

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 12, 2024

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

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

The minutes of the meeting held September 12, 2024, were reviewed. Commissioner Vince Lampe made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2024 meeting. Mayor Dennis Cox seconded. No opposition. Motion carried.

The financial statements for the quarter ending September 30, 2024, were reviewed. Commissioner Brian Polk made a motion to approve the financial statements for the quarter ending September 30, 2024. Commissioner Vince Lampe seconded. No opposition. Motion carried.

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Assistant Director, Andrew Murphy reported on the Transportation Planning Progress Report. As mentioned in September, the TAC needed to update their bylaws and add additional membership to represent multi-modal interests/perspectives. In October the TAC adopted updated by-laws and the committee now consists of 6 members from each county, with one representative from the multi-modal sector. Butler County added Gary Pride, retiring director of the Poplar Bluff Airport, Carter County did not have a new member at the previous meeting, but has found a trails expert with NPS that lives in Van Buren and is interested in serving on the TAC. Reynolds County added Craig Foster-the Transportation Director of Southern Reynolds County R-2, Ripley County added Michael Williams, County Clerk, and Wayne County added Tylar Pinkley, who works for the railroad. There is a really good variety of multi-modal perspectives from the region.

The next TAC meeting is Thursday, January 9, 2025. 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.

Brian Rosener has finished up an Active Transportation Plan for the City of Poplar Bluff. A draft copy is available online on our website and links are on Facebook. A survey is currently seeking feedback on the plan and the 16 sidewalk and crosswalk projects that were identified.

Amber Hornbeck is working with the City of Qulin on an Active Transportation Plan as well. That plan is due for completion by the end of September 2025.

MoDOT took BRO submissions this fall and received 17 applications for the 25-county Southeast District. Of those 17, only one from Ripley County was submitted from our region. Once again, MoDOT has requested the RPCs and TAC help to score those applications. Director Murphy has provided all the applications and scoring sheets MoDOT provided to the TAC subcommittee. Director Murphy plans to score the applications as well, but plans to average the TAC's score if he receives any back. They were provided on December 4, 2024 and have requested scoring be completed by December 16. They have to be submitted to MoDOT before the end of the year and the BRO scoring meeting is scheduled for January 7, 2025.

A copy of the Lightcast Economy Overview Reports were distributed to each table. There is one for each of the 5 counties. These were provided at the June, 2024 meeting and we will be providing them at every June and December meeting.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Recycling Center Supervisor, Jamie Lansford reported that the new gate has been installed at the Recycling Center. Cardboard prices continue to decrease. All other prices are stable.

Executive Director, Alan Lutes reported that we will be working on a Solid Waste Management District Plan prepared, adopted and then approved by DNR. The state plan should be approved in October, 2025, and DNR wants some of their plan to be reflected in our plan. We will be working on getting the SWMD plan drafted. Assistant Director, Andrew Murphy will be working on this plan.

OZARK FOOTHILLS DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Director Lutes reported to the group that business incubator space #1 is available for rent. This unit is 2,300 square feet. Unit #8 has been leased by Sleep in Heavenly Peace, a Non-for-Profit organization that builds beds in our region for children. These spaces are for startup businesses, if you know of anyone who would be interested in renting a space, please contact the Planning Commission.

Regarding building improvements, LED lights were installed in Unit #6 in October. LED lights now have been installed in the Planning Commission along with Units #4, #5 and #6.

Director Lutes informed the group that we are working on getting quotes to replace the Flag Pole in the front of the OFRPC building. We are hoping to have this done by the Spring.

We are also going to increase the size of the gravel parking lot in the back of the building for the Industrial Medical Clinic.

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 OFRCF presented the Clearwater School Foundation in the amount of \$1,000 from the CFO.

The market value as of 12/12/2024 is \$3,090,709.36. This is an increase of \$114,314.07 from the previous commission meeting. There were \$3,929,577.63 in contributions made by donors since the last commission meeting and \$1,874,268.48 was granted out of those funds. The last meeting of the Ozark Foothills Regional Community Foundation (OFRCF) Board was November 12, 2024 at the Ozark Foothills Regional Planning Commission.

The 2024 grant round for the OFRCF closed on October 31, 2024. Currently the OFRCF 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., Tuesday, February 11, 2025, in the OFRPC conference room.

Coordinator Edwards informed the group that Roberts Adventure Playground is a fundholder that the OFRCF has. They have met their goal for the playground at McLane Park.

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 379 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 50 of these vouchers are filled. The RCPHA is not accepting new applications at this time. The Waiting List is currently closed.

Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) Coordinator Julianne Brady reported that there are currently 71 families on the Family Self-Sufficiency Program. Each family's goals differ, but the categories in which to become self-sufficient remain the same. Those categories are education, employment, financial, transportation, and homeownership. When a family's earned income increases, they start escrowing money each month. We currently have 41 families escrowing. The money in their escrow account is given to them once they complete all of their goals and successfully graduate from the program.

Homeownership is often something most tenants look forward to adding as a goal. Currently we have 9 clients on the homeownership program. While there are 41 clients interested in transferring to the homeownership program once they graduate.

Director Lutes reported to the group that the RCPHA and PHA's across the nation are in shortfall with funds due to inflation. We are not issuing new HUD vouchers at this time.

NEW GRANTS RECEIVED

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

- Carter County, DRA SEDAP, County Road #330 Paving-Royal Oak, \$490,000;

Grant Amendments

Naylor, CDBG Community Facilities, Senior Center Construction, \$12,200 additional Funding Added for increased material costs.

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 #343*. A motion was made by member, Russell French and seconded by Commissioner Vince Lampe; with no opposition, adoption of the resolution was approved.

Director Lutes discussed the OFRPC application to Missouri's Digital Opportunity Grant with the group. This grant is for Clearwater School and the Piedmont Community. This grant will help with broadband digital access in the region. Clearwater School Foundation leaders, Jessica Sentell and Ronda Polk gave a brief explanation of how this will help the community.

OFRPC CDBG MIT Capacity Building Grant Application, *Resolution #342*. A motion was made by Commissioner, Brian Polk and seconded by Commissioner Vince Lampe; with no opposition, adoption of the resolution was approved.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Lutes reported that Felicity Ray is working on the Wayne County and Carter County Hazard Mitigation Plans. Wayne County is in the last review by FEMA. Carter County Hazard Mitigation Plan will be submitted this month. If there is a Hazard Mitigation Plan being updated in your community, it's important that you participate in the meetings and surveys.

DRA still has Strategic Planning and CIF rolling cycles. The DRA CIF has closed because they have run out of funds. All of our funds have been awarded. We had an application applied through DRA for the CIF for Butzen Road project, that was rolled over to EDA for a better opportunity for funding.

CDBG Application Cycles-FY23/FY24 Competitive Cycle closed October 7, 2024. We applied for 13 grants, we should be hearing about those before Christmas. The MID/MIT Cycle closes January 17, 2025. We have about 40 projects we are working on. We have a pretty good chance of getting several awards in our region.

Director Lutes reported on the Broadband Grant Opportunities-BEAD. Broadband providers should be working on their applications. The pre-qualification application period is open until

February 5, 2025. If anyone has an ISP that's not applied yet or sent in the qualification application, make sure and touch base with them.

Director Lutes reported on Legislative updates. Representative Hardy Billington from District 152 was in attendance. They will begin session with the new Governor in January, 2025. Representative Elect, Keith Elliott was also in attendance.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Director Lutes recognized Executive Secretary, Brooke Hinklin for 5 years of service at the Planning Commission, Environmental Review Specialist, Carolyn Meeks was recognized for 15 years of service and Recycling Center Supervisor, Jamie Lansford for 20 years of service.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Commissioner Vince Lampe, the meeting was adjourned at 6:53 P.M.

Respectively Submitted,

Mr. Jesse Roy, Chairman

Date

Mr. Darrell Dement, Secretary

Date

ATTENDANCE

COMMISSION MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

BRIAN POLK	PAUL JOHNSON	DENNIS COX
RON KEENEY	VINCE LAMPE	GARY EMMONS
DARRELL DEMENT	JESSE ROY, JR.	BARB POTTER
DIANA BROWER	KEITH ELLIOTT	RUSSELL FRENCH
STEVE CHITWOOD	DR. JAMES JONES	REP. HARDY BILLINGTON
REBECA PACHECO	MICHAEL WILLIAMS	LEANN CLARK
STEVE FOSTER		

COMMISSION MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

ANGELA CLYBURN	JOHN BAILIFF	BRANDON WOOLARD
BILL KIRKPATRICK	RHONDA BURSON	JASON HILL
JUSTIN PARKS		
SHANE CORNMAN	STANLEY BARTON	
DAWN HOOD	GARY CONWAY, JR.	CHAD HENSON
DOUG MOSBEY	MARGARET CARTER	
	NANCY STEWART	
LEE HILLIS	RON RUPP	
	PAUL WOOD	
	BILL MORIARTY	
	JOANNE BRANDON	

STAFF

RICHARD KETCHUM

CAROLYN MEEKS

JAMIE LANSFORD

ALAN LUTES

BROOKE HINKLIN

AMBER HORNBECK

ILENE WARD

RAAMIN BURRELL

RACHEL COLEMAN

DAVEY HICKS

ERICA KINGERY

BRIAN ROSENER

NIKI HARP

ANDREW MURPHY

AMY BAUGUS

JULIANNE BRADY

MISTY EDWARDS

CAMILLE DONNELL

GUEST

LISA LANSFORD

DARRELL BEQUETTE SR.

RANDY POTTER

SARAH FRENCH

JOHN MEEKS

GLORIA DEMENT