

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 2, 2021
OZARK FOOTHILLS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
POPLAR BLUFF, MO 63901
6:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:55 p.m. by Brian Polk.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

The minutes of the meeting held September 9, 2021, and financial statements for the quarter ending September 30, 2021, were reviewed. Member Darrell Dement made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2021, meeting and financial reports. Commissioner Jesse Roy seconded. No opposition. Motion carried.

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Coordinator Andrew Murphy reported on the Transportation Planning Progress Report. For the month of November, Coordinator Murphy has been working on the CDBG Applications. Currently there are 7 Paving Project applications for Harviell, Mill Spring, Greenville, Piedmont, Van Buren and Carter County is doing an application for South Van Buren. Felicity is working on the CDBG Application for Neelyville. The Federal Land Access Program (FLAP) grant round is also open at this time.

Coordinator Murphy also reported that MODOT has their Unfunded Needs list out and published and is doing meetings around the State. MODOT has done two meetings in the Southeast District, one in West Plains on November 17, and they are meeting in Cape Girardeau December 2. You can see the Unfunded Needs list and comment online on MODOT's website.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Recycling Center Supervisor, Jamie Lansford reported that the Recycling Center has a new baler. Prices are going down \$5-\$10 per ton. Cardboard prices are steady. The Recycling Center has

been receiving a large amount of cardboard from Briggs and Stratton. Chairman Polk, reported that the Recycling Center has begun bringing in revenue.

OZARK FOOTHILLS DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Director Jones informed the group that the incubator spaces are 100% full. The Executive committee approved the most recent tenant, Ozark Hospice, at the September, 2021 commission meeting. This business primarily makes wheelchair ramps for Veterans. This is another business of Austin Tinsley.

Director Jones discussed with the group the CY22 Incubator Lease Rates. The incubator lease rates will increase to \$2.11 per square foot per year for 2 years.

A motion to approve, *CY 22 Incubator Lease Rates*, was made by Commissioner Vince Lampe and seconded by Mayor Kevin Bynum. No opposition. Motion carried.

OZARK FOOTHILLS REGIONAL COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Director Crystal Jones reported upon activities of the Ozark Foothills Regional Community Foundation (OFRCF). As of December 2, 2021, the market value of funds is \$2,000,046.76. The Community Foundation started with \$300,000.00 in assets in 2011. The Community Foundation has had a considerable increase in a 10-year time period.

The OFRCF serves many purposes in the community. The Foundation has recently received funds to establish a Naylor Community Fund which is being matched by an anonymous donor who provided \$100,000 to the community. The donor wanted to see the community come up with some money on their own, and the community raised \$25,000 for a Land and Water Conservation program grant.

There has also been a recent scholarship fund established for the 5-county region that will be fully funded at the bequest of the donor.

Director Jones further reported that the Community Foundation of the Ozarks will be releasing the Coover grant round. This year the Coover grant is focusing on Nutrition Centers. Amounts up to \$25,000 can be requested through this grant round to benefit Nutrition Centers.

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 392 families in our five-county region. We accepted applications during the month of November and received 254 applications. RCPHA currently has 359 families on the waiting list. The waiting list is currently closed. RCPHA also has 50 VASH vouchers. These are used to house homeless Veterans that are referred to the RCPHA by the VA Hospital. 49 of these vouchers are filled.

Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) Coordinator Rachel Coleman reported that there were 31 families participating in the FSS Program who are working towards goals such as acquiring reliable transportation, obtaining a college degree, etc. 10 of the families have increased their household earnings 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.

Housing Coordinator Coleman also reported that there are now 13 families on the Homeownership program. We also have 21 interested in the program and 13 of those families that are actively working on repairing their credit so they can work towards the goal of home ownership.

Director Jones reported on the RCPHA Move to Work Program. In order to become a Move to Work Agency, we had to submit a plan to HUD a year ago. With this program, we are asking our non-elderly, non-disabled able-bodied clients to obtain 15 hours of employment per week or 15 hours of continuing education. Our clients will also be participating in the Family Self Sufficiency Program that will help them to establish goals and move them along to self-sufficiency.

A motion to approve, *MTW Certifications of Compliance*, was made by Commissioner Ron Keeney and seconded by Commissioner Vince Lampe. No opposition. Motion carried.

NEW GRANTS RECEIVED

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

- Butler County, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, to replace two dump trucks through the Volkswagen Trust Program, \$142,400;
- City of Naylor, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, to improve the Downtown and Judson Ward Parks through the Land and Water Conservation program, \$42,000;
- City of Poplar Bluff, Missouri Department of Economic Development, to request funds for replacement of the Roxie Road bridge, \$612,941;
- City of Poplar Bluff, Missouri Department of Economic Development, to request funding for the construction of a new city street, stormwater detention basins, and utility infrastructure for an industrial site at Fair Street and Hwy 142. \$1,540,020;
- City of Poplar Bluff, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, to request funding to improve the Hillcrest and Linc Parks through the Land and Water Conservation program, \$68,513;
- City of Poplar Bluff, MoDOT Transportation Alternative Program, to extend trail on north side of PP Highway 1.85 miles from just east of the roundabout to the Wolf Creek Trail Head, \$375,273;
- Ozark Foothills Regional Planning Commission, Missouri Department of Transportation, to request funding to continue the region's transportation planning, \$64,706;
- Ozark Foothills Regional Planning Commission, Missouri Office of Administration, transfer of funds from the State of Missouri to serve the OFRPC region, \$13,352;

- Ozark Foothills Solid Waste Management District, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, to continue operation of the Ozark Foothills Solid Waste planning efforts consisting of a district operation grant of \$5,000 and a district subgrant of \$90,000; \$95,000;
- Ripley County Senior Center, Rural Development, to request funds for equipment for the Center, \$24,557;

GRANT APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED

Director Jones reported the New Grant Application Abstracts. A summary of each proposal was provided to those in attendance as an attachment to *Resolution #318*. A motion was made by Commissioner Jesse Roy and seconded by Mayor Dennis Cox; with no opposition, adoption of the resolution was approved.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Jones discussed with the group the history of the Melvin Brinkley Public Service Award. Steve Halter, President of the Poplar Bluff Chamber of Commerce, presented the 2021 Melvin Brinkley Public Service award to Steve Whitworth.

Director Jones further discussed the Ripley, Butler and Reynolds Counties' Hazard Mitigation Plans. Ripley county's plan has been approved and is complete. Chelsae Cordia is working on the Butler County Hazard Mitigation Plan that expires in 2023, her goal is to have it done by August, 2022. Felicity Ray is working on the Reynolds County Hazard Mitigation Plan. It expires in 2022. She is hoping to have that done by April 2022.

Director Jones discussed the CDBG Application Cycles-CV&FY21. Several projects are being submitted at this time. Lydia Keller is working on a storm water project with TRC. Rammin Burrell is working on a project for the Williamsville's Community Center building. The final applications will be complete and ready for submission by the end of January, 2022. The month of December is CDBG's courtesy review period and we try to get as many applications in by the December 1 deadline. Andrew Murphy has submitted an application for the CV Cycle to fund the new baler for the Recycling Center. Lydia Keller has been working to get four applications ready for Ripley County's Water District #1 and Water District #2, and applications for Nutrition Centers in Carter and Wayne counties. Chelsae Corida is working on a workforce application with the Poplar Bluff R-1 School District in Butler County. CDBG is looking to open application cycles in 2022 which includes a second round of MIT funding. Director Jones is hoping to know more about that application cycle by the March, 2022 commission meeting.

Director Jones further discussed with the group the EDA American Rescue Plan Competition. Chelsae Cordia is working on an Application. Poplar Bluff and Carter County are working on tourism projects. Those applications need to be in by the end of January, 2022.

Director Jones further advised the group about the building improvement updates. The most recent improvement to the building has been a new roof over the office space. The OFRPC and incubator spaces all have new roofing. There are still updates that need to be done and are having issues finding contractors to do the updates. Director Jones asked if anyone knows an available contractor to contact the Planning Commission.

Director Jones introduced OFRPC new grant writer, Rammin Burrell.

Missouri State Representative, Darrell Atchison reported that session will start back January 5, 2022. He also discussed broadband in rural areas. If there is something that needs to be filed or looked into, please contact Representative Atchison's office.

Chairman Brian Polk discussed the Wayne and Ripley Census with the group. Matt Bain from Senator Josh Hawley's office, stated that he has had no luck getting the Department of Commerce to engage. The Commissioner's will meet with Matt Bain at a later time to discuss the Census issue.

Matt Bain discussed MoDOT's formula increase for the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). He advised that we should know the new STIP grant programs in February, 2022. Matt also discussed FEMA's flood mapping for our counties.

Director Jones introduced Regan Tibbs from State Senator Holly Rehder's office and thanked him for attending. If there is anything Senator Rehder's office can do, please contact Regan.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Director Jones recognized HUD Coordinator, Niki Harp for 5 years of service and Transportation Planning Coordinator, Andrew Murphy for 10 years of service.

Director Jones also thanked staff for the Christmas decorations.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Mayor Dennis Cox and seconded by Commissioner Vince Lampe, the meeting was adjourned at 6:57 P.M.

Respectively Submitted,

Mr. Brian Polk, Chairman

Date

Ms. Margaret Carter, Secretary

Date

ATTENDANCE

COMMISSION MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

BRIAN POLK	PAUL JOHNSON	DARRELL DEMENT
SANDY JOY	RUSSELL FRENCH	RON KEENEY
KEVIN BYNUM	TERESA LEE	REBECA PACHECO
JESSE ROY, JR.	VINCE LAMPE	
REBECCA PACHECO		
DENNIS COX		

COMMISSION MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

SAMANTHA EVANS		
DOUG LEDBETTER	MARGARET CARTER	DALE DAY
JOHN MURRAY	PAUL WOOD	JOE LOYD
WAYNE OGDEN	CARROLL RAINWATER	CHAD HENSON
RICK JULIUS	ANGELA CLYBURN	BILL MORIARITY
MIKE HOERNER	BILL KIRKPATRICK	STEVE DAVIS
GARY CONWAY, JR.	DR. GENE OAKLEY	REV. GREGORY KIRK
STANLEY BARTON	WAYNE GIBBS	

STAFF

JAMIE LANSFORD

DAVEY HICKS

RAAMIN BURRELL

CRYSTAL JONES

CAROLYN MEEKS

RACHEL COLEMAN

ILENE WARD

AMY BAUGUS

DEBBIE TARVID

RICHARD KETCHUM

BROOKE HINKLIN

LYDIA KELLER

NIKI HARP

CHELSAE CORDIA

CAMILLE DONNELL

ANDREW MURPHY

GUESTS

MADISON BAKER

REP. DARRELL ATCHISON

TERENA WHITWORTH

JOANNA ATCHISON

STEVE WHITWORTH

MATT WHITWORTH

KATHY STREET

GARY EMMONS

ANDY WHITWORTH

BENJAMIN CORDIA

MATT BAIN

JOHN JOY

GLORIA DEMENT

REAGEN TIBBS

STEVE HALTER