

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 13, 2024
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, Brian Polk.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

The minutes of the meeting held March 14, 2024, and financial statements for the quarter ending March, 31 2024, were reviewed. Commissioner Vince Lampe made a motion to approve the minutes and financial statements of the March 14, 2024, meeting and the financial statements for the quarter ending March 31, 2024. Member Russell French seconded. No opposition. Motion carried.

Director Lutes introduced new board members, Leann Clark, Three Rivers College, Education Sector and Steve Foster, Agriculture Sector.

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Director Murphy discussed with the group, the Lightcast Economy Overview for each county. It is software we've been using for a bit now and have been able to utilize it some in grant applications, plans, and reports. You can't break the data down to the city level, so you will see one report for each county. You can do a region wide overview, and you can compare any counties in Missouri to one another. We plan to start providing these at the June and December meetings to the board, and plan to e-mail a PDF copy out to our Cities and Counties.

There is data for Labor Force, Educational Attainment, Unemployment, demographic, historic and projected trends, population characteristics, migration for work, business and industry data, etc.

Director Murphy reported on the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC). At the April TAC meeting the TAC Prioritized projects at the county level for the priority list of projects, maintenance list of projects, and multi-modal list of projects. Copies are available if anyone

would like to review them. On July 11, 2024 we will meet to vote on the projects and present a regional wide list to MoDOT for consideration in their Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

Regarding the STIP, the 2025-2029 Draft STIP was available for public comment from May 1-May 30th. The STIP is expected to be adopted by the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission at their July 10th meeting.

MoDOT TAP grant applications were due back in April. The selection committee met in late May. MoDOT was able to add some additional funding to the program, and of the 16 eligible applications, 15 were awarded. Our region only submitted one application, the City of Poplar Bluff for sidewalk construction and a lighted crosswalk at Business Highway 60 on the East Side of Poplar Bluff that would link existing Housing Authority sidewalk to Linc Park on the other side of the highway. There was also a pedestrian fatality here a year ago. Awards have not been made official yet.

MACOG and MoDOT have added a new permanent multi-modal component to our Transportation Planning Framework. Currently each of the 5 counties have 5 positions on the TAC. Moving forward as of July 1, 2024, each county will need to have a “multi-modal” representative to the TAC, giving each county 6 members and 30 total TAC members. This new member would vote and attend all TAC meetings but must represent and be able to bring perspective from a multi-modal position be it someone in the profession or a subject matter expert. This does not included trails/sidewalks, but would include railroad, airports, river ports, and transit, including sheltered workshops. The TAC will also create an Unfunded Needs List from our region of multi-modal projects in the area. This could include the projects on our current prioritized list, but would need additional projects added.

Director Murphy discussed with the group the update to the Title VI Program Plan. This was first adopted in 2018, and 2021, and will need to be adopted again tonight for 3 years until June 30, 2027. We are required to have this plan as an agency that receives federal funding. It’s 30 pages, but to sum it up simply The Ozark Foothills RPC ensures every effort will be made to ensure non-discrimination in all programs and activities. There is a complaint form and procedure as well as notice to the public should any member of the public feel the RPC has acted in a discriminatory manner. These are within the plan and posted separately on the OFRPC website.

A motion to approve the Tile VI Program Plan, *Resolution #337* was made by Commissioner Jesse Roy and seconded by Mayor Darrell Dement; With no opposition, the adoption of the Resolution was approved.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Recycling Center Supervisor, Jamie Lansford reported that the market is stable. A part-time employee was hired through Express Pro but has already quit. Richard Ketchum should be returning soon from medical leave, but will be limited on what he can do.

Director Lutes discussed the Solid Waste Management District Grants Submissions. The grant applications were approved at the March 2024 meeting. Director Lutes will submit them after they are approved at this meeting with the matching budgets. These are annual grants that we always apply for. The \$90,000 grant goes to operating the Recycling Center and \$5,000 is used to operate the Solid Waste Management District, Region Q.

A Motion to approve submitting both grants with the updated budget figures and to approve the yearly administrative contract renewal in the amount of \$12,000, was made by Mayor Darrell Dement and seconded by Commissioner Vince Lampe; all board members approved. With no opposition, the motion carried.

Director Lutes gave an update on the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Lawsuit. There were a couple SWMD'S that had a lawsuit against DNR in regards to the way they were distributing their funds for grants. The SWMD won their suit and there was no appeal. The outcome of the lawsuit distinguished that some of the rules and regulations DNR were enforcing were not lawful. DNR can no longer require certain steps, forms and procedures when we apply for funds. Once DNR receives funds, they now have to pay them out within 30 days. DNR can require that each district has an approved Operation Plan that is on file with them that has been approved by DNR. That plan has to be approved by DNR before we can spend the funds we receive. We will be working on an Operation Plan, that is due by October, 2025.

OZARK FOOTHILLS DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Director Lutes reported to the group that the Liberty Tree was destroyed in a storm. The tree is 248 years old, possibly older. A contractor working with the City of Poplar Bluff is working on removing the tree, without cost to us. There has been discussion about if there is any salvageable wood from the tree, for making a table with a plaque or some item to honor the tree. A piece of the bark of the tree has been donated to the Poplar Bluff Museum. The flag pole was also destroyed in the storm and we are looking to replace it.

Director Lutes reported that incubator space #8 is still available. The board agreed to lease space #10 to a new tenant, Lock Fast Fasteners. If you know of anyone who would be interested in renting space #8 for a start-up business, please contact the Planning Commission. There is more detailed information about the incubator spaces on our website.

Director Lutes informed the group that we have new LED lights. The exterior lights were also replaced. All lighting replacement cost approximately \$17,000.

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 13, 2024 to June 12, 2024, the market value of the foundation's assets experienced growth. The current market value is \$2,822,408.57, which is an increase of \$137,222.77.

The board has added two new board members, Craig Barwick, representing Cape Arrowhead fund and Jan Brown, who is rejoining the board as a representative of Wayne County. There are two remaining board seats open for Reynolds County and one at-large.

At the last OFRCF meeting, Judy Cantoni made mention of working more closely with board member and Naylor resident, Ryan Ainley, to assist in the acceptance and implementation of a land grant opportunity presented to the City of Naylor from an anonymous donor.

Robert Adventure Playground opened a new non-endowed fund under our affiliate on March 27, 2024.

A grant round for 2024 was discussed at the last meeting to be held in fall of 2024.

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 390 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. There are currently 174 families on the waiting list and the waiting list is closed.

Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) Coordinator Julianne Brady reported that there are 69 families on the Family Self-Sufficiency Program who are working towards the goals they set for themselves. Of the 69 clients, we have 45 that have started escrowing 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. We had 3 participants graduate within the last three months, of which all earning their accrued escrow and showing themselves to be self-sufficient. One graduated earning about \$1,302.00, the second graduate earned approximately \$2,672.00, and the third graduate received almost \$1,467.00

There are currently 10 families on the Home Ownership Program. There are 37 clients interested in the homeownership program after they graduate, and a handful of the remaining 32 clients stated that they may be interested in adding that as one of their goals in the future.

NEW GRANTS RECEIVED

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

- Ozark Foothills Regional Planning Commission, USDOT-SS4A, Regional Safe Streets for All Action Plan-2 year position, \$116,000.00;
- Butler County, MO 911 Services Board, Data Remediation-Update 911 addressing supporting up to 90% accuracy to meet NG911 standards, \$120,000;
- Carter County, MO 911 Services Board, Data Remediation-Update 911 addressing supporting up to 90% accuracy to meet NG911 standards, \$58,720.00;

- Wayne County, MO 91 Services Board, Data Remediation-Update 911 addressing supporting up to 90% accuracy to meet NG911 standards, \$50,010.00;

Grant Amendments

- Butler County, CDBG Infrastructure, Gap Funding for Harviell Paving, \$295,229.62 - Additional funding added to the 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 #338*. A correction was made to OFRPC-SS4A, it is a 2- year position. A motion was made by Mayor Darrell Dement and seconded by Commissioner Jesse Roy; with no opposition, the adoption of the resolution was approved.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Lutes reported that the FY2025 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.

A motion to approve *FY2025 Budget, Resolution #339*, was made by Commissioner Vince Lampe and seconded by Commissioner Jesse Roy. With no opposition, the adoption of the resolution was approved.

Director Lutes reported on the Wayne and Carter County Hazard Mitigation Plans. Felicity Ray is working on the Wayne County Hazard Mitigation Plan and it is due to expire on August 22, 2024, it is in the final review stages, and she is starting on the Carter County Hazard Mitigation Plan which is due February, 2025. Their first meeting is tomorrow.

Director Lutes reported on the Delta Regional Authority (DRA) Application Cycles-Strategic Planning, SEDAP, CIF and WFORC. SEDAP closes on June 25, 2024, Strategic Planning and CIF are rolling cycles. The WFORC closes June 20, 2024.

Director Lutes further reported on the CDBG Application Cycles. The FY23/FY24 Competitive Cycle closes September 6, 2024; MID/MIT opens September, 2024. The DR4317 MID Zips were submitted last month and are being reviewed.

The Broadband Grant Opportunities (BEAD) will have a grant cycle around the end of the year or beginning of next year. If there is another challenge round we will let you know. If you have internet providers in your areas, please start getting meetings with them to discuss servicing our regions.

The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) draft has been delayed. We need to incorporate mineral mining into our CEDS. This is big opportunity for our region. We will

send the update out digitally to all of our members. Please provide any feedback as soon as you can. We would like to have the final draft ready by July or August. The CEDS will need to be approved at the September 12, 2024 meeting. Contact Raamin Burrell if you have any questions.

The 2024 Melvin Brinkley Public Service Award Nominations are due by August 15, 2024. The applications will be reviewed at the September 12, 2024 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.

There were no legislative updates.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Director Lutes introduced Jody James, South Central Workforce Investment Board, and she explained their workforce services. Lori Dunlap, Rural Development, told the group to reach out to her if you have a business in your area that deals in manufacturing.

Director Lutes discussed with the group that according to our By-Laws we have to reorganize the Executive Committee every two years. Chairman Polk's term as Chairman of the Executive Committee has expired. The Board has approved to present Chad Henson to join the Executive Board as a representative for Wayne County. The Board also would like to present Commissioner Jesse Roy as Chairman, Rebecca Pacheco as 1st Vice Chairman, Paul Johnson as 2nd Vice Chairman, Darrell Dement as Secretary/Treasurer, Margaret Carter as a member and Brian Polk as Ex Officio.

A Motion to approve the July 2024 - June 2026 Executive Board Officers was made by Commissioner Vince Lampe and seconded by member Russell French; all board members approved. With no opposition, the motion carried.

The next Commission Meeting will be on September 12, 2024, at Clearwater Lake.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Commissioner Steve Chitwood the meeting was adjourned at 7:28 P.M.

Respectively Submitted,

Mr. Brian Polk, Chairman

Date

Ms. Margaret Carter, Secretary

Date

ATTENDANCE

COMMISSION MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

BRIAN POLK	LEANN CLARK	DR. JIM JONES
PAUL JOHNSON	VINCE LAMPE	DARRELL DEMENT
JESSE ROY	DENNIS COX	STEVE FOSTER
CHAD HENSON	GARY EMMONS	STEVE CHITWOOD
BILL MORIARITY	REBECCA PACHECO	EDDIE WILIAMS
DIANA BROWER	BARB POTTER	RUSSELL FRENCH

COMMISSION MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

ANGELA CLYBURN	SHANE CORNMAN	RHONDA BURSON
BILL KIRKPATRICK	DAWN HOOD	NANCY KAY
JUSTIN PARKS		
JASON HILL	LEE HILLIS	
STEVE DAVIS	JOHN BAILIFF	TERESA LEE
MARGARET CARTER	GARY CONWAY, JR.	DOUG MOSBEY
WAYNE OGDEN	STANLEY BARTON	REV. GREGORY KIRK
RON KEENEY		RON RUPP
BRANDON WOOLARD	DENNIS COX	

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

GUEST

LORI DUNLAP

GLORIA DEMENT

JODY JAMES

RONDA POLK

RANDALL POTTER