

**SOUTHEAST MISSOURI REGIONAL PLANNING AND  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
Monthly Meeting Minutes  
October 22, 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, October 22, 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 – Present

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 – absent  
Mike Sauer- Perry County Commission- Present  
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  
Rodney Bollinger- City of Jackson  
Keith Hoehn- Perry County Commission  
Keith Hoehn- Perry County Commission  
Larry Kemp- Madison County Commission  
Sandra Cabot – Dept. of Eco Dev Project Manager

**Staff Present**

Drew Christian- Deputy Director  
Alex Rios – Environmental Planner  
Kara Johnston – Grant Administrator  
Sarah Brown- GIS Specialist  
Margaret Yates- Grant Administrator  
Erica Palmer- Fiscal Officer  
Leslie Seabaugh- Regional Planner  
Samantha Harris – Admin Assistant

**Others Present:**

Jodi Williams- Congressman Jason Smith's Office  
Deidre Belmar- Congressman Jason Smith's Office

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. England made the motion; Commissioner Sauer seconded the motion; motion carried.

Chairman Buerck requested approval of the **minutes** of the September 24, 2024, monthly meeting. Mr. England moved to approve the minutes; Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion; motion carried.

The **Treasurer's reports** for the period ending October 15, 2024, were provided to the membership. Chairman Buerck requested approval of the Treasurer's reports. As of October 15, there was a checkbook balance of \$434,536.45, the reserve had \$321,870.08 balance. Receivables equal \$146,526.73. Mr. Happy moved the financial statements to be approved as presented; Mr. Scaggs seconded the motion; motion carried.

## **BUSINESS.**

Chairman Buerck requested approval of modification of Personnel Policy – to include Martin Luther King Jr. Day as a recognized holiday. Mr. England moved the modification of Personnel Policy – to include Martin Luther King Jr. Day as a recognized holiday be approved; Commissioner Ruzicka second the motion

Ms. Johnston discussed grant calls. CBDG grant applications are currently closed and will open again in April of 2025. Land and Water Conservation Grants are open until November.

## **Staff Reports**

Ms. Johnston/Mrs. Yates: CDBG is closed, discussion of future grants with Viburnum on roads and water. DWP program with Farmington based business. Ms. Johnston is also working with Margaret to learn grant administration and training Samantha for her new Admin position.

Mrs. Harris: introduced herself to the group. She recently retired from the Military and was looking for a part time position. She is excited to become a part of the RPC team.

Ms. Rios: Solid Waste Management District and Hazard Mitigation plans.

Mrs. Palmer: Yearend processing and quarterly reimbursement for grants.

Ms. Seabaugh: CEDS have been submitted, HSOC has no real budget changes - 2024 processing, State and local cyber security grant is now open and closes December 4<sup>th</sup> – there is a 200,000 max with 30% cash or in-kind match. The State of MO has set aside a portion for rural

communities. RLF has \$135,000 available for lending, currently working with an applicant for \$130,000. TIF annual reports are coming.

Ms. Brown: Ste Gen utility education for new maps, symposium in Cape, HazMit plans with Alex, many other maps and projects.

Mr. Christian: BRO is open until November 15.

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

Diedre Belmar: There is a roundtable in St. Louis – exp of Trump tax cuts, urging reconcile. Tax for Venmo / Cashapp if you make less than \$200,000 per year.

Jodi Williams: Congressman Smith is currently traveling.

Sandra Cabot: Business retention and expansion meetings in various counties, Missouri WORC program will help with expansions, Madison County IDA meeting, also attended the Iron County meeting and was able to tour progress on the Iron County Courthouse and Civil War Jail.

### **Other Business**

Mr. England announced that he will be Retiring from the Village of Oak Ridge December 31, 2024. He introduced Mr. Borgfield who will be taking his place.

Commissioner Ruzicka spoke about Senate **Bill 153 & Senate Bill 97 along with Statue 144.05** which involves the exemption of certain industries to include mining, utilities, commercial industry and they are also adding nuclear power plants. MAC has agreed to draft a resolution to take to legislature. Ste. Genevieve County has retained a lawyer, bond debt based on Tax Revenue income, lowered 35% with new exemptions. Iron County Sawmills will lose 32% tax, Mining is currently assessed at \$100,000,000 tax revenue. The City of Ironton is already at 9% sales tax. This will be a \$300,000 loss for Iron County, Madison County will lose revenue from Black River Electric. Senate Bill 190 was also discussed which involves the reduction of property tax for Seniors. Iron County stated that it would cost the County \$45,000 to implement. They did put it on the agenda for the ordinance, but it got put down. Perry County discussed hiring 3-4 people to implement a \$25,000 program with a \$3,000 annual maintenance. It was also discussed that the average refund will be anywhere from \$2.00 - \$20.00 and they are required to re-apply every year. Clint Tracy stated they are looking into implementation at Commission Level, as opposed to petition from the community.

Larry Kemp discussed the Sales tax with online shopping and no use tax on internet sales. The no use tax is on goods not services.

The next meeting was scheduled for December 10, 2024.

Commissioner Ruzicka moved to adjourn the meeting; Mr. England seconded the motion; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 1:45 pm

Respectfully submitted,

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Randy Ruzicka, Secretary

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Brent Buerck, Chairman