SMCOG Board of Directors Meeting Minutes March 25, 2009

Open Meeting
Billy Dryer called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance and introductions.

Approval of March 23, 2009 Agenda
Dana Louderbaugh moved and Nancy Edson seconded the motion to approve the March 23, 2009, 2008 meeting agenda, with changes. Motion carried.

Approval of December 3, 2008 Minutes
Dana Louderbaugh moved and Cindy Stephens seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2008 meeting. Motion carried.
Business

Vice Chair Vacancy—Jane Hood, Interim Director
Jane Hood has been appointed Interim Director of SMCOG leaving the position of Vice-Chair vacant. Ms. Hood asked that this action be moved to the Executive Committee.

*Ed Westerman moved and Cindy Stephens seconded the motion to move the appointment of a vice chair to the executive committee. Motion Carried.*

Transportation Planning Program—Dan Watts

Collaborating on Transportation Needs Identification through Google Earth—Dave Faucett
Dave Faucett presented the Google Earth Application to the Board. The application is a powerful way to visually display transportation needs in the region. Mr. Faucett explained how Google Earth was used during the TAC member’s presentations of their respective county’s needs presentations.

TAC Member Appointment for Christian County
Todd Weisenhan was appointed as alternate to Tom Huff for the Christian County TAC seat.

Regional Transportation Plan Review and Adoption
Dan Watts explained the changes made to the draft document and informed the board that the TAC approved the RTP at the March 11, 2009 meeting. Mr. Watts asked that the board approve the RTP.

*Dana Louderbaugh moved and Ed Westerman seconded the motion to approve the Regional Transportation Plan. Motion Carried.*

Legislative/Partner Agency Reports

Steve McIntosh, Congressman Roy Blunt’s Office
Committees are working on various appropriations bill. The bulk of the items in the stimulus bill go to programs that already existed. For the most part to receive funding the application process follows the same rules as before. Congressman Blunt is chairman of a health reform task force and has been working on that.

Stacy Burks, Senator Kit Bond’s Office
Not in attendance. No Report Given

David Rauch, Senator Claire McCaskill’s Office
Activity is being seen with the stimulus bill. MoDOT has announced projects in our region utilizing monies from the stimulus bill. Capital enhancements have also been seen from our office. Some of the money is starting to be released. Mr. Rauch indicated that projects are listed on [www.transform.mo.gov](http://www.transform.mo.gov). Some money is available to help states with budget shortfalls and there is some debate in Missouri about how to use these funds. Our office has been telling people to go to the website and enter their projects.

Darren Lingle, Congresswoman Emerson’s Office
Not in attendance No Report Given

Frank Miller, MoDOT
Stimulus funding for transportation is coming through the normal channels. There were some surprises with the projects selected; one of those projects is the Branson-Hollister roundabout and bridge project. Other projects include 5 lane in Lebanon and three lane in Buffalo. Also there is a joint project with
District 7 adding passing lanes to route 60. There are various pavement projects and also improvements to minor routes which have been on SMCOG’s priority list including Rte H in Polk County.
Enhancement projects are also part of this funding. Dawne Gardner reported on enhancement funding and the County Commissioner meeting. District 8 is going to select projects that are already in the pipeline for enhancement funds.

**Mark Hultgren, USDA Rural Development**
We’ve not heard a lot regarding the stimulus bill. There will be no new programs and most likely will be business as usual. We’ve had a lot of interest in the bill and we are encouraging people to enter their projects. There is a lot of reporting that goes along with this bill, and the emphasis is on shovel ready projects.

**Eric Kellstadt, MoDOT**
Route 60 has gone to construction. The contractor is preparing materials. Bids came in low on this job. There will be various resurfacing projects in the area. A cost share project at Route 39 and Prospect in Aurora is happening. Enhancement applications for District 7 are due by April 3rd, so there is not much time. These funds are 100% reimbursable.

**Tim Conklin, OTO**
2.8 million is going to the CU bus barn. ARRA money has strict timelines. Funds must be obligated by September 30, 2009. OTO is promoting Ozarkcommute.com. OTO and SMCOG will be meeting with Jack Henry in Monett to demonstrate the software.

**Candy Adams, SEMA**
Not in attendance. No Report given.

**Ronda Headland, Missouri Department of Conservation**
Ms. Headland announced the Stakeholders summit on June 30th. They are focusing on the tree resources at this meeting.

**Bill Dowling, Ozark Region Workforce Investment Board**
No Report Given.

**Valerie Robinson, MoDNR**
We are trying to get out and visit with folks regarding the stimulus bill. We have a new director. We have lost some Ombudsman and hopefully we will get those positions back soon. We are looking for shovel ready projects for the stimulus bill.

**Financial Report—Jane Hood**
Ms. Hood went over the financial report. A copy of the report from this meeting is on file at the SMCOG office.
*Dana Louderbaugh moved and Jack Swearingen seconded the motion to approve the financial report. Motion carried.*

**Appointments—Jane Hood**
CEDS-Ed Westerman and possibly Bill Monday
Nominating Committee-Jeff Seifried, Nancy Edson, and Dana Louderbaugh
Budget Committee- Chris Coulter, John Rice, and Cindy Stephens

Ms. Hood presented the Annual Report. Some mistakes were noted and documented. 

*Dana Louderbaugh moved and Ron Elkins seconded to accept the Annual Report. Motion carried.*

**Homeland Security Regionalization Program—Jane Hood**

Handouts were provided with procurement status updates. 91% have been encumbered. We are asking for an extension for June 30th date because there are 3 full time employees that won’t be able to expense until sometime in July. We are also looking at applications for 2008 projects. Application has been for 2009 funding was submitted in March. On March 17th auditors came to the fairgrounds to check out equipment.

**Economic Development Planning Program—Jane Hood**

Due to not meeting some deadlines SMCOG is under a Corrective Action Plan at this time. Financials are submitted monthly. We have a report due May 30 and are in the process of fulfilling the requirements for this. We are doing another workshop with a possible topic of entrepreneurialism. The CEDS committee will be meeting soon to go over updates to the plan and go over goals and objectives.

**Interim Director’s Report—Jane Hood**

If you have projects that you would like to see on the ARRA list let us know so that we can keep track of projects in our area. The first newsletter just went out. Regarding the stimulus, we have been trying to find out more facts about the bill but there is just not a lot of information out there. MoDOT is one of the top 5 states in the U.S. to start utilizing ARRA funds so they deserve credit. Ms. Hood discussed the ARRA in relation to the State Revolving Fund.

**Other Business**

None

**Member Announcements**

OREP meeting at Highland Springs Country Club. 10th annual Spring Summit. The topic is airports and job creation. There will be many interesting speakers.

**Adjourn**
Ronda Headland, Missouri Department of Conservation

MDC has received funds from the Forest Service for training. This training will be held in February 2009 in five communities around the state, including Springfield. More details will be available soon and MDC encourages a strong community turnout.

There has been a sighting of the Emerald Ash Borer, a pest that destroys Ash trees. It has been sighted in Wayne County and the county is now under quarantine. It is believed that the pest is spread through the movement of firewood. MDC is asking people not to plant Ash trees or move firewood from location to location. Hunting permit changes have been approved and will take effect in July 2009. There is a public comment period regarding the new hunting regulations. The catalogs are out from the state tree nursery. The seedlings come in bundles of 20-25. Rain gardens were discussed.

Annual Report-Diane May
The 2008 annual report is not yet completed. It will be presented at the next Board meeting.

Economic Development Planning Program-Diane May
We have had some difficulties getting out the final reports to EDA. The CEDS report went out late but they approved of this plan. Before we would be approved we had to submit a corrective action plan. We had a telephone conversation with EDA out of Denver. This plan is available in the agenda packet and on file at SMCOG offices. Dean Jahnke has committed to help us with the web site and to bring in a temporary person to help resolve a staffing issue. The executive committee has approved the corrective action plan. EDA wanted some minor changes to the plan. We need to have this approved again. Deletions to the original document have a strike through. EDA wants a financial drawdown reported monthly. Also changes to the internal monitoring process have been made. The changes have been made and emailed back to EDA. We are asking this board to approve the changes subject to the financial services agreement that they can work with.

Nancy Edson motioned and Dana Louderbaugh seconded to approve these changes. Motion carried.

Homeland Security Regionalization Program-Dorothy Wittorf-Sandgren
The Region D 2006 Homeland Security Grant Program was monitored by SEMA on November 8, 2008. We got a letter from Ron Reynolds and he said we did well. Procurement Status for 2007 funds has been distributed to show where we are at up to now. We have improved on getting items ordered and we are moving along quickly. One change in the items: CERT trailers on page 2 (last item), Jasper County will not be receiving one because they don’t have room. Newton County is taking possession instead. Most of the items procured are for regional use. Large equipment will go to one location for storage/upkeep but it is for regional use. Some money is going for staff positions. Positions are CERT Coordinator, Agriculture Preparedness Specialist, and Mass Care Coordinator.

Region D will receive the same amount of 2008 grant funds as the 2007 grant. For the 2008 program, there are more justifications (funding categories). Agriculture and Mass Sheltering/Volunteers are combined into a new justification - Planning and Citizen Preparedness, Interoperable Communications and Medical Surge are continued, and the Bomb Squad and Homeland Security Regional Response System are added as new justifications. The funding requests received are almost $500,000 over the grant allotment. The RHSOC subcommittees are working to prioritize these funding requests.

With the new political landscape in Missouri, we don’t know if the Homeland Security Regionalization Program will continue past the 2008 grant program awards. We are asking everyone to let the governor and legislators know that the region likes this program and wants to keep it.

Executive Director’s Report
Saundra has been working on invoices for annual membership dues; these will be mailed out shortly. There are no changes this year. Verona, Butterfield and Morrisville are joining and Rockaway Beach is going to be paying dues again.

SMCOG is co-hosting a flash flood risk analysis seminar with the National Weather Service on December 8, 2008. This will be held on the MSU campus. SMCOG is also hosting a Census workshop on December 17, 2008. County GIS staff are encouraged to attend. The Missouri Chapter of the American Planning Association and the Missouri Association of Counties are hosting a forum on community planning and development issues and proposed legislation to update county planning and zoning statues. updating the County Zoning and Planning Statutes. The Farm Bureau will participate in the forum as well. The proposed legislation is already introduced as Senate Bill 5.

Other Business
None.

Meeting adjourned.

*Bill Marshall moved and Dana Louderbaugh seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.*

Mark Dixon, Secretary/Treasurer                Date