

**SOUTHEAST MISSOURI REGIONAL PLANNING AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

**Monthly Meeting Minutes
March 28, 2023**

The regular monthly meeting of the Southeast Missouri Regional Planning and Economic Development Commission was called to order by Vice-Chairman John Singleton at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 28, 2023, in the Commission's meeting room at 1 West St. Joseph Street in Perryville, Missouri as well as via Zoom Conference Call.

Executive Board

Brent Buerck – Chairman – absent	John Singleton - Vice Chairman –present
Randy Ruzicka – Secretary – present	Jay Wengert – Treasurer – present

Board of Directors:

Leo Arnzen - Bollinger County - present
Dr. Kimberly Baumann - Mississippi Lime Co. – absent
Greg Beavers - City of Farmington - absent
Harold Gallaher - St. Francois County - present
Stacy Kinder -City of Cape Girardeau - absent
Paul Hassler - City of Ste. Genevieve - absent
Travis Parker - City of Fredericktown – absent
Robert Lourwood - City of Ironton - absent
Keri McCrorey - East Missouri Action Agency, Workforce - absent
Jim Scaggs - Iron County - present
Clint Tracy - Cape Girardeau County - absent
Trey Wiginton - City of Marble Hill – absent

Members Present:

Keith Hoehn - Perry County Commission
Karen Stuppy - Ste. Genevieve County Commission
Mark Marberry- Ste Genevieve County Commission
David Kater- St. Francois County Commission
Rodney Bollinger- City of Jackson
Don England- Village of Oak Ridge
Larry Kemp- Madison County Commission
Mike Sauer- Perry County Commission
David Shaw- City of Desloge
Crystal Jones- Perry Co EDA

Others Present:

Donna Hickman- Congressman Smith's Office
Matt Bain- Senator Josh Hawley's office- VIA Zoom
Sandra Cabot- Project Manager- Missouri DED- VIA Zoom
Gretchen Morse- Workforce Development- VIA Zoom

Staff Present

Drew Christian - Deputy Director
Erica Palmer- Fiscal Officer
Margaret Yates - Grant Administrator
Leslie Seabaugh- Regional Planner
Alex Rios - Environmental Planner
Kara Johnston – Administrative Assistant
Nathan Mitchell- GIS Specialist
Daniel Winningham- Regional Planner

Vice-Chairman Singleton called me meeting to order at 1:05 PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Vice-Chairman Singleton asked for introductions. Introductions followed.

Vice-Chairman Singleton requested a motion to approve the **agenda**; Mr. England made the motion, Mr. Welch seconded the motion; motion carried.

Vice-Chairman Singleton requested approval of the **minutes** of the February 28, 2023, monthly meeting. Commissioner Scaggs made the motion, Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion; motion carried.

The **Treasurer's reports** for the period ending March 15, 2023, was provided to the membership. Vice-Chairman Singleton requested approval of the Treasurer's reports. Mr. Welch moved the financial statements be approved as presented; Mr. England seconded the motion; motion carried.

BUSINESS

Mrs. Yates started off the discussion of grant calls. She stated that DRA is postponing their grant call opening to change funding availability and that should be coming out soon. Mr. Tanz stated there should be a new EDA funding cycle coming out soon. They have moved to a new online platform called Edge. This is a salesforce based platform.

Mr. Tanz gave an update on the broadband activities. Spectrum/Charter is moving forward with Bollinger County. The North part is starting since they have pole agreements with Black River Electric. The South part of the county is having issues with getting the electric co-op to sign pole agreements Mr. Tanz said the next regional meeting is set for May 15 at 10AM. This will be held at the Farmington Public Library. This meeting will include a program overview and overview of the last 6 months of state level meetings. Mr. Tanz also told the group that State MACOG has selected "The ReGroup" to do a feasibility study which will show the best technology and the most cost-effective way to bring this to the area. This has been expanded to include Madison, Perry, Ste Genevieve and Iron County.

Ms. Seabaugh invited everyone to join in a TIF 101 and Government Lending seminar to take place June 27th following the RPC meeting. First State Community Bank will be here for the Government Lending portion and Gilmore Bell will be here for the TIF 101.

Staff Reports

Ms. Rios: program management, grant submission, FY24 grants got approved at the meeting prior to this one.

Mr. Christian: Madison County Hazard Mitigation comments have come back for revision. There will be contracts sent out later this year for St. Francois, Perry, and Ste Genevieve counties for work to start next year, these plans expire in 2025. MoDOT will have BRO and TAP application in the next few months. TAC meeting is next month, April, this will be the ramp up of BRO prioritization. Ste Gen has a comp plan meeting tomorrow, March 29. Desloge survey will be out soon for their comp plan. Mr. Christian attended the Earthquake Summit and said there was some good information.

Ms. Seabaugh: Continuation on TIF work: wrapping up Q4 of 2022, Q1 of 2023 starting and new Bonne Terre TIF starting. RHSOC there are little 2020 funds left, 2021 is 90% drawn down and finally got permission to start drawing down 2022 fund. RLF: \$104,000.00 on the shelf for lending now. There is a \$20,000 loan approved and 2 applications for a total of \$115,000. Two businesses have discussed the possibility of paying off loans which would equal \$200,000 if both paid off.

Mrs. Yates: MoDOT LPA training/certification in April.

Ms. Johnston: FY24 dues, website updating, general clerical duties.

Mr. Winningham: Attended Earthquake Summit with Mr. Christian and found it to be informative. Continuing research on Comp plans.

Mr. Tanz: Mrs. Palmer is at Fiscal Officer Training. Mr. Mitchell is no longer with the RPC, he took a position with a firm in Kansas City. Therefore, we are on the search for another GIS Specialist. May 18th there will be a Cyber Security Ransomware Tabletop Exercise at the Osage Center in Cape Girardeau. They will simulate a ransomware attack and teach you responses to this. They are really pushing for decision makers to attend. There have been some proposed changes to the Clean Water Regulations. Comment period runs April 3 through Mid-May, and May 4th there will be a public meeting.

Reports from State and Federal Partners

Matt Bain: Senator has been busy advocating for needs for Ste Gen all the way to the Bootheel. Senator Hawley is also continuing to push Whisper for accountability and getting bills for solutions to all the issues brought up about broadband.

Donna Hickman: Congressman Smith and Ways and Means Committee have been busy. They have a YouTube channel you can watch them live or recorded. There are 500 open cases with 110 of those being in the Farmington office. Mostly IRS and Passport issues. If you're needing passport for travel this summer submit your applications soon. Mrs. Hickman just wants to remind everyone they are more than happy to give letters of support to those who need them.

Sandra Cabot:. Community Revitalization Grants- 14 community specific projects were funded in the southeast region. This was out of 26 applications. One also went to Codefi.

Gretchen Morse: Workforce Development covers a thirteen county area. There will be a full board meeting on April 24th. Workforce Development helps individuals with job searches and resume building.

Commissioner Scaggs announced to the group that Iron County has been approved for the \$1 Million Jail grant. They also have the match funds to go with it. The civil war jail will be completely renovated on the inside. The outside of the building has to stay the same because it is a historic site.

The next meeting was scheduled for April 25, 2023 @ 1:00 p.m

Mr. England moved to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner Ruzicka seconded the motion; motion carried meeting adjourned at 1:57 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Ruzicka, Secretary

Brent Buerck, Chairman