

MINUTES

**JOINT MEETING OF
THE OZARK FOOTHILLS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION,
THE OZARK FOOTHILLS DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION,
THE OZARK FOOTHILLS SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT COUNCIL &
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
AND
THE RIPLEY COUNTY PUBLIC HOUSING AGENCY**

**DECEMBER 8, 2022
OZARK FOOTHILLS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
3019 FAIR STREET, POPLAR BLUFF, MO 63901
6:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Alan Lutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

The minutes of the meeting held September 8, 2022, and financial statements for the quarter ending September 30, 2022, were reviewed. Commissioner Ron Keeney made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2022, meeting. Commissioner Vince Lampe seconded. No opposition. Motion carried. Commissioner Vince Lampe made a motion to approve the financial statements for the quarter ending September 30, 2022 and Commissioner Ron Keeney seconded. No opposition. Motion carried.

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Coordinator Andrew Murphy reported on the Transportation Planning Progress Report. There were 2 TAC meetings in July and August. The next TAC meeting is Thursday, January 12, 2023.

MoDOT held an Unfunded Needs meeting that serves the Southeast District at the Ozark Foothills Regional Planning Commission on November 29, 2022.

Coordinator Murphy thanked everyone for attending the Commission Meeting. The main transportation project that he has been working on is the Public Transit -Human Services Transportation Plan which is a 5-year plan that is in effect and runs through June, 2023. Andrew asked that the group fill out the transportation plan survey that he had handed out. The deadline for the survey's has been extended to December 10, 2022. This transportation plan will allow transit agency to apply for FTA 5311 Funding.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Recycling Center Supervisor, Jamie Lansford reported that cardboard prices are still dropping and is now \$50.00 a ton. Plastic can be picked up but the Recycling Center receives no money for it. The Recycling Center needs white paper, recycled paper, tin and aluminum. If anyone has contact with their schools in their districts, have them contact Jamie about recycling their white paper.

OZARK FOOTHILLS DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Director Lutes reported to the group that the business incubator spaces are 100% full. Missouri Mold will be leaving and they have 2 units. American Tool will be renting one of the units. We will have one incubator space available on January 1, 2023.

Regarding building improvements, Director Lutes reported that there are 4-meter bases out of 10 that need to be replaced, work should begin soon. There is one incubator space that is having issues with lighting so we are looking into options for replacement lights.

OZARK FOOTHILLS REGIONAL COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Disaster Recovery Coordinator, Lydia Keller reported on the Foundation Status Report for the Ozark Foothills Regional Community Foundation (OFRCF). The market value as of 12/8/2022 is \$2,067,282.70. This is an increase from the previous commission meeting.

2023 is the CFO's 50th anniversary. Celebrations began in November with a community betterment project. The Board selected 5 organizations to help plant daffodil bulbs throughout the communities. Butler County-Poplar Bluff- Parks and Recreation planted 200 bulbs and received \$200 that will help sponsor children to play sports throughout the year. The Poplar Bluff SE MO Residential services planted 200 bulbs and received \$200 for general operations. Carter County-Ellsinore-Red Bird Dream Team 4H Club planted 200 bulbs and received \$200 for general operations. Ripley County-Doniphan-Current River Sheltered Workshop planted 200 bulbs and received \$200 for general operations. Wayne County-Greenville-Greenville Elementary School Garden Club planted 200 bulbs and received \$200 to expand their garden club.

The Community Foundation has three board positions open for Wayne County, Ripley County, and Reynolds County. The board is taking suggestions to meet and consider candidates, if you have any recommendations, please email, call or let me know after this meeting. The board wants to ensure that all counties are represented.

The next OFRCF board meeting is December 13, 2022, at 4:00p.m. at the Ozark Foothills Regional Planning Commission.

RIPLEY COUNTY PUBLIC HOUSING AGENCY

Housing Coordinator Ilene Ward reported upon the Section 8 Rental Assistance Program. The Ripley County Public Housing Agency is assisting 380 families in our five-county region. We took applications during the months of August and September. During that time we received approximately 440 applications. There are currently 323 families on the waiting list. In addition, the RCPHA also has 50 VASH vouchers. These are used to house homeless Veterans that are referred to the RCPHA by the VA Hospital. All 50 of these vouchers are filled.

Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) Coordinator Tyler Romanowski reported that there are 31 families on the Family Self-Sufficiency Program who are working towards the goals they set for themselves. There are currently 24 families on the FSS waiting list that we are working on scheduling enrollment appointments with. Ten of the active families have increased their household earning from wages since they enrolled for the program. This has made them eligible to earn escrow money that they will receive if they successfully graduate from the program. We have had 1 family successfully graduate the FSS program since the last Commission meeting in September. The household will receive an escrow check in the amount of \$2,866.70.

There are currently 11 families on the Home Ownership Program. We also have 10 families with the goal of home ownership and 6 of those families are actively working on repairing their credit so they can reach their goal of homeownership.

Housing Coordinator Niki Harp discussed how the FSS program works and how money is escrowed for the family.

Director Lutes discussed the RCPHA Administrative Plan Revision-Occupancy Standards. The revision, if approved will go into effect January, 2023. The Occupancy Standard set the number of bedrooms for the members in a household that is receiving rental assistance.

A motion to approve *Administrative Plan Revision, Resolution #325*, was made by Commissioner Vince Lampe and seconded by Commissioner Ron Keeney. Commissioner Jesse Roy was contacted by phone, no opposition. Motion carried.

NEW GRANTS RECEIVED

Director Lutes, reported upon the grant awards received during the prior quarter. It was summarized as follows:

- City of Van Buren DRA, Construct Public Safety Building (Overage)\$313,232;
- Ripley County/Ripley County PWSD #1, DNR ARPA, Water Storage and Distribution Upgrades, \$1,165,709;
- Ripley County/Ripley County PWSD #2, DNR ARPA, Well, Waterlines and Storage Tank, \$4,813,350;

GRANT APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED

Director Lutes reported the New Grant Application Abstracts. A summary of each proposal was provided to those in attendance as an attachment to *Resolution #326*. A motion was made by Commissioner Ron Keeney and seconded by Member Russell French; with no opposition, adoption of the resolution was approved.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Lutes introduced Steve Chitwood, Reynolds County Presiding Commissioner Elect, he will be taking office January 1, 2023.

Director Lutes introduced Brian Rosener, Ozark Foothills Regional Planning Commission's new Disaster Recovery Coordinator.

Director Lutes discussed with the group the history of the Melvin Brinkley Public Service Award. Director Lutes presented the 2022 Melvin Brinkley Public Service award to Clifford Smith and Angela Smith of Williamsville.

Director Lutes discussed the OFRPC FY22 Annual Report with the group. Members received the report by e-mail in September, 2022. If anyone would like a copy, see Director Lutes.

Director Lutes reported on the Reynolds, Butler and Wayne County Hazard Mitigation Plans. Reynolds County Hazard Mitigation Plan is complete. The Butler County Hazard Mitigation Plan is close to being completed, Felicity Ray is working on it. The Wayne County Hazard Mitigation Plan is just now beginning and expires in August, 2024, Felicity Ray will be working on that as well.

Director Lutes reported on the CDBG Application Cycles-FY22 which is open and closes December 19, 2022. The CDBG MIT & MID round grant cycle will open sometime in early Spring. The DED ARPA Application Cycle- Industrial Site opens December 21, 2022 and is open for 60 days. Tourism, Cell Towers and non-profit, DED ARPA Application Cycles will open soon.

Director Lutes further reported on Broadband Engagement and Grant Opportunities. A Press Release has been posted on the OFRPC website and Facebook regarding the Broadband Engagement and the FCC Map Challenge. If addresses are wrong, it could affect the funds for Missouri \$5,000 per resident. The deadline for the challenge is January 13, 2023. We are holding bi-weekly zoom meetings about broadband. Also, there is an Affordable Connectivity Program that to be eligible you have to receive assistance or have kids that participate in free or reduced lunches or be college students who receive Pell Grant money. If you qualify for this program, it is \$30 savings on your internet bill.

Director Lutes reported that there are other grant opportunities. Economic Development Administration on the Federal level. FEMA, SAFHR and AFG grants are coming open soon. DNR-Diesel Admission for the dump trucks, USDA Rural Utility Services Distance Learning Telemedicine opened December 1, 2022 and closes January 30, 2023.

Director Lutes discussed the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The last CEDS meeting was held in October, 2022, in Ellsinore. It is the plan/strategy for addressing the needs of our entire region. When we receive needs that are not listed in that strategy, it will probably not be funded. It is very important that we get input from all of our communities and organizations. Raamin Burrell has been reaching out to our communities and working on this.

Mike Schoelhamer from Congressman Jason Smith's office reported on the legislative update. He thanked the group for their support of Congressman Smith. If anyone has letters of requests, please contact Mike by e-mail.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Director Lutes recognized Camille Donnell, Fiscal Officer of the Ozark Foothills Regional Planning Commission for 15 years of service with the Planning Commission and thanked all Staff.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Commissioner Vince Lampe and seconded by Commissioner Ron Keeney, the meeting was adjourned at 7:04 P.M.

Respectively Submitted,

Mr. Brian Polk, Chairman

Date

Ms. Margaret Carter, Secretary

Date

ATTENDANCE

COMMISSION MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

PAULA JOHNSON	MARGARET CARTER	DR. JIM JONES
VINCE LAMPE	SANDY JOY	DARRELL DEMENT
CHAD HENSON	DALE DAY	RUSSELL FRENCH
GARY EMMONS	BRANDON WOOLARD	
TAMMY THURMAN	JUSTIN PARKS	
DOUG MOSBEY	BILL MORIARITY	
RON KEENEY	MIKE SCHOELHAMER	

COMMISSION MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

BRIAN POLK	ANGELA CLYBURN
JESSE ROY	BILL KIRKPATRICK
REBECCA PACHECO	LARRY BURCHARD
STEVE DAVIS	PAUL WOOD
WAYNE OGDEN	JOE LOYD
RICK JULIUS	TERESA LEE
MIKE HOERNER	WAYNE GIBBS
GARY CONWAY, JR.	REV. GREGORY KIRK
STANLEY BARTON	DENNIS COX

STAFF

JAMIE LANSFORD

CAROLYN MEEKS

CAMILLE DONNELL

ALAN LUTES

BROOKE HINKLIN

RACHEL COLEMAN

ILENE WARD

RAAMIN BURRELL

TYLER ROMANOWSKI

DAVEY HICKS

AMBER HORNBECK

LYDIA KELLER

NIKI HARP

ANDREW MURPHY

BRIAN ROSENER

AMY BAUGUS

GUEST

LORI DUNLAP

STEVE CHITWOOD

GLORIA DEMENT

HEATHER MOSBEY

CLIFFORD SMITH

ANGELA SMITH

HANNAH SMITH

ALYSSA BENNETT SMITH

JOSHUA SMITH

RUBY SMITH

JACK SMITH

JOHN JOY

VERA BISHOP