel fuel prices and ethanol. The farm bill passed the House and Senate and will be vetoed.

Steve McIntosh, Congressman Blunt's Office

Only pieces of the Farm Bill were sent to the President and that raises constitutional issues because only parts of it were voted on in the Senate. There are some issues with the bill.

Partner Agency Reports

Valerie Robinson, MoDNR

Air Quality staff are working on lower ozone standards: will be non-attainment and there may be consequences in relation to permitting and loss of highway dollars, water, anti-degradation. "Do no more harm" is used to review permits in our area but will require more science and may slow down permits. Standards not affecting water quality below DNR standards will be up to the applicant not to fall below the standards. Jeff Seifried asked whether there are strategies we can use to keep in attainment. The Ozarks Clean Air Alliance is coming up with ways to advertise the "low-hanging fruit," such as car pool recommendations and mowing in the evening. The Clean Air Alliance website is www.showmecleanair.com. Expect to see more warnings on air quality. Howard Fisk mentioned that there are several school districts that are using bus retrofitting grants to clean up diesel emissions.

Frank Miller, MoDOT, District 8

Mr. Miller reported on the STIP, noting that these are the last projects with Amendment 3 funds. Three projects are in the SMCOG region. Stone County Route 13-added more money, (only going to the northern edge of Kimberling City) this will be a turn lane and possible additional lanes 17k is the traffic count---second project is passing lanes between Republic and Monett, ---3rd is the continuation of the six-laning of Battlefield and Hwy. 65 will be continued on to Chestnut Expressway. The 8th cent sales tax will speed up the process on the US65 project if it passes the voters. Outside SMCOG will be the 5-laning of Route 5 in Lebanon. This is a follow up to passing lanes on Route 5 to Camdenton. Lake Taneycomo Bridge will be rehabilitated. MoDOT working on a cost-share project to rehab the bridge and construct a roundabout and possibly build a new bridge. The bridge is important to eastern Taney as far as getting to work etc. The intersection of VV and Hwy. 60 in Rogersville was added to scoping list. Highway 160 corridor (Quay Blvd. and 160) will be a starting point for improvements in this area.

Eric Kellstadt, MoDOT, District 7

Mount Vernon Interchange—don't know the letting at this point. Non-Infrastructure projects for the Safe Routes to School grants should be out in July. Infrastructure projects should be announced in November.

Nancy Edson asked about how the need for the Taney County bridge. Mr. Miller said that was part of the needs identification process. The roundabout was originally planned to be a Branson funded project, but the expense warranted going to the cost-share program. Ms. Edson asked whether the Mount Vernon interchange project is a cost-share project. Mr. Miller responded that this is MoDOT funded only and there are some earmarks attached to it. Tom Vicat has a couple of MoDOT partnerships in Strafford in Farm Road 184 and Chestnut expansion. Frank said he will get back on this.

Natasha Longpine, Ozarks Transportation Organization

Tim Conklin is the new OTO director. The OTO offices are moving in July to the Park Central Office Building on the Springfield Square. OTO is working on providing Rideshare software that is web-based and will match employees (part of clean Air Alliance.) This should be ready to add to the TIP in July. OTO is currently taking RFP's on this. Rideshare software will be ready sometime around August.

SMCOG Staff Reports

Dorothy Wittorff-Sandgren, Homeland Security Program

Ms. Wittorff-Sandgren provided an overview on the 2006 Homeland Security Grant Program, including status of procurement activities and some budget reallocations, especially for the communications vehicles. She distributed a budget summary showing spent and/or obligated funds. The CERT programs are up and running. Still need to have jurisdictions commit to taking ownership of the portable corrals before these can be procured. All program funds have to be committed by June 30th and any projects not

completed by this date will require an extension. It was suggested to check with MSU to see about providing insurance for the animal shelters (corrals). Cy Murray suggested that larger fuel transportation capabilities might need to be considered. Chris Berndt said that the Incident Support Team is supposed to be self-sufficient, but fuel will be an issue.

Dan Watts, Transportation Planning Program

MoDOT has not yet approved the funding distribution to the regional planning commissions for the transportation planning program. There were some factual errors involved in the performance review process. Not all of SMCOG's funds were used in the prior year, so that was a negative factor in the proposed allocation for FY09. However, it is anticipated that SMCOG's allocation will have some increase.

Anita Davis

Bennett Springs is getting a grant increase and extension. DNR has funds available that may go to the project to implement the wastewater treatment district and to do advertising and marketing to educate area residents. These are short-term funds that will go away quickly. These funds also may be used for providing water meters for selected homes and businesses to get a better idea on how much water is actually being used.

Economic Development Planning Program. Jeff Seifried and SMCOG are doing planning meetings in Dade County and Dallas County. The goal is to hold an economic development meeting in all 10 counties to identify ways to market industrial sites to site consultants, etc. The economic survey is completed. Ms. Davis asked Board members to identify projects such as business expansion and workforce issues and to please call her for information.

Bill Cheek, Missouri State University

The tri-state water resources conference will include critical water resource needs in Oklahoma and Kansas due to groundwater shortages. The Ozarks Regional Economic Partnership is sponsoring part of this with MSU and SMCOG on the 11th and 12th of September. There is a planning conference meeting next week. Dr. Cheek is providing in-kind resources on this grant. The main point of contact on this conference is Loring Bullard, chair of the conference planning committee. Missouri is the lead state on this and we trying to get at least three other states on board. Allen Kunkel noted that there is a potential conflict with the dates of the Governor's conference on economic development.

Allen Kunkel, Missouri State University

The MSU Community Caravan is getting some senior staff out into the region to discuss how MSU engages the community. It's basically a kind of a recruitment tool focused on the 10-county region around SMCOG. The MSU staff will visit a few locations in each county. SMCOG came up a lot during these meetings to discuss student involvement.

The 2009 operations budget is on hold in the budget committee and Diane will mail this budget before the June meeting.

Meeting Adjourned

Cindy Stephens, Secretary-Treasurer

Date Approved