

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 14, 2023
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 6:04 p.m. by Chairman, Brian Polk.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

The minutes of the meeting held September 14, 2023, and financial statements for the quarter ending September, 30 2023, were reviewed. Member, Darrell Dement made a motion to approve the minutes and financial statements of the September 14, 2023, meeting and the financial statements for the quarter ending September 30, 2023. Member, Russell French seconded. No opposition. Motion carried.

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Coordinator Murphy reported on the Transportation Planning Progress Report. The next TAC (Transportation Advisory Committee) meeting is Thursday, January 11, 2024. We are looking at holding the meeting virtually as we are in a bit of a down period with MoDOT and not a lot is happening. MoDOT's STIP will not see much change over the next year or two as inflation and rising costs caused a lot of overages for construction projects.

MoDOT held an unfunded needs meeting for the Southeast District last month in Dexter, MO at the Bootheel RPC. The Unfunded Needs List is available on MoDOT's website for viewing.

The Recreational Trails Program from MoDNR is opening this month. Applications will most likely be due mid-February and applications are an 80/20 match requirement. We recommend contributing 30% if possible for the bonus points as the program is competitive at the state level. Up to \$250,000 can be requested.

MoDOT, the 4 RPCs in MoDOT's Southeast District, the University of MO Extension, and MoDHSS had a meeting a couple weeks ago to discuss Active Transportation Planning in SEMO. Both the University of MO and MoDHSS have received separate 5-year grants from the

CDC to focus on obesity and health with an active transportation focus. I don't have a lot of information on this currently, as each grant has a different focus on metrics, but 3 of our 5 counties were identified in the criteria used to receive the grant. MoDHSS will be speaking about this at the April TAC meeting.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Recycling Center Supervisor, Jamie Lansford reported that the new baler is broke down. A Tech from Cram-A-Lot was sent to the Recycling Center today and parts will have to be ordered. Prices are up on cardboard. Discussion was had about finding the parts elsewhere.

OZARK FOOTHILLS DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Director Lutes reported to the group that there are 2 business incubator spaces available for rent, Unit #8 and Unit #10. These spaces are for startup businesses, if you know of anyone who would be interested in renting a space, please contact the Planning Commission. There are pictures of the incubator spaces on the OFRPC website.

The OFDA applied for an energy loan for new LED lights in our building. We are not eligible due to being a not-for-profit organization. We are going to work on replacing the lights ourselves.

OZARK FOOTHILLS REGIONAL COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Disaster Recovery Coordinator, Misty Edwards reported on the Foundation Status Report for the Ozark Foothills Regional Community Foundation (OFRCF). The market value as of 12/14/2023 is \$2,340,430.95. This is an increase of \$125,417.71 from the previous commission meeting. There was an investment increase of \$14,864.51. There were \$204,105.74 contributions made by donors since the last commission meeting and \$78,688.03 was granted out of those funds.

The Community Foundation has open Board positions. Ryan Ainley has joined the board recently representing Ripley County leaving priorities to include Reynolds and Wayne County Representatives. The board is taking suggestions to meet and consider candidates.

The annual community grant was completed in November. The Timothy Foundation and Naylor Nutrition Center were selected to be the two recipients of the two \$500 grant awards.

Kaitlyn McConnell visited from the Springfield office and spoke with Russell French, Rebeca Pacheco, Ryan Ainley and Judy Cantoni on Friday, November 17. The meeting was meant to allow Kaitlyn to meet with board members one on one to gather information for a publication celebrating the CFO's 50-year anniversary.

During the meeting on the 17th Hazel Slusher and Chad Foster came in to represent Naylor Nutrition during a check presentation.

Christmas Cards from the OFRCF were ordered through MinitPrint and those were sent out to fund holders on the last day of November.

Reynolds County Day Center has expressed interest in opening a fund account.

The Private donor for the Naylor Community has made the promise of another generous donation to the Naylor Community by means of bequeathing half of his estate to the community.

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 372 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. 49 of these vouchers are filled.

There are currently 52 families on the Waiting List. The Waiting List is currently closed. We will be accepting applications February 1, 2024 through February 7, 2024.

Housing Coordinator Niki Harp reported on the Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) Program. There are currently 65 families on the FSS program. Thirteen of these participants have been enrolled since the September Commission meeting. 86% of active FSS clients are Move-to-Work (MTW) households. As of November 30, 2023, we have \$43,177.89 accumulated in escrow accounts for 33 clients. We have \$14,445.71 in forfeited escrow.

There are 11 participants in the home ownership program and 30 FSS families actively working on the goal of Homeownership.

There is an FSS participant that has met all of her goals on her individual service plan and will successfully graduate this month. She was not able to attend our meeting this evening due to her work schedule. She is a single mother with 2 children. She has maintained full time employment throughout her 5-year time on the program and has been able to increase her income significantly and is working toward home ownership. This participant will be graduating with and escrow balance of \$10,302.16.

NEW GRANTS RECEIVED

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

- City of Williamsville, USDA-CF, Maintenance Tractor, \$47,200;
- Ellington Nutrition Center, MO DED ARPA NON-PROFIT, Operation Expense Recovery, \$25,000;
- Poplar Bluff/Butler County, Northside Nutrition Center, MO DED ARPA NON-PROFIT, Operation Expense Recovery, \$25,000;

- Butler County, Broseley Nutrition Center, MO DED ARPA NON-PROFIT, Operation Expense Recovery, \$25,000;
- Poplar Bluff, DRA-Strategic Planning Grant, Comprehensive Plan Update, \$72,500;
- Rogers Theater, Inc., MO DED ARPA Entertainment, Program Support, \$31,683;
- Naylor Nutrition Center, MO DED, ARPA NON-PROFIT, Operation Expense Recovery, \$25,000;
- Doniphan, MODOT TAP, Sidewalk Improvements, \$500,000;
- Butler County, DPS Enhancing Election Security, Election Security, \$7,680;
- Ozark Foothills Regional Planning Commission, Poplar Bluff Chamber, TRC, MTC Regional Node Planning, Further Technology and Entrepreneurship through Southern Missouri Innovation Network, \$15,000;
- Ellsinore, DRA SEDAP, Gap Funding for Firehouse Construction, \$304,743;
- Reynolds County PWS #1, Lesterville, DRA CIF, Water System Restoration, \$876,000;
- Poplar Bluff-Municipal Utilities, FEMA (BRIC) Building Resiliency Infrastructure & Communities, Backup Well Alice Street, Received Invitation to Apply for Grant \$1,300,000;
- Wayne County, USDA Rural Development-Community Facilities, Radios and Communication Equipment-Sheriff's Department, \$41,300;

Grant Amendments

Ripley County PWS #2, MO DED-CDBG CV, Gap funding for addition service meters, \$22,200 additional funding added to original grant.

Williamsville Nutrition Center, MO DED-CDBG CV, Gap Funding for new flooring, \$4,824 additional funding added to original grant.

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 #333*. A motion was made by Commissioner Ron Keeney and seconded by Commissioner Jesse Roy; with no opposition, adoption of the resolution was approved.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Lutes awarded William (Bill) Moriarty of Carter County with the 2023 Melvin Brinkley Public Service Award.

Director Lutes recognized Davey Hicks for his 5 years of service with the Ozark Foothills Recycling Center.

Assistant Director, Andrew Murphy recognized Executive Director, Alan Lutes for his 5 years of service with the Ozark Foothills Regional Planning Commission.

Director Lutes reported that Felicity Ray is working on the Wayne County Hazard Mitigation Plan. Next, we will be working on the Carter County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Director Lutes reported that CDBG is grouping together Fiscal Years 2023 and 2024 Competitive Cycle and it will open in April, 2024. This cycle will be open for 5 months. If any communities are interested in a project, please contact the Planning Commission. As of right now, the MID/MIT round will open up in September. Downtown Revitalization grant opportunity is open right now. So far, only one application has been received.

Director Lutes discussed broadband grant opportunities-BEAD & Digital Equity Act. Missouri is the third largest State in the Nation as far as the amount of money we will receive for broadband. There is a lot of preparation and planning being done. We are still about a year away from the application opening but we will be getting more information to the communities.

The other grant opportunities are funding from DELTA Regional Authority (DRA) and Economic Development Authority. There a few of those opportunities open at this time and there will be more opportunities opening soon especially with DRA. We will send notice of these grant opportunities to our communities.

Director Lutes introduced Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) Coordinator, Erica Kingery. Coordinator Kingery reported that the Affordable Connectivity Program is part of the FCC's Infrastructure Investment and Job Act. They gave \$14.2 million dollars for this grant which provides a \$30 discount for eligible households or \$75 off of their internet bill if they are on tribal land. Anyone on food stamps, Medicaid, WIC, Pell grant or a child is on free and reduced lunches at school, SSI or receiving Veteran's Benefits qualifies for ACP. As of right now funds for this program are due to run out in 2024, but we are hoping for more funding. In September there were 17 enrollments, October-12 enrollments and November -37 enrollments and December-22 enrollments. If any community would like Erica to come to their area, please let her know.

Director Lutes gave an update on the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The CEDS draft is ready for review and comment. Copies of the draft were handed out during the meeting. The final version will be available for review by the March, 2024 Board Meeting and then any changes can be noted or made before it is submitted to EDA. It is due to be submitted to EDA by September, 2024. Once it is approved, it will be implemented January, 2025. Please contact Raamin Burrell at the Planning Commission if you have any questions.

The Employee Handbook & Operation Manual updates were discussed during previous executive Meetings and policy updates have been made. Copies of the changes are available for review.

A motion to approve *Employee Handbook & Operations Manual Updates, Resolution #334 and #335*, were made by Commissioner Ron Keeney and seconded by Commissioner Jesse Roy. No opposition, adoption of the Resolutions were approved.

Director Lutes introduced Kyle Aubuchon with Senator Bean's office. As of January 1, 2024, he is the new Chief of Staff for Senator Jason Bean.

Director Lutes announced that Madison Baker with Jason Smith's office was in attendance but had to leave.

Lori Dunlap, DED, discussed with the group that she represents 10 counties in Missouri which include our 5 counties. Lori is the Regional Engagement Division contact. Brochures were brought to explain her services.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Director Lutes announced that the next Commission Meeting will be March 14, 2024 in Ellington.

Director Lutes thanked everyone in attendance and recognized Jason Lott, Ozark National Scenic Riverways and Keith Elliott.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Commissioner Steve Chitwood and seconded by Commissioner Ron Keeney, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 P.M.

Respectively Submitted,

_____	_____	_____	_____
Mr. Brian Polk, Chairman	Date	Ms. Margaret Carter, Secretary	Date

ATTENDANCE

COMMISSION MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

BRIAN POLK	RON RUPP	RUSSELL FRENCH
MARGARET CARTER	VINCE LAMPE	GARY EMMONS
DARRELL DEMENT	JESSE ROY	DENNIS COX
LORI DUNLAP	BRANDON WOOLARD	TOM WILDER
CHAD HENSON	DEBI REYNOLDS	MADISON BAKER
BILL MORIARTY	REBECCA PACHECO	STEVE CHITWOOD
LAURA BETH SMITH	RON KEENEY	
DIANA BROWER		
BARB POTTER		

COMMISSION MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

ANGELA CLYBURN	PAUL JOHNSON	
BILL KIRKPATRICK	RHONDA BURSON	
JASON HILL	JUSTIN PARKS	
SHANE CORNMAN	PAUL WOOD	DOUG MOSBEY
DAWN HOOD	TERESA LEE	
MIKE HOERNER	REV. GREGORY KIRK	
GARY CONWAY, JR.	DR. JAMES JONES	
STANLEY BARTON	SANDY JOY	

STAFF

ALAN LUTES	CAROLYN MEEKS	CAMILLE DONNELL
ILENE WARD	BROOKE HINKLIN	RACHEL COLEMAN
DAVEY HICKS	RAAMIN BURRELL	BRIAN ROSENER
NIKI HARP	AMBER HORNBECK	ERICA KINGERY
AMY BAUGUS	ANDREW MURPHY	JAMIE LANSFORD
	MISTY EDWARDS	

GUEST

BONNIE FAY MORIARITY	SARAH FRENCH
GLORIA DEMENT	KEITH ELLIOTT
JASON LOTT	SALLY RUPP