

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

**Monthly Meeting Minutes
December 12, 2023**

The regular monthly meeting of the Southeast Missouri Regional Planning and Economic Development Commission was called to order by Vice-Chairman Singleton at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 12, 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
Dr. Kenneth Haskins -City of Cape Girardeau - absent
Paul Hassler - City of Ste. Genevieve - absent
Kelly Korokis - City of Fredericktown - absent
Robert Lourwood - City of Ironton - absent
Keri McCrorey - East Missouri Action Agency, Workforce – via Zoom
Jim Scaggs - Iron County - absent
Clint Tracy - Cape Girardeau County - present
Trey Wiginton - City of Marble Hill - absent

Members Present:

Keith Hoehn - Perry County Commission
Happy Welch- City of Ste Genevieve
Don England- Village of Oak Ridge
Mike Sauer- Perry County Commission
Zach Franklin- City of Park Hills

Others Present:

Rick Francis- District 145
Dale Wright- District 146
Chris Dinkins- District 144
Barry Hovis- District 146
Christopher Barrow- SE Missourian via Zoom
Kara Clark Summers- City Clerk Cape Girardau

Staff Present

Jeremy Tanz - Executive Director
Drew Christian - Deputy Director
Margaret Yates - Grant Administrator
Erica Palmer- Fical Officer
Leslie Seabaugh- Regional Planner
Alex Rios – Environmental Planner
Kara Johnston – Administrative Assistant
Sarah Brown- GIS Specialist
Daniel Winningham- Regional Planner
Lydia Keller- Grant Administrator

Vice-Chairman Singleton called me meeting to order at 1:00 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, Commissioner Wengert seconded the motion; motion carried.

Vice-Chairman Singleton requested approval of the **minutes** of the October 24, 2022, monthly meeting. Commissioner Kemp moved to approve the minutes as presented; Mr. England seconded the motion; motion carried.

The **Treasurer's reports** for the period ending November 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

Shawn Mitchell, the Deputy Chief of the Jackson Fire Department, presented on the Region E Homeland Security Response Team. This team covers 13 counties including; Bollinger, Iron, Madison and Cape Girardeau in our region. It was started in 2004 with the original focus being HazMat and weapons of mass destruction. Currently their funding comes from Regional Homeland Security Oversight Committee (RHSOC). The teams services is of no cost to the communities who need it. Search and rescue and HazMat spills on the interstate are big things they get called about. In 2023 they were call about 20 times for various things. The team also does trainings all year round to keep skills up to date and fresh.

The revised FY23 budget was presented to the board for approval. After having no discussion or questions Vice-Chairman Mr. Singleton asked for a motion to approve. Commissioner Kemp

moved to approve the revised budget as presented; Mr. England seconded the motion; motion carried.

Mrs. Yates reported on some open grant calls. RTP Trails grant should be opening anytime now that is \$250,000 with a 20% match. CDBG has several grants open starting with Downtown Revitalization which is \$75,000 with a 20% match. Industrial Infrastructure is another CDBG grant that is \$750,000 15% match from applicant with a 1:1 match on capital investments. In April or May, the general CDBG cycle should open which is a \$500,000 max. Mrs. Yates shared a few projects/grant apps that are in the works, Perryville Midget Park, Bonne Terre Paving project, and Glenallen Flood Buyout.

Reports from State and Federal Partners

Next was reports from our federal and state partners. In attendance by invitation to speak were Representative Rick Francis, Representative Chris Dinkins, and Representative Barry Hovis.

Rick Francis: Missouri house caucus is to meet to talk about priorities of the coming year. The things Rep. Francis would like to see on the priorities is Initiative Petition- he would like this changed from the 50% plus one or eliminated. There is a childcare bill that was filibustered in the senate that would give tax credit incentives to parents. He is pushing a Hemp Pilot program that would be similar to what they do with ethanol now. There is the continual discussion of the Senate Bill 190 and Broadband.

Dale Wright: Main focus is prescription drug cost bill. Insurance companies are buying PBMs (Express Scripts). This is raising costs instead of providing lower costs as designed. Mr. Wright is also hoping for some money for economic development projects. They are working on a satellite medical school from Missouri State University at Southeast Missouri University. They will also be looking into a fast tract from NP to Doctors.

Chris Dinkins: Working on a bill for rural ambulances. There are many concerns from commissioners, clerks and mayor on the senate bill 190.

Barry Hovis: Abortion will be a big subject this year. Income tax cuts are a continual discussion. The higher education committee says there needs to be more trades and skills.

Staff Reports

Mr. Christian: Next month's TAC meeting will start the prioritization conversation. TAP will open in 8 or 9 months. The last 2 years every project submitted has got funded. Mr. Christian encourages everyone to apply with their projects. HazMit contracts are in for Bollinger, St Francois, Ste Genevieve, Iron, and Perry Counties. Extension will be requested, and SEMA is already aware of the issue.

Ms. Seabaugh: RSOC 2020 is done, 2021 should be done by end of the year, 2022 is 61% done and 2023 allocations are in process there were 8 different projects partially funded. RLF has a current \$2 Million portfolio. Interest rate minimum is at 5%. Currently there is \$140,000.00 to led and one application for \$25,000.00. Working on TIF and EDA annual reports.

Mrs. Palmer: Working on Audit which will occur Jan 15th.

Ms. Keller and Mrs. Yates: just working on grants as stated in the grant call update.

Ms. Brown: Working on maps for current comp plans and continual work on Perryville Utilities

Ms. Johnston: Assisting in Glenallen buyout paperwork and preparing for audit.

Ms. Rios: Grant call open till January 5th and environmental work for grants.

Mr. Winningham: comp plans and meetings

Mr. Tanz: MTC regional node planning grant- overall study of entrepreneur assistance in our area. \$25,000 grant with time match. MACOG has report completed with the state, it is also on macog.org. University of Missouri EDA Tech Hub Grant for minerals and advanced energy there will be tabletop stakeholder meetings. Representative Wright is sponsoring a bill to double the amount of funding RPCs receive or could receive.

Other Business

The next meeting was scheduled for January 23, 2024 @ 1:00 p.m

Mr. Welch moved to adjourn the meeting; Mr. England seconded the motion; motion carried meeting adjourned at 2:50 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Ruzicka, Secretary

Brent Buerck, Chairman