

**SOUTHEAST MISSOURI REGIONAL PLANNING AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
Monthly Meeting Minutes
JUNE 24, 2025**

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, June 24, 2025, 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

Jim Scaggs – Vice-Chairman - Present
Jay Wengert – Treasurer –Present

Voting Members:

Ashley Baudendistel – City of Fredericktown - Present
Boyd France – City of Frohna - Absent
Brian Keim - City of Ste. Genevieve – Absent
Chad Farris – Village of Whitewater – Present
Charles White – City of Leadwood - Absent
Clint Tracy - Cape Girardeau County –Present
Christopher Findlay – City of Iron Mountain Lake – Absent
Daniel Foster – City of Altenburg – Absent
David Borgfield- Village of Oak Ridge- Absent
David Kater – St. Francois County – Present
Deborah McCarrer – City of Leadington Appointee – Absent
Frankie Ullman – City of St. Mary Appointee – Absent
Erik Schonhardt – City of Bonne Terre - Absent
Greg Beavers - City of Farmington – Absent
Happy Welch- City of Ste Genevieve – Present
Harold Gallaher – St. Francois County – Present
Honorable Bobbie Schoonover – Village of Junction City - Absent
J.D. King – City of Gordonville – Absent
James Settle - City of Fredericktown Appointee – Present
Jay Simpson – Village of Des Arc – Absent
Jeffrey Stinson - City of Ironton – Absent
Johnny Setzler – City of Viburnum - Absent

Keith Hoehn- Perry County Commission – Present
Kent Marler – Madison County Appointee – Present
Larry Kemp- Madison County Commission – Present
Leo Arnzen - Bollinger County – Absent
Lynn James –Village of Sedgewickville – Absent
Mark Kastin – Village of Pochontas – Absent
Mark Mayberry – Ste Genevieve County - Absent
Mike Sauer- Perry County Commission- Present
Paul Monia – City of Bloomsdale - Absent
Pete Pasternak- City of Desloge- Present
Phillip Kohler – Village of Allenville – Absent
Robert York – Village of Glen Allen – Absent
Rodney Bollinger – City of Jackson Appointee – Present
Scott Oatman – City of Annapolis – Absent
Seth Radford – City of Bismarck - Absent
Shelby Chan – City of Pilot Knob – Absent
Sheralyn Gorse – City of Marquand – Absent
Stacy Easter – City of Park Hills - Absent
Stacy Kinder -City of Cape Girardeau – Absent
Stephen Daume - Cape Girardeau County - Absent
Susie Dennison – City of Arcadia – Absent
Tasha Whitacre – Village of Cobalt Village – Absent
Travis Keys – City of Delta – Absent
Travis Parker - City of Fredericktown – Absent
Trey Wiginton - City of Marble Hill –Absent
Zach Franklin – City of Park Hills – Present

Staff Present:

Jeremy Tanz – Executive Director
Drew Christian- Deputy Director
Samantha Harris – Regional Planner
Kara Johnston- Grant Administrator
Leslie Seabaugh- Regional Planner
Erica Palmer – Fiscal Officer

Others Present:

Representative Harbison
Gretchen Morse
Leslie Rone – Senator Blunts Office
Kimberly Bauman – Mississippi Lime
Carey Harbison – Director, SEMO Port
Bradley Clark – Senator Hawley's Office

Donna Hickman – US Representative Smith’s Office
Tessa Renkop –Madison Co Chamber of Commerce
Darlene Thompson – Treasurer, Village of Allenville
Tonya Coomer – Treasurer, Whitewater / Allenville

Vice-Chairman Scaggs called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Vice-Chairman Scaggs asked for introductions. Introductions followed.

Vice-Chairman Scaggs requested a motion to approve the **agenda**; Mr. Welch made the motion; Commissioner Gallaher seconded the motion; motion carried.

Vice-Chairman Scaggs requested approval for the **minutes** of May 27, 2025, monthly meeting. Commissioner Ruzicka moved to approve the minutes; Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion; motion carried.

The **Treasurer’s reports** for the period ending June 15, 2025, were provided for membership. Vice-Chairman Scaggs requested approval of the Treasurer’s reports. As of June 15, 2025, there was a checkbook balance of \$396,157.51, reserve account has \$322,128.37, receivables are \$180,925.73. Mr. Welch made the motion to approve the treasurer’s report; Commissioner Ruzicka seconded the motion; motion carried

PUBLIC NOTICE

Vice-Chairman Scaggs announced the public notices for informational purposes only.

CRITICAL MINERALS TECH HUB PRESENTATION

Dr. Kwame Awuah-Offie, from Missouri S&T gave a presentation on the Critical Minerals in Missouri.

BUSINESS

Matthew Sell presented the FY24 Financial Audit. Two opinions are issued. The first opinion is on the Commissions Financial Statements in which an unmodified opinion was issued. This means the audit was a clean audit. The second opinion is regarding compliance for each major federal program and internal control over compliance required by the uniform guidance. In their opinion the Commission complied with all material respects with the types of requirements that could have a direct material effect on each of its major federal programs. The Commission received an unmodified opinion. There were two items brought to management’s attention that were addressed but did not affect the opinion. One was a financial statement finding. There was also a correction made. All items were addressed. Commissioner Sauer made a motion to approve the FY24 Financial Audit; Commissioner Ruzicka seconded the motion; motion carried.

Ms. Johnston discussed grant calls. CBDG competitive cycle is open and closes July 28, 2025. We have a few communities in the process of applying or reapplying; She received a lot of information about DRA during a webinar they had put on. CIF funding is still available if anyone is interested. They suggest submitting application as soon as possible. This is a rolling cycle first come first serve type of funding. CDAP will hopefully open soon. Their plan is to open by the end of the month and close in August. There is a one-time disaster recovery cycle, and they are hoping for it to be open by the end of the month also. There is a 30-day turnaround. There is 9.7 million dollars available for federally declared disaster from January 01, 2023, to December 31, 2024.

Mr. Tanz discussed the meeting schedule. There is really no update currently. He will send out a reminder on the survey that he sent out to see if we can get a little more input. Right now, it looks like it's changing to every other month starting with the new fiscal year October 1, 2025. He will try to have more information, and a schedule built up for the July Meeting, discuss it in August, and make it official in September.

Staff Reports

Mrs. Palmer: Mrs. Palmer has just finished up with the FY24 audit and is working on a revised budget for New Bourbon and Solid Waste. She will then start working on the RPC budget for FY26.

Ms. Seabaugh: Homeland security has not changed much within the several months because of the DOGE review of FEMA funds. We finally did get a release of funds and can start drawing them down. There was a meeting in April in Sikeston which a lot of programs needed to move money around due to being either over or under budget. We are now on hold again because we do have some amendments for both FY22 and FY23. All the open projects from FY22 and FY23 were supposed to be completed by August 31 of 2025. We have requested an extension for all those projects due to the timely funding hold. FY24 seems to be going good now that we can get to the funds, we have projects ordering their equipment. She believes that some of the projects will also go into cost over runs due to the delay in access to the funds. There is not any word on how much or if we will have any type of regionalization funding for FY25. Historically OHS application is released from mid-April to mid-May. We still do not have that application. We have been told by OHS that the funds will be coming but we are not sure how much the regions will receive. The next meeting is July 17, 2025, at Sikeston DPS. We will be covering the THIRA update. RLF – She is very appreciative of the Auditors and Mr. Sell bring up the identification process for our troublesome loans. The loans that were written off in FY24 were loans that had not paid since 2021. We had not written them off because they were tied to CIDS and TIFF's. They were finally retired so we were able to write those loans off. At the same time, we had some other COVID that are now troublesome. Having both of those hitting at the same time is why the auditors brought up the schedule. The legacy loans have been in operation for 33 years. In that time have made over 100 loans 7.7 million dollars. We do have a loss at 13%. We have closed 2 loans this month and have one loan on the books for the next two weeks. If we do grant this loan that will bring our portfolio down to \$26,000.00 available. She is also working on EDA projects.

Ms. Johnston: Ms. Johnston has been working on the City of Jacksons Industrial Park Road, which is complete and hoping to close it out in the next few months. Leadington Street project is in the process of getting started. The Leadwood water project is in progress now. Multiple application for this CBDG cycle.

Ms. Harris: Working in Re-Trac and going to start making site visits.

Mr. Christian: Currently working on an Active Transportation Plan for Ironton. Yesterday he was with some people from the Department of Health and Senior Services, Missourians for Transportation, and MODOT. We did a walk out in Ironton. There is a pre-identified route from the Caseys to the School. They were trying to get an idea of what it is like to walk in this area with disabilities. They then went to Pilot Knob and conducted a walk out there also. He is also working on Perryville Parks and Recreation Plan, Desloge Comp Plan. We also received our 5 outstanding Hazard Mitigation Plans. All have now been approved by SEMA and FEMA. With the MPO in Cape he is doing their update to the transportation appromovement program within the Cape / Jackson metropolitan area. Also, he will be conducting a freight study admin for the MPO, which will start in July or August. More regional issues, the TAP applications for sidewalks through MODOT are currently open. Applications are due July 11, 2025. It is intended for transportation and not recreation. Also, on the MODOT front we will be coming around to all the counties for their transportation priorities, and then we will be putting together the ballot for the TAC up online. They will be voting for the top 21 regional transportation priorities that will be sent to MODOT.

Mr. Tanz: As Ms. Palmer said we will be starting on next year's budget. We finally got our EDA contract for next year, so our EDA funding is in place. It was back dated to April 1, 2025. Dues statements have all went out. We have received about 73% so we are doing well. This is the year our Executive Committee will be voted on in September. If you would like to be on the Executive Board, please let us know and we will get your name on the ballot. NTIA finally released their changes to bead. They made some changes to the program. They did change technology priorities. They are looking at the lowest cost solutions to include fixed wireless and satellite.

Reports from State and Federal Partners

Donna Hickman: Congressman Smiths office is focused on getting the big bill passed. In the Farmington Office, they are overwhelmed with IRS and SS cases. The Cape office is in DC this week.

Bradley Clark: Senator Hawley's Office is in the reconciliation process. His priorities have stayed the same, no cuts on Medicaid, we have a lot of rule hospitals and clinics that rely on that.

Lesley Rone: Statewide CEDS comment period is online and open until June 30. Workforce development one start office opens back up on July 1 to July 31. \$2,000.00 per employee to get upscale credentials. DRA requested Q2 2024 as priority quarter because this is when Missouri had a disaster declaration. We are pushing SEDAP hard. It is currently stuck at OMB.

Representative Tony Harbison: Created a committee on taxes. There are four meetings set around the State: St. Louis, Kansas City, Chillicothe, and Lebanon. Met with Iron and Reynolds County assessors to get information from them. (65 years combined experience)

Steve Jordan: Biggest concern right now is the software cost for SB3 property tax deal (\$20-\$30,000) per county. This is going to cost upwards of \$100,000.00 per county to implement the tax break.

Gretchen Morse: WIOA looks like \$1.7 million in 13 counties. Disaster funds from May are at State Level, 4 counties were interested in the cleanup efforts. They are Iron, New Madrid, Pemescot, and Scott counties. Receiving about \$215,000.00. SE Region made performance for the 3rd year in a row. Next full board meeting is July 25, 2025.

Other Business

No other business.

Open discussion concerning problems and issues:

The next meeting was scheduled for July 22, 2025.

Commissioner Gallaher made the motion to adjourn; Commissioner Ruzicka seconded the motion; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:35 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Ruzicka, Secretary

Brent Buerck, Chairman