

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 12, 2024
CLEARWATER LAKE SHELTER #1, PIEDMONT, MO
6:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:45 p.m. by Chairman, Jesse Roy.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

The minutes of the meeting held June 13, 2024, and financial statements for the quarter ending June, 30 2024, were reviewed. Commissioner Vince Lampe made a motion to approve the minutes and financial statements of the June 13, 2024, meeting and the financial statements for the quarter ending June 30, 2024. Member Gary Emmons seconded. No opposition. Motion carried.

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Assistant Director, Andrew Murphy reported on the Transportation Planning Progress Report. On July 11, 2024 the TAC met to vote and create prioritized lists for consideration in MoDOT's Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). Those Projects are as follows:

Ozark Foothills Region Priorities

1. Widen shoulder on Highway 106 in Reynolds County
2. Highway 34 East of CR236 approximately 300 yards, small bridge replacement over Gizzard Creek in Wayne County.
3. Turning Lane, West bound Highway 60 at both Business 60 and James Street in Van Buren, Carter County.
4. (Tie) 4-lane Highway 67 from Highway 160 to the state line in Butler County & Highway 21 South at Briar Creek-Bridge Replacement in Ripley County

Ozark Foothills Region Maintenance Priorities

1. Highway 49: Resurface from Williamsville to Iron County Line in Wayne County
2. (Tie) Overlay 72 Highway from 72/21 Junction to 72/32 Junction in Reynolds County and add shoulder on Highway 160 W from Doniphan to C Highway in Ripley County
3. Redesign median crossover of Highway V and Highway A at Highway 60 in Ellsinore in Carter County.
4. Resurface Route NN in Butler County.

Ozark Foothills Region Multi-modal Priorities

1. (Tie) Sidewalk repair/construction in City of Ellington in Reynolds County and Sidewalks on Highway 142E (Walnut Street) and West on Washington Street to Courthouse in the City of Doniphan, Ripley County
2. (Tie) Extend the Poplar Bluff Airport runway in Butler County and sidewalk construction on Cemetery Road in the City of Williamsville, Wayne County
3. Construct new helipads in Carter 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

Director Murphy explained that as mentioned in June, MoDOT has added a multi-modal component, the TAC and each county will be adding an additional seat. Currently each of the 5 counties have 5 positions on the TAC. Moving forward 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. By-laws edits will be provided at the October 10, 2024 TAC meeting to officially bring these positions into the TAC, and we’ve asked that each presiding commissioner bring their new multi-modal member with them to the October TAC meeting.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Recycling Center Supervisor, Jamie Lansford reported that prices are stable. Director Alan Lutes reported that this year we will have to prepare a Solid Waste Management District Operation Plan. We are anticipating that we will need to have this to DNR by next fall. Assistant Director Murphy will be working on this plan. Director Lutes stated that we no longer have to file an Annual Report with DNR, we did not prepare a report for this year after approval from the Executive Board.

OZARK FOOTHILLS DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Director Lutes reported to the group that there are 2 business incubator spaces available for rent, Unit #1 and Unit #8. 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. Unit #10 has been rented.

Regarding building improvements, LED lights have been installed in our office space and conference room. Unit #6 is requesting LED lights as well. The Executive Committee approved LED lights for Unit #6. The costs will be \$ 3,375.00 to replace 45 lights.

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 also working on quotes for a 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 market value as of 9/11/2024 is \$2,976,395.29. This is an increase of \$153,986.72 from the previous commission meeting. There were \$3,764,844.28 contributions made by donors since the last commission meeting and \$1,743,380.75 was granted out of those funds.

The last meeting of the Ozark Foothills Regional Community Foundation (OFRCF) Board was August 6, 2024 at the Ozark Foothills Regional Planning Commission.

Coordinator Edwards gave an honorable mention to the Roberts Adventure Playground. It is a new non-endowed fund under our affiliate which was opened on March 27, 2024 and has been steadily bringing in contributions. The account held \$1,552.09 in April, 2024 and now stands at \$99,647.38, that is a difference of \$98,095.29. If anyone is interested in seeing the location of the playground, site work has started at McLane Park.

The OFRCF 2024 grant round will open September 15, 2024, with a closing date of October 31, 2024. They have changed the application requirements somewhat, hopefully that will not hinder submissions.

There are OFRCF Board vacancies. Currently the board consists of eleven individuals, leaving two possible vacancies to be filled. Reynolds County (1) and At-Large (1).

The next scheduled meeting of OFRCF will be at 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 8, 2024, 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 386 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 155 families on the Waiting List. The Waiting List is currently closed.

Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) Coordinator Erica Kingery reported that there are currently 66 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 45 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. Since our last board meeting, we have had 1 family graduate and had escrowed \$1,775.00.

There are currently 9 families in the homeownership program and 39 of our FSS families have a goal of preparing for homeownership and are interested in being on homeownership after they graduate from FSS.

CDBG-SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Director Lutes introduced Chief Financial Officer with CDBG, Mr. Joseph Sanning. Mr. Sanning discussed CDBG programs such as Disaster Recovery and their Annual Program. Mr. Sanning stated that the OFRPC has benefited greatly from the Disaster Recovery grants within the last year.

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, MoDOT, Partnership Planning, \$85,260.40;
- Poplar Bluff, MoDOT TAP, East Pine Crosswalk-Linc Park Connector, \$300,784.00;
- Qulin, Dept. of Health & Sr. Services, Write Active Transportation Plan (Contract), \$15,000.00;
- Ripley County/Doniphan, Funding Source: CDBG DR-4317 MID, Down Payment Assistance-63935 Zip Code, \$987,780.00;
- Doniphan, CDBG-4317 MID, Multi-Family Housing-T, \$1,808,658;
- Doniphan, CDBG DR-4317 MID, Multi-Family Housing-I, \$2,205,500;
- Carter County/Van Buren, CDBG DR-4317, Down Payment Assistance-63965, \$740,700.00;
- Carter County, CDBG DR -4317 MID, Multi-Family Housing-C, \$2,783,813;
- Van Buren, CDBG DR-4317 MID, Multi-Family Housing-OD#1, \$1,637,201;
- Van Buren, CDBG DR -4317 MID, Multi-Family Housing-OD #2, \$2,265.248.

Grant Amendments

Carter County, CDBG Community Facilities, Gap Funding-Repair existing ceiling grid system, \$2,733.00 additional funding added to original grant.

Ripley County/Doniphan R-1 School, CDBG Community Facilities, Gap Funding-Career Center, \$55,384.00 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 #340*. 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 discussed the proposed new OFRPC Commission Members. The Executive Committee met prior to this meeting. The two new approved Commission Members are Joanne Brandon, Minority Sector and Michael Williams, Business Sector.

The FY24 Annual Report was presented and discussed at the meeting. If anyone would like a copy or an e-mailed copy, please contact the planning commission.

Director Lutes reported that Felicity Ray is working on the Wayne County and Carter County Hazard Mitigation Plans. Felicity has completed her portion of the Wayne County Hazard Mitigation Plan. Carter County's Hazard Mitigation Plan is due November 30, 2024. We have already received two extensions for Carter County. Please participate in the meetings and surveys.

DRA still has Strategic Planning and CIF rolling cycles. They are open and we have a CIF that has been presented. CDBG Application Cycles-FY23/FY24 Competitive Cycle closed September 6, 2024. Our office sent in 13 applications. The MID/MIT Cycle opens October 7, 2024.

Director Lutes reported on the Broadband Grant Opportunities-BEAD. We are getting closer to Missouri Office of Broadband opening that application. Those grants will be applied for by the internet service providers. We are working with our counties, communities and providers to get ISP's interested in applying.

The State Digital Equity application cycle opens in the middle of October. We will be applying for 1 project for Wayne County for Clearwater School District. If you know of anyone else interested, please let us know.

Director Lutes gave an update on the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). A copy of the CEDS draft was e-mailed out to everyone in July, 2024. The Executive Board approved the draft. Updated copies of the CEDS was distributed to the group. This strategy covers all of our region and encompasses all of the needs that all of our communities have. When we apply for grants, we can reference CEDS to show that there is a need in our region. There was a 30-day comment period that ended last Friday. Once we get the CEDS approved by EDA, we will send those out to all of our members and post on the OFRPC website. The CEDS is updated every 5 years.

Chairman Jesse Roy entertained a motion to approve the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), Board *Resolution #341*. A motion was made by Commissioner Vince Lampe and seconded by Commissioner Ron Keeney; with no opposition, adoption of the resolution was approved.

Director Lutes discussed the Employee Handbook & Operation Manual updates. Changes were made to Overtime, Holidays, Sick Leave Benefits, Bereavement Leave, Attendance & Punctuality, Recycling, Compensatory Time, and Telework Policy & Agreement. Copies of the Employee Handbook and Operations Manual was passed out to the group. All changes made were highlighted in red. With no objections, the revisions stand approved and adopted.

Lori Dunlap, DED, discussed with the group that the priority in her division is to get out into the communities and meet with employers and discuss business retention and expansion. Let Lori know if there are any employers she needs to reach out to. NAP grants opened August 28, 2024 and closes October 2, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

No general discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Commissioner Vince Lampe, the meeting was adjourned at 6:41 P.M.

Respectively Submitted,

Mr. Jesse Roy, Chairman

Date

Mr. Darrell Dement, Secretary

Date

ATTENDANCE

COMMISSION MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

BRIAN POLK	PAUL JOHNSON	JOANNE BRANDON
RON KEENEY	VINCE LAMPE	GARY EMMONS
DARRELL DEMENT	JESSE ROY, JR.	BARB POTTER
DIANA BROWER	BRANDON WOOLARD	RUSSELL FRENCH
CHAD HENSON	STEVE CHITWOOD	DR. JAMES JONES
BILL MORIARTY	REBECA PACHECO	MICHAEL WILLIAMS
STEVE FOSTER		

COMMISSION MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

ANGELA CLYBURN	JOHN BAILIFF	
BILL KIRKPATRICK	RHONDA BURSON	LEANN CLARK
JASON HILL	JUSTIN PARKS	LEE HILLIS
SHANE CORNMAN	STANLEY BARTON	DENNIS COX
DAWN HOOD	GARY CONWAY, JR.	RON RUPP
DOUG MOSBEY	MARGARET CARTER	PAUL WOOD
	NANCY STEWART	

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

JULIANNE BRADY

MISTY EDWARDS

GUEST

CATHY LAMPE

JOSEPH SANNING

RANDY POTTER

DEAN FINCH

DONALD BRANDON

SARAH FRENCH

BABE MANN

GLORIA DEMENT

LORI DUNLAP

EDDIE WILLIAMS

LAURA BETH SMITH