



Southwest Missouri
Council of Governments

Enhancing the quality of our communities through regional cooperation

**Southwest Missouri Council of Governments
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 25, 2011
9:00 a.m.
Library Station, Frisco Room
Springfield, MO**

Attendance

Members:

John Rice, Mount Vernon
Brian Daugherty, Mid Missouri Bank
Dorothy Knowles, SW Mo Office on Aging
Nancy Edson, Rogersville
Michelle Garand, Community Partnership
Garrett Anderson, Branson
Gerald Christensen, Rockaway Beach
Dennis Wood, Stone County
Cy Murray, Utility
Gail Noggle, Republic
Kenneth Bacon, Dallas County
Chris Coulter, Greene County
Billy Dryer, Polk County
Howard Fisk, Transportation
Brian Bingle, Nixa
Susie Knust, Webster County
Julie Ruscha, Verona
Cindy Stephens, Education
Mike Chipman, Forsyth
Ed Westerman, Clever
Allen Kunkel, MSU
Jeff Seifried, SREP

Partners:

Mark Hultgren, USDA
Frank Miller, MoDOT District 8
David Rauch, Senator McCaskill's Office
Bill Cheek, MSU
Stacey Burks, Senator Blunt's Office
Nick Maddux, Congressman Long's Office
Ronda Headland, MDC
Kaylyn Dalborn, MDC

Staff:

Diane May
Jane Hood
David Faucett
Dorothy Wittorf-Sandgren

Open Meeting

Introductions and Announcements—Ken Bacon

In lieu of introductions, Mr. Bacon opened the floor to take comments regarding the disaster in Joplin, MO. Ms. May described some of the regional resources available to the RHSOC Region D that have been placed in the field. SMCOG is trying to get the word out about what the RHSOC does. Mr. Billy Dryer commented that the local St. John's did a wonderful job caring for folks that were hurt in Joplin. Ms. Stacey Burks asked the group to keep in mind that people in Joplin will need help for many weeks and months and that right now people with specialized, search and rescue skills are needed. She suggested that people may want to wait on volunteer drives for a couple of weeks. One suggestion she made was for rubber made style storage boxes. Mr. Nick Maddux read a list of items that the Red Cross is requesting. Ms. Ronda Headland reported that the Missouri Department of Conservation is providing staff for law enforcement at this time.

Approval of May 25, 2011 Meeting Agenda—Ken Bacon

Howard Fisk motioned and Nancy Edson seconded to approve the revised agenda. Motion Carried.

Approval of March 23, 2011 Meeting Minutes—Ken Bacon

Mike Chipman motioned and Howard Fisk seconded to approve the minutes. Motion Carried.

Bolder Five Year Direction--Frank Miller, District 8

Mr. Miller announced that Eric Kellstadt and Scott Bachman are both fine and didn't have any damage from the tornado. The budget for the STIP has been steadily decreasing. The available budget has shrunk to \$600,000 from \$1.2 billion in earlier years. Earlier cuts were found to be not enough so MoDOT has proceeded with more extreme measures. These measures include reducing staff by 1,200. Most will be through attrition; however, there will be some layoffs. Of the 1200, 340 positions have already been reduced and 135 facilities will be closed. This will put MoDOT more on par with other states. These facilities include 17 resident engineer's offices and 3 district offices. Districts 7 and 8 will essentially be combined into one district. The overall goal is to save \$512 million dollars over a five year period. There is not much information about how this will affect who works with SMOG from MODOT. Becky Baltz, current District 7 Engineer will be moving to the Southwest District and will assume the District Engineer position. It was mentioned that MACOG has been asked by the Merrimac Regional Council to support requesting a ninety day extension to the implementation of this plan. Ms. May said she didn't feel it was appropriate for a grant recipient to make this request; however, she told the board that if they wanted to support MACOG in this request we would do so. Discussion ended without support.

Legislative Reports**Senator McCaskill's Office— David Rauch**

Mr. Rauch indicated that he was at a SCOCOG meeting last week and that SCOCOG voiced that they did not feel that MoDOT had run the new plan through a local planning process. Mr. Rauch has been working in Joplin for the past few days. They are going to have to rebuild St. John's hospital. By the weekend they will have a mobile hospital in place. Thousands of homes and jobs have been lost. 2,000 jobs are tied to St. John's alone. Congressman Eric Cantor made a comment yesterday that implied that any money for emergency response will have to be taken from another part of the budget. Every cent spent on discretionary spending is borrowed money.

Senator Blunt's Office—Stacy Burks/Steve McIntosh

Ms. Burks asked people to remind any family and friends in Joplin to make sure and register with FEMA. There are 1360 people on the missing list. She described the damage path. The tornado was ½ to ¾ mile wide. The Senator is working on a disaster supplemental.

Congressman Long's Office—Nick Maddux

Congressman Long has said that the response from FEMA/SEMA has been a "12" on a scale of 1 to 10. Congressional Republicans in the house are at a \$1 billion package to help fund relief for Joplin. The clean up alone could reach \$250 million. There are 2 to 8 million cubic feet of debris, much of it hazardous waste. Insurance claims are looking at \$1-3 billion.

Business

Committee Reports

Nominating Committee—Howard Fisk

Ed Westerman, Howard Fisk and Dana Loughderbaugh served on this committee. They recommend the following: Mike Chipman-Chairman, Chris Coulter-Vice Chair, Bill Monday-Treasure/Secretary, Brian Bingle-Executive Committee, and Dennis Wood-Executive Committee. There are two more spots available on the executive committee. The nominating committee feels like this is a good representation across the board. This slate of nominees will be voted on in June.

Budget Committee—Cindy Stephens

We have a projection of more revenues than expenses. The revenues are budgeted conservatively. Potential for an EPA grant is still a possibility and not reflected in this budget. These numbers are based through March. Some of the revenue could change such as the homeland security grant.

By-Laws Committee—Diane May

By-laws additions were handed out to the board and will be voted on at the June meeting. Electronic meetings are addressed. In the previous by-laws, the chair was required to be an elected official. This is not in the state statutes, so it was recommended that we modify this requirement. Future amendments will be transmitted electronically to the board 20 days in advance.

Waste Water 604B Survey Results—Diane May

The waste water assessment survey results are available. Results were explained to the group and handed out to the communities that were present at the meeting. Communities that are over 5,000 in population were not included in this assessment. Ms. May explained that some of the base rates are not reported accurately. She asked the communities to review the information to make sure it's accurate. These are also available electronically for distribution.

Transportation Report—Diane May

Dan has been working on the work program for the upcoming fiscal year. He is also working on the sidewalk inventory.

Homeland Security Regionalization Program—Dorothy Wittorf-Sandgren

FY08 OHS put aside money for the earthquake exercise; however, more federal money became available than originally anticipated, so the OHS money was reallocated back to the regions for use. Our area had \$195,000 to use. Some will go to Red Cross and some for search and rescue to purchase equipment. FY09 has \$134,000 left. We will meet in July and talk about reallocation for projects. FY10 was approved two weeks ago. We are currently getting the budgets set up. FY11 monies have been cut in half. Kansas City will be drawing from our pot of funds this year, so we are guessing that we are going to be getting around \$250,000 this year. This will affect the work program. FY12 is rumored to be getting cut by another third. Positions have been cut that are no longer needed. CERT is going to be a regional program instead of a county by county program.

Broadband Regional Plan—Dave Faucett

MoBroadbandNow is a statewide initiative to identify underserved regions in the state. There are several components. One is increasing the basic backbone of broadband in the state. Another component is the Regional Planning Teams. SMOG serves as a coordinator for these regional teams. There is a website that has speed tests and sector surveys available. We still need surveys to be filled out. This data will be used to create a regional strategic plan to increase broadband accessibility in the state. We will be gathering and compiling information through June. Meetings will be held at each stage of the plan. This plan will be updated every five years.

Electric Cooperative Hazard Mitigation Plan Updates—Dave Faucett

This plan is similar to the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan. We are in the data gathering phase. We have four cooperatives in our area and are currently getting a measure of their assets and running models to determine their exposure for different scenarios.

EDA Update—Jane Hood

We have been operating without the planning grant this year. Forlesia Willis, EDA, promised SMCOG Executive Board in August, 2010 that she would work with us and make a site visit to assist us in preparing for the 2011 Planning Grant. She has not made a visit and was recently in Clinton, MO and did not let us know that she would be in the state. She has since gone back and forth as to whether we could apply for the grant this year. We have a meeting this week scheduled with an EDA representative out of Iowa and hope to get some clarification.

Director's Report—Diane May

The hazard mitigation plans are moving along. The Webster and Christian County plans have been approved pending adoptions. We are working getting adoption resolutions for both counties. Lawrence County is going to be sent to the communities to review and then it will be sent up to SEMA.

The CDBG Planning Grant is currently being ironed out with MACOG. We are going to be working with counties to determine their needs to come up with items that can be put in this program.

Other Business

None

Partner Agency Updates

USDA-Rural Development—Mark Hultgren

It's been a challenging year because we are working under a continuing resolution. We have been able to fund some projects this year. Allocations came through at the end of April or the first of May. The allocations were smaller than anticipated so most of the money was already used up with projects that were already in the pipe. We may receive money from states that don't utilize all of their funds. Please get projects to us as soon as possible so we will be ready when funds become available. There is priority on Business Investment programs. The energy program is also important. The announcement on this program is out. The due date is June 15. Ethanol Blender Pump money is available through energy grants.

MoDOT District 8—Frank Miller

The Draft STIP has been released. The funding amount is much less than previous years but there are some really good projects in the STIP. Many projects are on SMCOG's priority list. Some of the project listings are vague so if there are questions contact MoDOT. The Bull Shoals bridge project is programmed for FY14. There is concern about route deviations that will happen when this bridge closes.

Missouri Department of Conservation—Ronda Headland

MDC staff and facilities are all okay in the Joplin area. We have had a push to create landowner cooperatives. This allows neighbors to come together to work on habitat improvement projects on their own property. The first one is going to form in Webster County. The Conservation Commission sets hunting/fishing limits based on scientific evidence. Black Bear hair snares are being set. MDC is also radio tagging largemouth bass in Table Rock. Taneycomo is stocked with Rainbow and Brown trout.

Member Announcements

None

Adjourn

Cy Murray moved and Ed Westerman Seconded to Adjourn. Motion Carried.

Cindy Stephens, Secretary/Treasurer

Date Approved