

**SOUTHEAST MISSOURI REGIONAL PLANNING AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
Monthly Meeting Minutes
July 25, 2023**

The regular monthly meeting of the Southeast Missouri Regional Planning and Economic Development Commission was called to order by Chairman Brent Buerck at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 25, 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 – present John Singleton - Vice Chairman – absent
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 - present
Happy Welch - City of Ste. Genevieve - present
Travis Parker - City of Fredericktown – absent
Jeffery Stinson - City of Ironton - absent
Keri McCrorey - East Missouri Action Agency, Workforce – via Zoom
Jim Scaggs - Iron County - absent
Clint Tracy - Cape Girardeau County - absent
Trey Wiginton - City of Marble Hill – present
Pete Pasternak- City of Desloge- present

Members Present:

Mike Sauer- Perry County Commission
Rodney Bollinger- City of Jackson
Don England- Village of Oak Ridge
Karen Stuppy- Ste Genevieve County
Ben Young- St. Francois County

Others Present:

Crystal Jones- Perry County EDA
Sandra Cabot- MoDED Project Manager
Zach Franklin- Park Hill City Administrator
Matt Bain- Senator Hawley's Office- via Zoom
Rick Francis- State Representative District 145
Heather Garner- SEEDS
Donna Hickman- Congressman Smith's Office

Staff Present

Drew Christian - Deputy Director
Margaret Yates- Grant Administrator
Erica Palmer- Fiscal Officer
Alex Rios - Environmental Planner
Kara Johnston- Administrative Assistant
Daniel Winningham- Regional Planner

Chairman Buerck called me meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Chairman Buerck asked for introductions. Introductions followed.

Chairman Buerck requested a motion to approve the **agenda**; Mr. England made the motion; Mr. Welch seconded the motion; motion carried.

Chairman Buerck requested approval of the **minutes** of the June 27, 2023, monthly meeting. Commissioner Gallaher made the motion, Mr. England seconded the motion; motion carried.

The **Treasurer's reports** for the period ending July 15, 2023, was provided to the membership. Chairman Buerck requested approval of the Treasurer's reports. Mr. England made the motion; Mr. Welch seconded the motion; motion carried.

BUSINESS

Mrs. Yates discussed grant calls. DNR has Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) opening in August. This is mostly for parks and playgrounds. There will be CDBG opening in September or October. Mrs. Yates told the group there is 4317 funding left over. This is funding from DR4317 for storms and flood damage from the April 28- May 11, 2017, storms. Every county in our region is eligible except St. Francois. Mr. Christian then spoke on the TAP grant call. It is open now, close is August 24th. However, if it is on, adjacent to or effects in anyway MoDOT right of way then it will need to be to Chris Crocker by August 3rd for review. Mr. Christians also said your LPA must be current before you submit your application.

Mr. Christian spoke on Broadband Activities. It was requested of the RPC to write a letter of support to AT&T for a cell tower grant to place a tower near Ironton. The \$1.7 billion for broadband is in process by the state.

Mr. Christian reported that FY24 dues are 80% paid as of today. Reminder letters will go out first of August.

Staff Reports

Drew Christian: Ste Gen comp plan and Desloge Comp plans. BRO project prioritization is done.

Erica Palmer: Revised budgets for SWMD and NBP and FY 24 RPC budget.

Daniel Winningham: Has been working on compiling a list of Transit providers for the Transit Plan and comp plan work still.

Kara Johnston: General Clerical work, been helping Mrs. Yates with some grant admin proposals, working on annual dinner invites.

Alex Rios: Ozone monitoring, both were out of compliance in June but are slowly going down now, Environmental assessment for Leadwood and Solid Waste reporting.

Margaret Yates: Leadwood has a project going for a completely new water system, a \$9 Million total project. Have sent out a proposal for grant admin.

Reports from State and Federal Partners

Rick Francis: Senate Bill 190- Property Tax Reduction for senior citizens, there is a lot of confusion and people are interpreting this bill differently. Attorneys are discussing the wording. Next business in Jefferson City is veto session.

Donna Hickman: Congressman Smith has been busy with Ways and Means investigating a Ford Motors partnership and Hunter Biden investigation. Farmington office has 494 open cases, these are mostly IRS, VA, and Passports.

Sandra Cabot: Business retention and expansion is the focus now that all the ARPA and DRA funds are open.

Matt Bain: Passports are a big issue for Cape Girardeau office now.

The next meeting was scheduled for August 22, 2023 @ 1:00 p.m.

Mr. Welch moved to adjourn the meeting; Mr. England seconded the motion; motion carried meeting adjourned at 1:31 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Ruzicka, Secretary

Brent Buerck, Chairman