

## **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**

**SEPTEMBER 14, 2023  
REDMAN CREEK SHELTER, WAPPAPELLO, MO  
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 June 8, 2023, and financial statements for the quarter ending June, 30 2023, were reviewed. Commissioner Jesse Roy made a motion to approve the minutes and financial statements of the June 8, 2023, meeting and the financial statements for the quarter ending June 30, 2023. Commissioner Vince Lampe seconded. No opposition. Motion carried.

### TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Coordinator Murphy reported on the Transportation Planning Progress Report. The TAC (Transportation Advisory Committee) met on July 13, 2023. A review of the Ozark Foothills Region Priorities was announced as follows:

1. Highway 21 South at Briar Creek – Bridge Replacement in Ripley County
2. 4-lane Highway 67 from Highway 160 to the state line in Butler County
3. Highway 34 East of CR236 approximately 300 yards, small bridge replacement over Gizzard Creek in Wayne County
4. Safety Shoulders on Highway 49 from Highway 67 to Mill Spring and Piedmont to Iron County line and widen existing box culverts in Wayne County
5. Tie Highway F bridge/low water crossing flooding in Reynolds County &  
Highway 160 – Repair poor construction so people do not get sea sick in Ripley County

### “Maintenance Needs” Priorities

1. Overlay 72 Highway from 72/21 Junction to 72/32 Junction in Reynolds County
2. Resurface Route NN in Butler County
3. Tie Redesign median crossover of Highway V & Highway A at Highway 60 in Ellsinore in Carter County Highway 49: Resurface from Williamsville to Iron County Line in Wayne County
4. Resurface Route O in Butler County

### Multi-Modal Priorities

1. Add bike lane for TransAmerica Bike Trail on Highway 76 Bike Route in Reynolds County
2. Extend the Poplar Bluff airport runway in Butler County
3. Sidewalk repair/construction in City of Ellington in Reynolds County
4. Sidewalk construction on Cemetery Road in Williamsville in Wayne County
5. Sidewalks in Ellsinore from East Carter Schools to US Highway 60

Coordinator Murphy explained that the BRO selection committee met. 27 applications were submitted in the MoDOT Southeast District. Seven will be awarded. This has not been officially announced yet.

Coordinator Murphy discussed the MoDOT TAP applications. The Southeast District, which is 25 counties including all five OFRPC counties, received 14 applications. The total requests were shy by approximately \$935,000 that MoDOT had available for award. There is a chance a second call for projects could go out soon. As long as the 14 applications meet all required criteria, they are expected to be awarded. The City of Doniphan was the only applicant in our region.

### SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Recycling Center Supervisor, Jamie Lansford was not present at the meeting. Director Alan Lutes reported that cardboard prices are on the rise, \$85.00 as opposed to \$50.00. We have a few schools that we are picking up white paper from, if anyone knows of any other places that would like to recycle white paper, contact the Recycling Center. Revenues for the Recycling Center are down and expenses are still up and constant. If anyone has any ideas on how to help the Recycling Center, please let our office know.

Director Lutes reported on the Annual Report. A copy was passed around to those in attendance. A copy can be e-mailed to anyone who requests it. A motion to approve the Annual Report,

*Resolution #OFSWMD-2023-01*, was made by Commissioner Jesse Roy and seconded by Commissioner Vince Lampe; with no opposition, adoption of the resolution was approved.

#### OZARK FOOTHILLS DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Director Lutes reported to the group that there are 2 business incubator space 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.

Director Lutes reported on the new parking lot update. Pictures were passed around to show the group the progress. Everyone will be able to utilize the new parking lot at the December commission meeting. The old parking lot will be sealed and restriped after the new parking lot is complete.

Regarding building improvements, no updates have been done. We have been looking at the DNR Energy loan to replace all of the building's lights with LED fixtures. We are going to move forward with that and apply and see what happens. We will discuss further in December.

Director Lutes stated that the 2 lots that were owned by Ozark Foothills Development Association on the north end of Poplar Bluff were sold last month. Chairman Polk explained to the group that the OFDA owned the lots for the Self- Help Housing Program which no longer exists.

#### OZARK FOOTHILLS REGIONAL COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Disaster Recovery Coordinator, Lydia Keller reported on the Foundation Status Report for the Ozark Foothills Regional Community Foundation (OFRCF). The market value as of 9/14/2023 is \$2,215,013.24. This is a decrease of \$27,748.68 from the previous commission meeting. There was an investment increase of \$95,940.61. There were \$225,509.28 contributions made by donors since the last commission meeting and \$345,737.66 was granted out of those funds.

The OFRCF brochures are available now. If you would like to have any brochures for your office or business to increase awareness regarding the Foundation, please see Coordinator Keller after the meeting and she will provide them or she will arrange to drop some off at your office.

Coordinator Keller is currently working on distributing envelopes and brochures to local funeral homes for a Funeral Home Campaign to build awareness. So far, she has dropped off brochures at seven funeral homes who have agreed to display on the entrance tables.

Ryan Ainley, of Naylor, has agreed to join the Community Foundation Board as the Ripley County representative. This is a 3-year term. The Community Foundation does have other open board positions, the positions include Reynolds and Wayne County Representatives. The board

is taking suggestions to meet and consider candidates, if you have any recommendations, please email, call, or let Coordinator Keller know after the meeting.

The annual community grant is now open. Applications are available online. There is \$1,000 available. 1-2 grants will be awarded. The application will close on 9/28/2023 at 4:00 p.m. Any 501c3 that serves any county(ies) in our five-county region is eligible to apply.

The next OFRCF meeting will be a Strategic Planning Roundtable on 9/28/2023 at 4:00 p.m. at Castello's. The board will be reflecting on the previous year and creating objectives for this year.

Coordinator Keller introduced the new Disaster Recovery Coordinator, Misty Edwards who will be taking over the Ozark Foothills Regional Community Foundation. Coordinator Edwards reported that she has distributed Community Foundation brochures to several different funeral homes in the area. Ryan Ainley of Naylor has agreed to join the Community Foundation board to represent Ripley County. There are 3 more positions open on the Community Foundation Board. The annual Community Foundation Grant opened on September 1 and is open until September 28.

#### RIPLEY COUNTY PUBLIC HOUSING AGENCY

Housing Coordinator Niki reported upon the Section 8 Rental Assistance Program. The Ripley County Public Housing Agency is assisting 375 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 197 families on the Waiting List. The Waiting List is currently closed.

Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) Coordinator Shaquana Ferguson reported that the next PCC meeting will be held September 28, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. She is actively looking for an affordable mechanic to add to the board since unreliable transportation is a barrier for a few of the FSS Participants. If you may know someone, please get a card from her.

There are currently 62 families on the Family Self-Sufficiency Program. Coordinator Ferguson has enrolled 7 participants since June 8, 2023, and has enrolled 1 participant for October. Around 87% of active clients are Move to Work (MTW). As of July 31, 2023, there is \$33,982.20 accumulated in escrow. Many clients have enrolled into adult education courses at the Excel Center, through Ripley County Community Partnership with Ms. Lisa Aden and through the online agency Graduation Alliance. The Timothy foundation in Poplar Bluff also offers similar courses and discipleships, so clients have this option to choose from as well.

Director Lutes discussed updating the Administration Plan for RCPHA due to HUD's change to the Final Rule. Coordinator Niki Harp has been working on the updates and has copies if anyone would like to review them. A copy of the Administration Plan can also be e-mailed to anyone who would like to review it.

A motion to approve the Administration Plan, *Resolution #330*, was made by Commissioner Vince Lampe and seconded by Commissioner Jesse Roy; with no opposition, adoption of the resolution was approved.

### FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES -SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Disaster Recovery Coordinator Lydia Keller discussed how to prepare organizations for funding opportunities. She reviewed all documents that cities and counties are required to have to apply for funding.

### NEW GRANTS RECEIVED

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

- City of Williamsville, MO DNR LSLI, Lead Line Pipe Inventory, \$178,000;
- Reynolds County PWS #1, MO DNR LSLI, Lead Line Pipe Inventory, \$22,200;
- Ripley County PWS #1, MO DNR LSLI, Lead Line Pipe Inventory, \$300,000;
- Ozark Foothills Regional Planning Commission, Delta Regional Authority (DRA), LDD Pilot, Portion of 2-Year Salary for Disaster Recovery Coordinator, \$57,140;
- Carter County Big Springs Sheltered Workshop, MO DED, ARPA Non-Profit, Operation Expense Recovery, \$25,000;
- Carter County Nutrition Center, MO DED, ARPA Non-Profit, Operation Expense Recovery, \$25,000;
- Ripley County Nutrition Center, MO DED, ARPA Non-Profit, Operation Expense Recovery, \$25,000;
- Wayne County Nutrition Center, MO DED, ARPA Non-Profit, Operation Expense Recovery, \$25,000.

#### **Grant Amendments**

Ripley County, CDBG DP-MIT, Gap funding for Jail Generator, \$5,603 additional funding added to original grant.

Poplar Bluff, CDBG General Infrastructure, Gap Funding for Roxie Road and Bridge Project, \$167,389.24 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 #331*. A motion was made by Commissioner Jesse Roy and seconded by Commissioner Vince Lampe; with no opposition, adoption of the resolution was approved.

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Lutes informed the group that former OFRPC member, Wayne Gibbs passed away last week. Mr. Gibbs represented Carter County-Agricultural Sector. If anyone has any suggestions of who could fill that position, please let the planning commission know. There are other sector positions open as well.

Director Lutes introduced new staff, Misty Edwards, Disaster Recovery Coordinator, who will be taking Lydia Keller's position and Erica Kingery, Affordable Connectivity Program Coordinator.

The FY23 Annual Report was presented and discussed at the meeting. If anyone would like a copy or an emailed copy, please contact the planning commission.

Director Lutes reported that Felicity Ray is working on the Wayne County Hazard Mitigation Plan. She held the kick off meeting on June 13, 2023 in Wayne County and the Risk Assessment meeting is scheduled for October 31, 2023, at the Wayne County Courthouse. Next, we will be working on the Carter County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

CDBG opened their Downtown Revitalization Program on September 6, 2023 and it is currently open. The CDBG MID/MIT rounds will have a meeting on September 27, 2023, and we are hoping to know when that cycle will open after that date. The staff is presently working on at least 30 applications for this round. Please contact our office if you have any projects you want us to apply for. Also, CDBG decided to roll FY23& FY24 -Competitive into one grant cycle and open in April, 2024.

Broadband Grant Opportunities (BEAD) should have a lot of funds coming after the first of the year. A lot of the applications for the BEAD will be applied for by the internet service providers. There is a meeting scheduled for September 27, 2023. We will keep everyone updated. We have sent out e-mails to the county and city clerks for the support for jails grant program in our area. To be eligible to receive those funds, it has to be tied to COVID -19 and a Needs Assessment needs to be completed by September 20, 2023.

Director Lutes gave an update on CEDS. The CEDS draft should be ready for review and comment at the December 2023 Board 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 the Executive Meeting and it will be discussed and presented at the December, 2023 meeting.

Lori Dunlap, DED, discussed with the group non-profit grants and those have been processed and we should know something in another week. The second round of NAP grants are out at the end of September.

Director Lutes announces that Heath Robins with Senator Schmidt's office was in attendance but had to leave.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Chairman Polk discussed with group ways to get more attendance at the commission meetings. Meetings begin an hour earlier than in previous years. Chairman Polk asked the group if the time change could be affecting attendance at the commission meetings. Director Lutes shared that Assistant Director, Andrew Murphy and some of the OFRPC staff have been meeting with new county and city clerks and encourage them attend meetings and explaining to them what we can do for them. Assistant Director Murphy suggested sending out a Survey Monkey to see what time would work best for everyone for commission meetings. After further discussion it was the consensus of those in attendance that the meeting time should not be changed.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Commissioner Vince Lampe and seconded by Commissioner Jesse Roy, the meeting was adjourned at 7:13 P.M.

Respectively Submitted,

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

ATTENDANCE

COMMISSION MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

BRIAN POLK

MARGARET CARTER      VINCE LAMPE      GARY EMMONS

DARRELL DEMENT      JESSE ROY      DENNIS COX

LORI DUNLAP      BRANDON WOOLARD

CHAD HENSON      HEATH ROBINS

BILL MORIARTY      REBECCA PACHECO

COMMISSION MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

ANGELA CLYBURN      PAUL JOHNSON      STEVE CHITWOOD

BILL KIRKPATRICK      RHONDA BURSON      RUSSELL FRENCH

JASON HILL      JUSTIN PARKS      RON KEENEY

SHANE CORNMAN      TERESA LEE

DAWN HOOD      REV. GREGORY KIRK

LAURA BETH SMITH      RON RUPP

MIKE HOERNER      STANLEY BARTON

GARY CONWAY, JR.      DR. JAMES JONES

STANLEY BARTON      SANDY JOY

PAUL WOOD      DOUG MOSBEY



STAFF

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

GUEST

CATHY LAMPE	STEVE FOSTER
DEAN FINCH	
BABE MANN	