

**SOUTHEAST MISSOURI REGIONAL PLANNING AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
Monthly Meeting Minutes
December 10, 2024**

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, December 10, 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 – Present
Randy Ruzicka – Secretary – absent

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

Board of Directors:

Leo Arnzen - Bollinger County – absent
Dr. Kimberly Baumann - Mississippi Lime Co. – absent
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
Jeffrey Stinson - 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 - Present
Clint Tracy - Cape Girardeau County – absent
Trey Wiginton - City of Marble Hill – Present
Mike Sauer- Perry County Commission- absent
Pete Pasternak- City of Desloge- absent
Don England- Village of Oak Ridge- Present
David Borgfield- Village of Oak Ridge- Present

Members Present:

Happy Welch- City of Ste Genevieve
David Kater – St. Francois County
Keith Hoehn- Perry County Commission
Crystal Jones – Executive Director Perry Co EDA
Larry Kemp- Madison County Commission
Sandra Cabot – Dept. of Eco Dev Project Manager
Zach Franklin – City of Park Hills
Cary Harbison, SEMP Port Director

Staff Present

Jeremy Tanz – Executive Director
Drew Christian- Deputy Director
Alex Rios – Environmental Planner
Kara Johnston – Grant Administrator
Margaret Yates- Grant Administrator
Erica Palmer- Fiscal Officer
Leslie Seabaugh- Regional Planner
Samantha Harris – Admin Assistant

Others Present:

Dale Wright – State Representative Dist. 116
Bryant Wolfen – Representative Elect District 145

Chairman Buerck called the 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. Welch made the motion; Commissioner Scaggs seconded the motion; motion carried.

Chairman Buerck requested approval of the **minutes** of the October 22, 2024, monthly meeting. Commissioner Scaggs moved to approve the minutes; Mr. Welch seconded the motion; motion carried.

The **Treasurer's reports** for the period ending November 15, 2024, were provided to the membership. Chairman Buerck requested approval of the Treasurer's reports. As of November 15, there was a checkbook balance of \$385,330.10, the reserve had \$321,902.89 balance. Receivables equal \$123,632.24. Approved as read.

Reports from State and Federal Partners

Representative Elect Bryant Wolfin: They are working on legislation for the following: Changes to sales tax, reverse mining exemptions at local level for Perry and St. Genevieve Counties along with others. He also stated that last week he toured the SEMO Port and Farmington Prison. Commissioner Scaggs asked if the sales tax code is prefilled? Mr. Wolfin stated that he had in HB321. He is also talking to Senator Henderson about filling the bill in Senate. The question was also asked whether the Senate was going to pick up the bill. Representative Wright stated that Senator Henderson does plan on supporting House Bill 321 for Senate.

Representative Wright: also stated that they have prefilled the hotel taxes in HB321. CMR fire in Fredericktown was a loss of a good plant and that they do plan on rebuilding in a new location. IKO and Beelman plants have \$150 million investment each for minerals and roofing granules. Bismark's gas line State Funding has been approved. The new session will start on January 8th. Governor Kehoe will be focusing on infrastructure, workforce development, and crime. If anyone has any State Funding request they need to be submitted now while we are getting the budget set for next year.

Sandra Cabot: Business retention and expansion meetings in various counties, Missouri WORC program will help with expansions, the Sales Tax exemption was supposed to be at the State level, it was never supposed to be at the local level.

BUSINESS.

Vice Chair John singleton will be leaving RPC. Nominations and appointment of Vice-Chairman; Mr. Wengert nominated Commissioner Jim Scaggs for Vice-Chairman, Mr. Kemp second the motion. Commissioner Jim Scaggs accepted the Vice-Chairman position. Chairman Buerck requested approval to remove John Singleton as a signature for the RPC Accounts and add Jim Scaggs. Mr. Welch moved that Mr. Singleton be removed and Commissioner Scaggs be added as a signature for the RPC accounts; Mr. Wiginton second the motion.

Chairman Buerck discussed dues, rates and potential changes for FY26. Mr. Tanz explained that the dues rate has not changed since 2016, other than the population change with the 2020 census. There is Senate Bill 240 by Senator Burger, Senate Bill 387 by Senator Black, Senate Bill 477 by Senator Brown all pre-filled. These are all bills that change the State Aid that go to Regional Planning. The current statutory limit for rural RPC's is \$25,000.00 per year. There is language in these bills that would increase to \$50,000.00 per year. EDA is looking at reauthorization. There is a reauthorization that has been attached to the National Defense Authorization Act and to the Water Resources Development Act. EDA has not been authorized since 2009. EDA is currently funded at \$27mill, the new legislation language would increase EDA to \$90mill. This would be a huge bump up for the grant programs and the planning partnership that the RPC would get. We are currently splitting 60/40, so we receive \$70,000 from EDA and then the rest is match that we must come up with. This language could increase \$200,000.00 from EDA to the RPC, also in the language they could decrease the match. Currently we have EDA 60/40, MODOT 80/20, and State Aid 50/50. We are at a \$94,340 match. State Aid is at \$25,000.00 match and if EDA increases their match to \$50,000.00, we are looking at a possible shortfall. We would need to increase up to 8% or 9% as staff with return to annual adjustment to dues at the rate set by the RPC Board. The discussion led to keeping FY26 dues the same for now, but we will re-evaluate in May 2025.

Chairman Buerck requested review and approval of FY24 revised budget. Mr. Tanz discussed the revised budget is for amending for the actuals. The major change was RLF Funds written off. We had 2 Arrow Rock and 1 CID or \$128,000.00 and 1 Contracted budget pass through funds. Commissioner Scaggs moved to approve FY24 revised budget; Commissioner Kemp second the motion.

S&B CDC loan forgiveness discussion and action. Mr. Tanz explained that when Chauncy and Dave were at the RPC they tried to get CDC established through the RPC. It was a combination with SEOI and the Boothill RPC's. There were some issues between SBA and Dave trying to work out conditions and terms. It has never gotten off the ground. RPC loaned CDC \$15,000.00 in startup funds. There is still a balance of \$14,205.53 that has not been paid back by CDC. The CDC has since been disbanded. We just need authorization from the board to forgive the \$14,205.53. Mr. Welch made the motion to forgive the loan; Mrs. McCrorey second the motion.

Chairman Buerck requested Presentation of Multimodal subcommittee list. Mr. Tanz explained that the TAC is adding Multimodal subcommittee. We were supplied with a list from MODOT Multimodal at Jefferson City. New Bourbon Port is going to ask the board for a representative. We are also working with businesses and contractors for future projects. Their first meeting will be in January. We need the board to approve the list excluding everyone that has declined. Mr. Christian went on to explain that the TAC bylaws will need to be revised to include the Multimodal and that the chairman of the Multimodal

will need to be a voting member of TAC. This will all be going to TAC in January to present to the RPC board in February to approve the revisions. Mr. Christian also explained there are Four at large members; SEMO Port, NBP, SMTS, Econ Development. We will also be looking at terms for executive board members that mirror the RPC Executive committee with a 2-year term. Commissioner Scaggs made a motion to approve the list; Mr. Wiginton second the motion.

Ms. Johnston discussed grant calls. There are no current open grants. CBDG is supposed to be announced by the end of the week. CBDG competitive cycle is scheduled for April to get back on their normal yearly cycle. DRA CIF cycle is supposed to be opening at the end of the month.

Staff Reports

Ms. Rios: Hazard Mitigation plans for Ste. Genevive, St. Francois, Perry, and Bollinger Counties have been submitted

Mr. Christian: Reviewing and Scoring BRO applications from MODOT. There will be a conference call with all the RPCs in January to rank the projects. There was an open house at Perryville Parks and Rec plan with a great turnout. The public survey portion will be starting.

Mrs. Palmer: Worked on the NBP Audit that happened last week and now preparing for the RPC Audit in January.

Ms. Johnston/Mrs. Yates: Currently working on an Entitlement Community project with Cape. Waiting to hear back from CBDG. Jackson project is still underway.

Ms. Seabaugh: Working on TIF annual reports. 3Q is complete and is currently working on 4Q field work. RLF currently has \$170,000.00 available for lending. Still working with Bollinger County. Our EDA RLF annual report has been accepted. HSOC 2022 deadline is August 2025; 2023 is 51% drawn down and deadline is August 2025. CERTS could possibly be an issue, if anyone is interested in CERT classes, please let her know. 2024 is \$188,000 with 8 sustainment projects funded.

Mr. Tanz: Nothing to add, asked for support for the EDA reauthorization.

Other Business

There was no other business.

During open discussions Representative Wright talked about the Iron Mountain Lake area and the potential levee breach. He stated that they are also in need of any equipment i.e. Dump Trucks, bulldozers or any other equipment to assist in the operation of the city. Representative Wright is trying to get them a Dollar General to help with income.

The next meeting was scheduled for January 28, 2025.

Mr. Wiginton moved to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Kater seconded the motion; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 1:57 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Ruzicka, Secretary

Brent Buerck, Chairman