

**SOUTHEAST MISSOURI REGIONAL PLANNING AND  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
Monthly Meeting Minutes  
May 28, 2024**

The regular monthly meeting of the Southeast Missouri Regional Planning and Economic Development Commission was called to order by Secretary Randy Ruzicka at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 28, 2024, 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  
Randy Ruzicka – Secretary – present

John Singleton - Vice Chairman – absent  
Jay Wengert – Treasurer – absent

**Board of Directors:**

Leo Arnzen - Bollinger County - absent  
Dr. Kimberly Baumann - Mississippi Lime Co. – present  
Greg Beavers - City of Farmington - absent  
Harold Gallaher - St. Francois County - absent  
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  
Pastor Adrian Taylor Jr.- Lighthouse United Cape Church- absent  
Jim Scaggs - Iron County - absent  
Clint Tracy - Cape Girardeau County - absent  
Trey Wiginton - City of Marble Hill – absent  
Mike Sauer- Perry County Commission- absent  
Pete Pasternak- City of Desloge- present

**Members Present:**

Happy Welch- City of Ste Genevieve  
Mark Marberry- Ste Genevieve County Commission  
Karen Stuppy- Ste Genevieve County Commission  
Larry Kemp- Madison County Commission  
Crystal Jones- Perry County EDA  
Don England- Village of Oak Ridge  
Teresa Caldwell- City of Marble Hill

**Others Present:**

Sandra Cabot- Missouri DED-zoom  
Leslie Rone- Missouri DED-zoom  
Estrella Carmona- St Francois Medical Center Health Equity and Community Services

**Staff Present**

Jeremy Tanz - Executive Director  
Erica Palmer- Fiscal Officer  
Leslie Seabaugh- Economic Planner  
Margaret Yates- Grant Administrator  
Alex Rios – Environmental Planner  
Kara Johnston – Administrative Assistant  
Daniel Winningham- Regional Planner

Secretary Ruzicka called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Secretary Ruzicka asked for introductions. Introductions followed.

Secretary Ruzicka requested a motion to approve the **agenda**; Mr. England made the motion, Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion; motion carried.

Secretary Ruzicka requested approval of the **minutes** of the April 23, 2024, monthly meeting. Mr. England moved to approve the minutes, Commissioner Stuppy seconded the motion; motion carried.

The **Treasurer's reports** for the period ending April 15, 2024, was provided to the membership. Checkbook Balance is \$374,264.90 and Accounts Receivable is \$101,138.27. Secretary Ruzicka requested approval of the Treasurer's reports. Mr. Welch moved the financial statements be approved as presented; Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion; motion carried.

## **BUSINESS**

The FY25 dues are currently 73% paid. These just went out May 1.

Mr. Matthew Sell from Daniel Jones & Associates attended the meeting to provide the audit review. There were 2 opinions from the audit. The first being on the Financials. This was an unmodified opinion, which is the highest opinion you can receive from an audit. The financials brought a clean audit with no findings. The second opinion was on compliance. This was also unmodified. There were no significant or non-significant findings on the audit. Commissioner Kemp moved to approve the audit as written, Mr. England seconded the motion; motion carried.

Mrs. Yates discussed grant calls. DRA is currently open with a deadline of the first week of June. They started a new portal system that seems to be going well. CDBG '23/'24 Competitive cycle is open until the first week of September. We are working with a couple communities for applications.

## **Reports from State and Federal Partners**

Chris Dinkins: Waiting to see what bills are going to get signed by the Governor. Senate did not do anything the last week of session therefore the house had to either push bills through without amendments they wanted to add or just let some bills die because of edits that needed made but could not get approved.

Lesley Rone: Spoke about the Shared Work Program

Jodi Williams: Congressman Smith is pushing the election integrity bill through and working on grants for rural healthcare, telehealth and possibly funding for outpatient care to stay in rural hospitals.

### **Staff Reports**

Ms. Seabaugh: Ms. Seabaugh reported the next Regional Homeland Security Oversight Committee (RHSOC) will be August 15 at 11:00 a.m. in Sikeston. The RLF has \$150,000 currently available to lend. Ms. Seabaugh has been working on TIF Q1 reports. Most of her time has been taken up by the CEDS. They are currently working on the draft Goals and Objectives. Which will be presented at the Aug 27<sup>th</sup> meeting and approved at the annual dinner.

Mrs. Palmer: Now that audit is done focusing on New Bourbon and Solid Waste FY25 budgets.

Mrs. Yates: Lydia took a position with the City of Perryville. Kara Johnston has stepped in to fill the position of Grant Administrator.

Ms. Johnston: General clerical things, working with Margaret to learn the grant writing and administration process.

Ms. Rios: Working on tire resurfacing grants. SWMD regular reporting also.

Mr. Winningham: Ste Gen Comp plan.

Mr. Tanz: The Benton Institute is working with communities to establish local stakeholders and help keep them on track to aid in Broadband efforts to apply for BEAD funding.

### **Other Business**

The next meeting was scheduled for June 25, 2024 @ 1:00 p.m.

Mr. England moved to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion; motion carried meeting adjourned at 1:24 pm

Respectfully submitted,

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Randy Ruzicka, Secretary

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Brent Buerck, Chairman