Open Meeting
Bill Marshall called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance and introductions.

Approval of August 26, 2009 Agenda
Billy Dryer moved and Cindy Stephens seconded the motion to approve the August 26, 2009 meeting agenda.

Approval of June 24, 2009 Minutes
Brian Bingle moved and Bob Walster seconded the motion to approve the June 24, 2009 meeting minutes. Motion carried.
Approval of May 27, 2009 Minutes

Brian Bingle moved and Allen Kunkle seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the May 27, 2009 meeting. Motion carried.

Workforce Investment Board—Bill Dowling

Mr. Dowling presented to the group regarding the Workforce Investment Board. He described the mission of the board and the resources available to the region. One of the largest problems facing our region is the large amount of layoffs in the region.

Legislative/Partner Agency Reports:

Stacy Burks, Senator Bond’s Office: Senate is in recess until Sept 8. Senator has held several open forums around the state focusing on Cap and Trade legislation. A special election will be held to replace Senator Kennedy. Cap and Trade is being overshadowed by health care at the moment, but this is a huge issue. We don’t expect a vote on health care before October.

Steve McIntosh, Congressman Blunt’s Office

Congressman Blunt has been busy conducting his annual Ag. Bus Tour. The congressman has also been participating in a new phone service that allows multiple people to participate in “town-hall” meetings. The last meeting had 9,000 people on line. The county commissions throughout the state have all expressed interest in keeping the BRO program intact in the next transportation authorization bill.

Mark Hultgren, USDA

There is a new state director, Janie Dunning, who has been with the department for many years. The regular allocation has been used up for the year, but there is a lot of money available through ARRA. If you have projects please submit them. These do not have to be shovel ready projects. If a community has a need, now is the time to get them submitted. There were three pots of money and that slowed the process considerably, but that is getting sorted out. There are still monies available to low income individuals for housing.

Dawne Gardner, MoDOT District 8

MoDOT is busy with ARRA projects. MoDOT District 8 is close to getting all monies obligated for these projects. Bids are coming in low, so there is extra money out there to spend. Projects need to be submitted for small urban (under 5,000). Any project selected must be ready by January. There is no report to give for District 7.

Tim Conklin, Ozark Transportation Organization:

STP urban funding recipients are making their deadlines. OTO is working with City Utilities on a working group for transit lines and whether they can be modified to increase efficiencies. OTO is working with MoDOT on ride-share issues.

Ronda Headland, Missouri Department of Conservation:

A new conservation commissioner has been appointed from Sikeston, Don Bidel. The Director has announced that he will be retiring on January 15, 2009. Approximately 10% of the staff will be reduced, more information will be available about this by the end of September. StreamTeam is celebrating its 25 years. Education on feral hogs has begun. Wood to Energy Grant will utilize wood bio-mass in six schools across the state. MDC has been working on salvage timber sales from the wind damage to forests throughout the state.
Business

Financial Report, Jane Hood
Presented a financial report that does not show the Homeland Security funds because it is a pass through. Showed a more accurate account of remaining funds. We show a negative balance of -$66,000. Note on the last page, part of Jane Hood’s salary is going to be paid by the Dean. The university portion is shown on the last page. Professional services are part of the Bennett Springs project that is closed. This report is on file at the SMCOG offices and we feel it is an accurate reporting of the financial situation at SMCOG.

Dana Louderbaugh moved and Billy Dryer seconded the motion to approve the financial report. Motion Carries.

Transportation Program, Dan Watts
We are looking for representation for Stone County for the TAC. We were down a member and due to the resignation of George Cutbirth we have no representation for Stone County. Jane Ayers is a possibility for this position. We are working on a grant for Pleasant Hope for a Recreational Trails Grant from MoDNR.

Homeland Security Update, Dorothy Wittorff-Sandgren
The handouts indicate where we are with 2007 and 2008. We are under budget for 2007. The money should be spent in the next couple of months. All purchase orders are in for 2008 showing as obligated. The 2009 funding is going to be approved next month by HSAC. Indications are that it will be similar to 2008. October 21st is the annual meeting date. We are currently working on getting the mailing list put together for the invitations.

Economic Development/Interim Director Report, Jane Hood
Diane is attending the MACOG meeting hosting Senator McCaskill today. We hosted the Elected Officials Training Workshop and had 44 in attendance and had good feedback from the meeting. The next training is “EDA: Know Your Region.” We had to reschedule for September 15th, due to an injury of the presenter. We were invited by EDA to make an application for the next round of funding and that was submitted last week. Anita Davis has resigned effective July and Ms. Hood is taking over the economic development program duties. We will be hiring an additional 5 or 6 students part time. MACOG held their July meeting at Whiteman Air Force Base. Hazard Mitigation Plans are progressing. Webster and Lawrence County first drafts are due in September. Barry and Christian are in the next round.

Member Announcements
Michele Garand announced the Diesel Retro-fit grants. Chris Coulter announced the APA state conference to be held in October in Springfield, MO.

Adjourn