

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

**MARCH 13, 2025
THE KRAVE, 118 JEFFERSON ST, DONIPHAN, MO 63935
6:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:55 p.m. by Chairman, Jesse Roy.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

The minutes and financial statements of the meeting held December 12, 2024, were reviewed. Commissioner Brian Polk made a motion to approve the minutes and financial statements of the December 12, 2024, meeting. Commissioner Vince Lampe seconded. No opposition. Motion carried.

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Assistant Director, Andrew Murphy reported on the Transportation Planning Progress Report. The Transportation Advisor Committee (TAC) is gearing up for the 2025 Prioritization Process. Mr. Murphy is currently meeting with each county commission and holding a joint TAC/county commission meeting to allow citizens from each county to provide input to their county's TAC members. Mr. Murphy met with Carter County on March 7, 2025, he will be meeting with Butler County on March 14, Wayne County on March 18, Ripley County on March 20, and Reynolds County on March 31, 2025.

After the public input, the next full meeting of the TAC will be April 10, 2025, and each county will create their prioritized list of projects for each of the 3 categories of capital improvement projects, maintenance, and multi-modal. Then in July the TAC will conduct its region wide vote, and the final prioritized list will be submitted to MoDOT for consideration in the following year's Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP),

Disaster Recovery Coordinator, Brian Rosener has finished the Active Transportation Plan for the city of Poplar Bluff and the Butler County Health Department. The Final Plan is available online on the ofrpc.org website.

Project Officer, 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. The city is currently looking for their community champion to help spearhead citizen involvement and public surveys will be forthcoming pretty soon.

To follow up on the MoDOT BRO from the last board meeting, MoDOT was able to fund 7 of the 17 bridge applications that were submitted, including the only application from our region, in Ripley County.

The grant agreement for Safe Streets for All (SS4A) grant by the USDOT to create a comprehensive Safety Action Plan for the 5-county region was approved by FHWA in November and started our timeline to develop the plan. The plan will take about two years to complete, and our goal is to have the plan finalized by December 2026. In January, the OFRPC hired Robert Augsdorfer to act as the Community Planning Specialist, and he will be leading the development of the plan. You might see him do a bit of other transportation related or planning related tasks in the office if we move forward with additional comprehensive plan and/or Active Transportation Plan development. Robert has a writing and editing background as he has a communication degree, has worked for a couple of newspapers, including the DAR, and magazines. Robert is attending the County/TAC meetings with Mr. Murphy and is getting scheduled on City Council meetings.

Mr. Murphy introduced the draft update to the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The RTP was last updated in June 2023 and is due for its next update in June 2025. The draft version was submitted to the TAC for review in January. The TAC will be asked to approve the update at the April 2025 meeting. The draft version is available on the OFRPC website, and a copy was provided at the meeting. This update is relatively minor after a very large update in 2023. One change is to move from updating the plan every two years to updating it every two to three years. This will help give some leeway when the plan doesn't have a lot of changes and might try to keep the plan on a 5-year update cycle to coincide with the PTHSTP.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Recycling Center Supervisor, Jamie Lansford reported that Cardboard prices have dropped \$5.00. Pricing was \$95 per ton, now \$90 per ton. The contract with Briggs and Stratton for cardboard helps the recycling center. All other prices are stable. The recycling center vehicles will need to be upgraded.

Executive Director, Alan Lutes, shared with the group that the Executive Board said that the Recycling Center can begin reaching out to organizations that have dumpsters for cardboard and discuss taking a small fee.

Director Lutes informed the group that once a year we have to make a grant call for the funding that DNR gives the Solid Waste Management District (SWMD). Typically, the OFRPC application to operate the Recycle Center is the application received for those funds. The SWMD receives \$90,000 a year from DNR, and the Planning Commission applies for the \$90,000 to run the Recycle Center. The Planning Commission's application was the only one received. The Executive Committee scored the application in the executive committee meeting held this

evening and recommended that the SWMD award those funds to the Ozark Foothills Regional Planning Commission for the operation of the Recycle Center.

A motion to approve awarding the Solid Waste Management District Sub Grant to OFRPC was made by Commissioner Gary Emmons and seconded by Commissioner Vince Lampe. All board members approved. With no opposition, the motion carried.

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.

The Executive Board decided to bid out our trash service. The OFRPC will be looking to hire a new trash service.

Unit #8, Sleep in Heavenly Peace, has leaks in the roof. Summit Roofing gave us a quote of \$1,900 to patch the roof. This will hopefully be done next month.

Regarding building improvements, the Executive Board tonight made a decision to replace the damaged flagpole. We are also working on improving and extending the gravel parking lot on the back side of the building.

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 03/12/2025 is \$3,107,085.73. This is an increase of \$16,376.37 from the previous commission meeting. The last meeting of the Ozark Foothills Regional Community Foundation (OFRCF) Board was February 11, 2025, at the Ozark Foothills Regional Planning Commission.

Judy Cantoni, Director of Affiliate Engagement, and Coordinator Edwards met with the Poplar Bluff Library Board on March 3, 2025, to discuss the possibility of opening a fund account for the library.

Currently, the Community Foundation 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 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 8, 2025, in the OFRPC conference room.

RIPLEY COUNTY PUBLIC HOUSING AGENCY

Housing Supervisor, Niki Harp, reported upon the Section 8 Rental Assistance Program. The Ripley County Public Housing Agency is assisting 355 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. There are 52 families on the waiting list. The Waiting List is currently closed.

Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) Coordinator Erica Kingery reported that there are currently 62 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.

Homeownership is often something most tenants look forward to adding as a goal. Currently we have 9 clients on the homeownership program.

Director Lutes reported on the Annual Plan and MTW Supplemental Update (*HUD Resolution - MTW Cert./Civil Rights Cert.*). We update this plan annually. HUD Supervisor Niki Harp has copies of the MTW Supplement if anyone would like to review it.

Chairman Jesse Roy presented the group with the *Civil Rights Certification* and *MTW Certification of Compliance*. A motion to approve both the *Civil Rights Certification* and the *MTW Certification of Compliance* was by Commissioner Vince Lampe and seconded by Commissioner Brian Polk. With no opposition, the motion carried.

Director Lutes discussed with the group the reallocation of 15 VASH Vouchers -St. Francois County to Ripley County Public Housing Agency. Chairman Jesse Roy presented Board *Resolution #RCPHA-2025-01*. A motion to approve Board *Resolution #RCPHA-2025-01* was made by Commissioner Steve Chitwood and seconded by Commissioner Brian Polk, with no opposition, adoption of the resolution was approved.

NEW GRANTS RECEIVED

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

- Poplar Bluff, DRA PWEAA, Butzen Road Repair, \$1,979,437.
- Butler County-Broseley, CDBG-GI FY23/24, Paving CR 650, \$191,058.
- Ellsinore, CDBG-GI FY23/24, Street Paving, \$347,027.
- Bunker, CDBG-GI FY23/24, Street Paving, \$620,168.
- Fisk, CDBG-GI FY23/24, Street Paving, \$622,449.
- Qulin-Nutrition Center, CDBG-CF FY23/24, Nutrition Center Expansion, \$547,764.

GRANT APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED

Director Lutes reported on the New Grant Application Abstracts. A summary of each proposal was provided to those in attendance as an attachment to *Resolution #344*. A motion was made by Commissioner Vince Lampe and seconded by Commissioner Steve Chitwood with no opposition; adoption of the resolution was approved.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Lutes discussed staff changes. Robert Augsdorfer is the new Community Planning Specialist. He will be attending meetings in your communities.

Director Lutes reported that Felicity Ray is almost done with the Carter County Hazard Mitigation Plan, FEMA is reviewing it. Felicity is ready to start the Ripley County Hazard Mitigation Plan; it expires in September 2026. 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. Almost all DRA grant funds are tied to some kind of job commitment or job attainment. For Strategic Planning there is \$1.5 million available. That is a rolling cycle and is open. SEDAP has \$1.8 million, the cap on it is \$500,000 per grant application. Applications should be opening soon. The CIF cycle cap is 2 million, and it is an open rolling cycle. If you are interested in any of these application cycles, please contact our office.

With the CDBG Application Cycles -MID/MIT, we submitted 42 of the 67 applications the State received. Those applications are being reviewed.

Director Lutes reported on the Broadband Grant Opportunities-BEAD. Broadband providers would have been the applicants for the pre-qualification application period that closed February 20, 2025. Several internet companies applied for this. There should be a round 2 after the first round is awarded. These applications will be scored from February 21 through March 23rd. Round 1 determination should be released April 22, 2025.

Director Lutes reported on the CM2AE Tech Hub Test Deck EDA Grant. This was a large grant that 4 Regional Planning Commissions applied for with Missouri S&T, Rolla for improvement of mining for new minerals needed for batteries. The grant was partially funded and since that time, all four Regional Planning Commissions have partnered with Missouri S&T again and Rural Innovation Strategies Incorporated to apply for a regional tech based Economic and Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Development Strategy Grant being submitted to DRA. If this grant is awarded it will benefit Reynolds and Carter in our mining region.

Director Lutes informed the group that the Ozark Foothills Regional Planning Commission audits are completed. A copy was available at the meeting and e-mailed copies could be sent out as well. The only finding in the audit was the delegation of some of the authority with the

receipts. If you have any questions about the audit, please reach out to the Planning Commission.

Director Lutes reported on Legislative updates. Mr. Mike Schoelhamer with Representative Jason Smith's office was in attendance. Mr. Schoelhamer reported Congress Smith has voted on the Subterranean board defense act, Research Security and accountability and DHS Act, Emerging Innovative Board Technologies and the Pandemic Unemployment for Law Enforcement Act. If anyone needs any help within the agency you may contact Mike Schoelhamer.

Lori Dunlap with Missouri DED was in attendance. She reported that DED does have some incentives for job growth for the communities and counties. If you come across a business that is looking to expand, looking for funding for a CDBG project, or the Neighborhood Assistance Grant (NAP) round 1, please reach out to Mrs. Dunlap.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Director Lutes recognized Robert Knodell, the new Poplar Bluff City Manager and Eric McSpadden, the new Associate Commissioner for Carter County.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Commissioner Vince Lampe, the meeting was adjourned at 7:07 P.M.

Respectively Submitted,

Mr. Jesse Roy, Chairman

Date

Mr. Darrell Dement, Secretary

Date

ATTENDANCE

COMMISSION MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

BRIAN POLK	CHAD HENSON	ERIC MCSPADDEN
VINCE LAMPE	GARY EMMONS	ROBERT KNODELL
DARRELL DEMENT	JESSE ROY, JR.	
DIANA BROWER	RUSSELL FRENCH	
STEVE CHITWOOD	BARB POTTER	
MICHAEL WILLIAMS	MIKE SCHOELHAMER	
STEVE FOSTER		
BILL MORIARTY		

COMMISSION MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

ANGELA CLYBURN	JOHN BAILIFF	BRANDON WOOLARD
BILL KIRKPATRICK	RHONDA BURSON	JASON HILL
JUSTIN PARKS	PAUL JOHNSON	RON KEENEY
SHANE CORNMAN	REBECA PACHECO	
DAWN HOOD		STANLEY BARTON
DOUG MOSBEY		GARY CONWAY, JR.
		MARGARET CARTER
LEE HILLIS		

NANCY STEWART

DENNIS COX

RON RUPP

DR. JAMES JONES

PAUL WOOD

LEANN CLARK

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

ROBERT AUGSDORFER

GUEST

LORI DUNLAP

RANDY POTTER

SARAH FRENCH

LAURA BETH SMITH

GLORIA DEMENT