

## 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**

**JUNE 12, 2025  
OZARK FOOTHILLS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION,  
3019 FAIR STREET, STE. 7, POPLAR BLUFF, MO 63901  
6:00 PM**

### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman, Jesse Roy.

### AMENDMENT OF AGENDA

An Amendment of Agenda was presented by Chairman Jesse Roy for review. Commissioner Ron Keeney made a motion to approve the Amended Agenda. Mayor Dennis Cox seconded. No opposition. Motion carried.

### PROPOSED NEW COMMISSION MEMBER & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE VACANCY - APPROVAL

Director Alan Lutes introduced new board members that have been approved by the Executive Committee. Jennifer Williams, University of Missouri Extension will be serving under the Agriculture Sector. Sandra Shockey, CEO of Recycling Grace Ministries and her alternate Melissa Pogue will be serving under the Social Agencies Sector. Brandon Woolard was approved by the Executive Committee to serve on the Executive Committee under the Finance Sector.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

The minutes of the meeting held March 13, 2025, and financial statements for the quarter ending March 31, 2025, were reviewed. Mayor Dennis Cox made a motion to approve the minutes and financial statements of the March 13, 2025, meeting and the financial statements for the quarter ending March 31, 2025. Member Michael Williams seconded. No opposition. Motion carried.

## SPECIAL PRESENTATION

A special presentation was given virtually by Dr. Kwame Awuah-Offei, PhD. PE, Executive Director, Critical Minerals and Material for Advanced Energy (CM2AE) Tech Hub, Missouri S&T.

## TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Director Murphy reported on the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC). The TAC met in April to develop each county's 2025 list of projects, Maintenance, and multimodal. Copies showing all 45 projects are available if anyone would like to review them. The multimodal addition to our TAC is working out great. Each county had their multimodal representative on board by our January TAC meeting, and this current prioritization process will be the first with those specific stakeholders involved. We've been able to add members that have backgrounds and experience in transit, trails/planning, railroad and airports.

The next TAC meeting will be July 10, 2025, and the committee will vote to create a region wide list for MoDOT to consider in their next Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). There is a bit of change starting this upcoming fiscal year, MoDOT now wants the RCP board to approve the TAC's list. So, in September, we will present to the Board the regional list of projects the TAC will prioritize next month.

Regarding the STIP, the 2026-2030 Draft STIP was available for public comment from May 7-June 6, The STIP is expected to be adopted by the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission at their July meeting. The full copy of the STIP is available on MoDOT's website.

MoDOT TAP applications are currently open with a due date of July 13, 2025. It doesn't look like we will have any applications from our region, but there is one possibility. If the project was on MoDOT's ROW at all, that had to be in to the area Engineer and Highway Safety team yesterday, June 11, so any project that could be on MoDOT's ROW will have to wait until the next application round.

Amber Hornbeck has made great progress on Qulin's Active Transportation Plan, with 32 surveys completed from the community, about 7% of Qulin's population, and she conducted a Walk Audit for the community two weeks ago that saw myself and Robert, our SS4A Community Planning Specialist, join her along with City Officials, Qulin PD, Butler County Health Department, Gary Pride from our TAC and the Poplar Bluff Airport, The Bootheel Regional Planning Commission, local citizens and representatives from Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services and Missourian's for Responsible Transportation. She is planning a final public meeting in July, and the plan will be wrapped up in September.

Director Murphy asked the Board to approve the 2025 update to the Regional Transportation Plan. The draft plan was presented to the TAC in January and approved in April and presented to the Board in March for review. There isn't much change to the plan from the 2023 update, but one change to allow the plan to be updated every 2-3 years instead of every 2 years, to give a bit of leeway in updating the plan. MoDOT only requires the RTP to be updated every 5 years, as the 2-year update was self-imposed.

A motion to approve the 2025 Regional Transportation Plan Update was made by Mayor Dennis Cox and seconded by Commissioner Ron Keeney; With no opposition, the motion carried.

Director Lutes discussed the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission (MHTC) Transportation Planning Funds Program Master Agreement. There have been some adjustments made to the insurance. This agreement will need to be executed and sent to MoDOT by July 1, 2025. A motion for approval will need to be made for this Agreement.

A motion to approve the MHTC Transportation Planning Fund Program Master Agreement was made by Mayor Darrell Dement and seconded by Commissioner Ron Keeney; With no opposition, the motion carried.

Community Planning Specialist, Robert Augsdorfer reported on the Safe Streets for All Action Plan Development (SS4A). He has met with all of the cities and counties and has received a lot of good feedback from the public. We have been informed that there will need to be a 10-person task force from each of our counties. All our counties have been contacted about this. A survey should be out soon on our Facebook page and website with maps.

#### SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Recycling Center Supervisor, Jamie Lansford reported that the market prices are declining.

Director Lutes reported on Scrap Tire Hauling/Processing. A decision has to be made about tire hauling and tire recycling. We have had a permit through MoDOT where we have been able to haul tires, if people bring tires into to us, we charge them a fee to take them. It is currently \$5.00 per tire. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has informed us that our Waste Tire Hauler Permit that the Recycling Center has always operated under is not how the permit is designed to be used even though our process has been approved since we started with the permit. Our current permit allows us to pick up tires and store them at our center for a short period of time then haul them off of the property. Currently we have been storing tires until we get a trailer full and then haul them off to be shredded. DNR says we have too many tires on site and gave us 4 weeks to get them hauled off the property. We had to lease a trailer to get them off the property due to our trailer not being in good shape to make the trip. We lost more money than normal on those tires. Director Lutes explained that we have two options for the Ozark Foothills Recycling Center. We have an option to become a tire processing center which includes a lot of permitting and a long process to become a tire processing center. Our second option is for the Recycling Center to no longer accept tires. Discussion was had among the board members. A motion for the Ozark Foothills Recycling Center to no longer accept tires was made by Commissioner Ron Keeney and Mayor Dennis Cox seconded. No opposition. Motion carried.

Director Lutes reported on our Finish Mower. The current Finish Mower is no longer working and not worth repairing. We have 3 quotes, John Deere 60 inch, \$3,800; Case IH 60 inch, \$3,700; Black River, Iron Craft Outdoors, 72 inch \$3,450.00. The Executive Board decided to purchase an Iron Craft 6-foot Finish Mower for \$3,450.00, from Black River Outdoors.

Director Lutes discussed the Solid Waste Management District Grants Submissions. The grant applications were approved at the March 2025 meeting. Director Lutes will submit them after they are approved at this meeting with the updated budgets. These are annual grants that we always apply for. The \$90,000 grant helps to operate the Recycling Center and \$5,000 is used to operate the Solid Waste Management District, Region Q. The annual addendum to the Five-year Administrative Services Agreement in the amount of \$13,000 was approved by the Executive Committee earlier tonight and will need to be submitted with the grants. A Motion to approve submitting both grants with the updated FY26 Budget figures and to approve the yearly administrative contract renewal in the amount of \$13,000, was made by Commissioner Ron Keeney and seconded by member Chad Henson; all board members approved. No opposition. Motion carried.

Director Lutes reported on the Solid Waste Management Plan. Our Plan needs to be drafted by October 2025 for DNR's review. Community Planning Specialist, Robert Augsdorfer will be working on the Plan, he is getting ready to schedule meetings in each county. These meetings will be informational meetings regarding recycling opportunities in our regions.

#### OZARK FOOTHILLS DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Director Lutes reported that incubator space # 1 and #10 are still available. If you know of anyone who would be interested in renting a space for a startup business, please contact the Planning Commission. There is more detailed information about the incubator spaces on our website.

Director Lutes reported that unit #8 and #9 roof leaks were repaired in May 2025. The cost was \$1,900.00. The flagpole will be ordered soon. We plan to contact contractors about expanding the back-parking lot soon.

#### OZARK FOOTHILLS REGIONAL COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Disaster Recovery Coordinator, Misty Edwards reported on the Foundation Status Report for the Ozark Foothills Regional Community Foundation (OFRCF). From March 12, 2025, to June 11, 2025, the market value of the foundation's assets experienced growth. The current market value is \$3,110,613.92, which is an increase of \$3,526.40. We have had \$48,648.38 in contributions from donors since our last meeting. We have issued \$82,923.14 in grants.

The last meeting of the OFRCF Board was held on June 4, 2025, in the OFRPC conference room. The board voted to change the meeting schedule to quarterly. The new schedule will begin August 13, 2025. The board will now meet on the second Wednesday, quarterly as follows; August 13, 2025, and October 8, 2025.

Currently, the board consists of eleven individuals, leaving two possible vacancies to be filled: Reynolds County (1) and At-Large (1). The next scheduled meeting of the OFRCF will be at 4:00 p.m., August 13, 2025, in the OFRPC conference room. During the August meeting, the agenda will address grant round parameters, as well as open and closing dates for the FY25 grant application cycle.

## RIPLEY COUNTY PUBLIC HOUSING AGENCY

Director Lutes reported that a special meeting was held for an update to the Admin Plan. We had to re-publish for public notice. The board did approve the updated Admin Plan. The minutes will need to be approved.

A Motion to approve the RCPHA Special Meeting minutes, was made by Commissioner Ron Keeney and seconded by Chairman Jesse Roy; all board members approved. No opposition. Motion carried.

Housing Coordinator Ilene Ward reported upon the Section 8 Rental Assistance Program. The Ripley County Public Housing Agency is assisting 336 families in our five-county region. 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 of these vouchers are filled.

We are accepting new applications. The Waiting List was opened on June 2, 2025, and will close at 4:00 p.m. on June 17, 2025. As of today, we have received 318 applications.

Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) Coordinator Julianne Brady reported that there are 55 families on the Family Self-Sufficiency Program who are working towards the goals they set for themselves. Of the 55 participants, we have 42 that have started escrow since joining the program due to increasing their earned income; of which they will receive their total acquired escrow amount when they successfully graduate the program.

There are currently 8 families on the Home Ownership Program. We also have one tenant who we foresee graduating from the FSS program within the next couple of months. We have been working closely with her and Rural Development, preparing to transition her into the homeownership program once her graduation is complete.

### NEW GRANTS RECEIVED

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

- Van Buren, CDBG-Wastewater, Wastewater System Upgrades, \$750,000.00;

### 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 #345*. A motion was made by Commissioner Ron Keeney and seconded by member Gary Emmons; with no opposition, the adoption of the resolution was approved.

Director Lutes reported on the Ozark Foothills Regional Planning Commission Recycle Center Building-CDBG CF Grant to repair the roof, update the lighting and update bathrooms in the Recycling Center. We are eligible to apply for \$500,000.00 The executive board approved matching 5% of the grant construction costs or \$25,000, whichever is the lesser amount.

A motion to approve *Resolution #346* was made by Commissioner Ron Keeney and seconded by member Michael Williams; with no opposition, the adoption of the resolution was approved.

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Lutes reported that the FY2026 Budget was presented to the Executive Board, and they recommended it be presented to the full Commission. The Budget was presented to the group. This budget includes a 3% cost of living adjustment (COLA) for staff, and the Health Insurance premium went up 22.89%. A discussion was had by the group about the budget expenses of the Ozark Foothills Recycling Center. A motion to approve *FY2026 Budget, Resolution #347*, was made by Commissioner Ron Keeney and seconded by member Michael Williams. With no opposition, the adoption of the resolution was approved.

Director Lutes reported on Federal Declaration #DR-4867. This is regarding Federal Assistance for the storms. Please reach out to us to make sure you are getting all of the FEMA notices.

Director Lutes reported on the Carter and Ripley County Hazard Mitigation Plans. Carter County Hazard Mitigation Plan is complete and approved. Ripley County Hazard Mitigation Plan expires in November 2026. We are unsure where funding is coming from at this time due to the restructuring of FEMA and are waiting for the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). We will get updates to you as they become available.

Director Lutes reported on the Delta Regional Authority (DRA) Application Cycles-Strategic Planning, SEDAP, CIF and WORC. The Strategic Planning Application round is open. It closes August 1, 2025, the project range is \$25,000 to \$150,000. SEDAP closes June 25, 2025. The CIF closes on December 31, 2025. The WORC was not funded this year.

Director Lutes further reported on the CDBG Application Cycles. The FY25 Cycle is open now until July 28, 2025. The 42 MID/MIT applications we submitted are being reviewed and we anticipate that those will be awarded in the next 4 weeks. It is likely that the MIT applications will not be awarded, those are applications outside of our two disaster zip codes which are Van Buren and Doniphan. If those are not awarded, we should be able to apply for disaster money through EDA.

Due to the current Administration, the Broadband Grant Opportunities (BEAD) will require the State's internet providers to re-apply for those funds within 90 days from the beginning of June. We should be getting information from the Missouri Office of Broadband about the changes within the next 2 -3 weeks. We should know more then.

The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) was approved, and we anticipate working on updates soon. When we get that process started, we will be reaching out.

The 2025 Melvin Brinkley Public Service Award Nominations are due by August 15, 2025. There were no applications submitted for the 2024 award. The applications will be reviewed at the September 2025 meeting. The Melvin Brinkley Public Service Award was established by the planning commission in 2002 to honor the late Melvin Brinkley, Chairman of the Village of Mill Spring in Wayne County. Chairman Brinkley served as village chairman for nearly 16 years and was known to many as a dedicated public servant. The award recognizes an Ozark Foothills

resident who has contributed selflessly to the betterment of their community and strengthened their community due to their actions. The guidelines are that the nominee cannot be nominated for the duties they perform as an elected official, they are from our 5-county region, and they are not paid for the work that they are nominated for.

Director Lutes introduced Mike Schoelhamer with Congressman Smith's office. He discussed disaster relief for our areas; he shared his contact information and will send us information regarding the disaster relief locations.

Director Lutes introduced Jody James, Workforce Development. Ms. James shared with the group that they provide services through the Poplar Bluff Job Center through the Department of Labor-on the job training programs. They have money available to help job seekers and funds available for employers. They also have a summer youth job program, which is paid work experience for youth between the ages of 16 and 24. If you have any questions or interest please contact the Job Center at Three Rivers College.

Director Lutes introduced Lori Dunlap, Department of Economic Development. Mrs. Dunlap informed the group to reach out to her if you have a business in your area that deals in manufacturing. She shared her contact card.

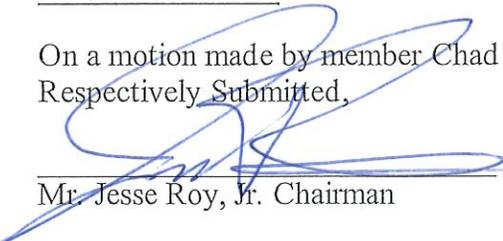
#### GENERAL DISCUSSION

Director Lutes informed the group that the R.S.V.P. postage cards that are sent out with the first letter for Commission Meetings, will no longer be sent. Please call or e-mail the Planning Commission to R.S.V.P.

The next Commission Meeting will be on September 11, 2025.

#### ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by member Chad Henson, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 P.M. Respectively Submitted,

  
Mr. Jesse Roy, Jr. Chairman

9-11-25  
Date

  
Mr. Darrell Dement, Secretary

9-11-25  
Date

ATTENDANCE

COMMISSION MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

JESSE ROY, JR.	CHAD HENSON	GARY EMMONS
DARRELL DEMENT	RON KENNEY	PAUL JOHNSON
DIANA BROWER	BRANDON WOOLARD	JENNIFER WILLIAMS
BARB POTTER	JOANN BRANDON	JIM JONES
MICHAEL WILLIAMS	MIKE SCHOELHAMER	JODY JAMES
STEVE FOSTER	DENNIS COX	LAURA BETH SMITH
BILL MORIARTY	SANDRA SHOCKEY	DIANA BROWER
TOM WILDER	JUSTIN PARKS	LEANN CLARK

COMMISSION MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

BRIAN POLK	STEVE CHITWOOD	REBECA PACHECO
ANGELA CLYBURN	JOHN BAILIFF	VINCE LAMPE
BILL KIRKPATRICK	RHONDA BURSON	JASON HILL
SHANE CORNMAN	ROBERT KNODELL	
DAWN HOOD	STANLEY BARTON	
DOUG MOSBEY	GARY CONWAY, JR.	
LEE HILLIS	NANCY STEWART	
	RON RUPP	
	RUSSELL FRENCH	

STAFF

JAMIE LANSFORD

CAROLYN MEEKS

CAMILLE DONNELL

ALAN LUTES

BROOKE HINKLIN

RACHEL COLEMAN

ILENE WARD

RAAMIN BURRELL

MISTY EDWARDS

DAVEY HICKS

AMBER HORNBECK

NIKI HARP

ANDREW MURPHY

BRIAN ROSENER

AMY BAUGUS

ERICA KINGERY

JULIANNE BRADY

RICHARD KETCHUM

ROBERT AUGSDORFER

GUEST

LORI DUNLAP

GLORIA DEMENT

RANDALL POTTER

