Southwest Missouri Council of Governments
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, October 28, 2009
8:00 a.m.
Crystal Room, Kentwood Hall
Springfield, MO

Members:
Bill Marshall—Dade County
Cindy Stephens—OTC
John Rice—Mount Vernon
Chris Coulter—Greene County
Gail Noggle—Republic
Nancy Edson-Rogersville
Chuck Pennel—Taney County
Dennis Wood—Stone County
Ed Westerman—Clever
Dave Coonrod—Greene County
Dana Louderbaugh—Fair Grove
Billy Dryer—Polk County
Ken Bacon—Dallas County
John Homer—Pleasant Hope
Garrett Anderson—Branson E.D.
Howard Fisk—Transportation

Guests:
Dawne Gardner—MoDOT
Eric Kellstadt—MoDOT
Steve McIntosh—Congressman Blunt
Stacey Burks—Senator Kit Bond’s Office
Jeff Seifried—OREP
Ronda Headland—MDC
Chris Berndt—SMESO
Kirk Juranas—MoDOT District 8
Patrick Marrow—Senator Goodman’s Office
Loring Bullard—Watershed Committee of the Ozarks
Yolanda Lorge—Grupo Latino Americanos
Mark Hultgren—Rural Development
Bill Cheek—MSU
Michelle Garand—Community Partnership
Cy Murray—White River Electric
Sharon Nahon—Congressman Blunt’s Office
Tammy Jahnke—MSU
Charlie Denison—State Representative, Dist. 135
Candy Adams—SEMA
David Rauch—Senator Claire McCaskill’s Office

Staff:
Jane Hood
Diane May
Dorothy Wittorff—Sandgren
Dan Watts
Luke Sadlo

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

Speaker: MoDOT District 8 Projects, Kirk Juranas
Mr. Juranas discussed projects currently underway and planned for the MoDOT District 8. He highlighted the “diverging diamond” project at Rt13 and I44. This is the first design of this kind in Missouri. Mr. Juranas also highlighted some of the ARRA projects in the region including the 6-lane of US65 from I44 to US60 and adding passing/turn lanes to US 60 from Republic to Monett. Mr. Juranas
believes that District 8 was the first to obligate all ARRA funds in the state. Other projects in District 8 were discussed.

Approval of October 28, 2009 Agenda
*Nancy Edson moved and Billy Dryer seconded the motion to approve the October 28, 2009 meeting agenda.*

Approval of August 26, Minutes
*Chris Coulter moved and Dana Louderbaugh seconded the motion to approve the August 26, 2009 meeting minutes. Motion carried.*

Legislative/Partner Agency Reports:

*Stacy Burks, Senator Bond’s Office:* Unemployment extension bill would extend benefits 14 additional weeks. Interior appropriations bill will pass, as well as the extension of the appropriations extension; this does not include continuing resolution of the highway bill. Not much discussion regarding what the transportation bill will look like at this point. There is very little talk about whether the recession will be reversed.

*Steve McIntosh, Congressman Blunt’s Office*  
A lot of focus is on the senate side at this time due to the slimmer majority. There are issues on the house side due to the “blue-dog” Democrats. County commissioners’ issue is the BRO program in the transportation bill. The full Missouri delegation has signed on to keeping this program in the authorization bill. The senate is active in trying to reverse the recession. Congressman Blunt has also been hosting “Tele-Town Hall” meetings. They are averaging around 9,000 participants.

*David Rauch, Senator McCaskill’s Office*  
The issue of the recession must be dealt with by Saturday. Senator McCaskill is supportive of reversing the recession. Health care is the largest issue facing the senate now. Senator McCaskill has posted podcasts of her radio addresses regarding health care on her website. She is also active on a committee looking at defense contracting spending.

*Dawne Gardner, MoDOT District 8*  
Ms. Gardner indicated that Mr. Juranas’ presentation summed up current activities in District 8.

*Eric Kellstadt, MoDot District 7*  
Route 60 and the Mount Vernon exchange are both scheduled to be completed at the end of November. Lettings include: Bridge rehabilitation on Route 245 over Stockton Lake in December.

*Candy Adams, SEMA*  
SMCOG is doing well with Homeland Security funds. We have received recognition throughout the state and nationally for how we have cooperated and spent these funds. Faith-based initiative has received national attention.

*Ronda Headland, Missouri Department of Conservation*  
The Dept. of Conservation is reorganizing at this time. There will be a 10% staff reduction and some reduction of services and programs. The Branson office will be relocating. The Department is looking for input regarding their effectiveness.
Business

Financial Report, July-September, 2009--Diane May
Ms. May reviewed the quarterly financial statements passed out at the meeting.

Chris Coulter moved and Dana Louderbaugh seconded the motion to approve the financial report. Motion carried.

Annual Report, FY 2008-2009--Diane May
The Annual Report will be presented at a later date. This year the report will not include the public official’s directory. The public official’s directory will be provided as a stand-alone document. Also, SMCOG and Dave Faucett received an excellence in planning award from the Missouri Chapter, American Planning Association, for the Google Earth Project for assessing transportation needs. Dorothy Wittorff-Sandgren also reported that the proposed safe-room project for the Dallas County School District Elementary School (Buffalo) received funding through FEMA’s Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program. This was the only project in the state to receive the funding award.

Appointment of New Members---Diane May
SMCOG lost two business representatives on the board, Jane Hood and Brian Fogle. Due to EDA requirements for the economic development district’s board governance, two business representatives need to be appointed to the SMCOG Board. Possible appointments will be brought to the Executive Committee for recommendation. SMCOG members were asked to contact staff if they have any recommendations.

Transportation Program--Dan Watts
SMCOG just finished up a traffic count study for Ozark. We are continuing the Google Earth program and are in the process of meeting with the county commissioners regarding transportation needs. Also the TAC is working on filling 3 vacancies: two in Stone County and one in Barry County.

Homeland Security Update--Dorothy Wittorff-Sandgren
Expenditure of all 2007 grant funding has not been completed due to a couple of the projects falling through. The THSOC is deciding how to reallocate those funds which must be expended by the end of December. Staff is also working on procurement for several projects with 2008 grant year funds. The Region D RHSOC annual meeting went well with an estimated 200 persons attending. Several new primary representatives took their positions on the RHSOC and new alternates were chosen by the disciplinary groups at the meeting. The updated RHSOC membership list will be provided upon request.

Economic Development Planning Program--Jane Hood
The EDA: Know Your Region workshop was attended by 25 persons. We partnered with OREP on this workshop. The MACOG professional development retreat was held last week. We were able to meet with some of the EDA representatives. Other sessions were held about RPC funding and partnering with area electric coops to prepare a state wide hazard mitigation plan. MACOG is negotiating with the utilities for this on behalf of the regional planning commissions. The proposed fee will be $5,000 per coop and we will have a year to complete this.

Hazard Mitigation Plans--Diane May
The Webster County Plan has been submitted to SEMA, but due to heavy rains resulting in meeting cancellations, we have requested an extension for Lawrence County. The first plans submitted to FEMA from other counties in the state were not approved and we anticipate that some changes will be necessary to the plans to get FEMA approval. We are under contract to prepare the plan updates for Barry County and Christian County and work on these plans is now starting.
Other Business—None

Member Announcements—None

Adjourn
Billy Dryer motioned and Nancy Edson seconded the motion to adjourn. Motion carried.

Next Meeting
Wednesday, December 2, 2009

____________________________________   ______________________
Bill Marshall, Chair      Date Approved