

BOONSLICK REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
Full Council Meeting – Monday, June 29, 2020

The general membership of Boonslick Regional Planning Commission met Monday, June 29. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the desire to meet with appropriate social distancing guidelines, the meeting was held at the Warren County R-III High School Commons, 803 Pinckney Road, Warrenton, Missouri at 12:00 p.m. The following individuals were present:

Georgia Scarbrough, City of Middletown
Dan Hampson, Warren County
Hubert Kluesner, Warren County
Ryan Poston, Montgomery County
Bryan Spencer, State Representative
Julie Rodgers, Lincoln Co. Economic Dev.
Natalie Mackay, Unlimited Play
Joe Kaiman, Lincoln County
Adell Jonas, City of New Florence

Gary Adams, City of Bellflower
Jim Schuchmann, City of Wright City
Steven Deves, Montgomery City
Chris Watson, City of Truesdale
Jeff Porter, State Representative
Ben Gruender, Office of Senator Hawley
Mike Thomas, City of Truesdale
Mike Mueller, Lincoln County
Joe Gildehaus, Warren County

Samantha Shelton, City of Hawk Point
Dan Rowden, City of Wright City
John Noltensmeyer, Montgomery County
Eli McDonald, Lake Sherwood
Brandie Walters, City of Warrenton
Patrick Flannigan, City of Moscow Mills
Matt Bass, Lincoln County
Jennifer Meyer, Office of Senator Blunt

Chad Eggen, BRPC
Chuck Eichmeyer, BRPC
Jane Cale, BRPC

Krishna Kunapareddy, BRPC
JoAnn Toerper, BRPC

Drew Struttman, BRPC
Janet Hickey, BRPC

BRPC Chairman Hubert Kluesner called the meeting to order. Following the pledge of allegiance, introductions were made. State Representative Jeff Porter, State Representative Bryan Spencer, Ben Gruender from the office of U.S. Senator Josh Hawley, and Jennifer Meyer from the office of U.S. Senator Roy Blunt were in attendance and available to provide legislative updates for the BRPC membership.

Agenda & Minutes

- Dan Rowden made a motion to approve the agenda. Chris Watson seconded the motion. Agenda approved.
- Dan Rowden made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 23, 2019 general membership meeting. Ryan Poston seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

Chairman's Report

- Chairman Kluesner invited discussion on how member communities were handling the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Warren County owns the property where the East Central Missouri Recycling Center is located. Since the property has been paid off, the county will be cutting the monthly rent payment in half for the recycling center.

Amendment to the Bylaws

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the BRPC building has been closed to the public. Staff continued working, with some on site and some working from home. The Executive Director recommended that the organization's bylaws be amended to include a provision allowing meetings to be held by videoconference. In addition, it is recommended that the bylaws allow for meeting notices to be sent by email. Language for this change was provided for consideration (copy attached). Steven Deves made a motion to amend BRPC bylaws, allowing meetings to be held by videoconference and meeting notices to be sent by email. Joe Gildehaus seconded the motion. The changes to the bylaws was approved.

Financial Report

BRPC Executive Director Chad Eggen gave a financial report. The proposed budget was approved by the BRPC Executive Board at its June 2020 meeting. Copies of the FY2021 Operational Budget of projected revenues and expenses were provided (copies attached). Dan Rowden made a motion to approve the BRPC FY2021 proposed budget and Steven Deves seconded the motion. The BRPC FY2021 proposed budget was approved.

Executive Director's Report

- BRPC has submitted applications for funding through the CARES act and for EDA planning projects. It is believed these requests for funding will be approved.
- Work on the hazard county mitigation plan updates for Lincoln and Warren counties will begin in the fall.
- BRPC has applied for \$1 million in Revolving Loan Funds. This funding will be available for gap financing of loans for area businesses.

Guest Presenters

Natalie Mackay from Unlimited Play was a guest presenter for the meeting. She was able to share personal experience which led to the realization of the importance of fully accessible and inclusive playgrounds for children. Such playgrounds are important for kids' physical health, give them an opportunity to build friendships, and can break down barriers and promote understanding and respect between young people – lessons that last a lifetime.

Unlimited Play is a non-profit group that assists communities in planning, designing and building fully accessible playgrounds. They can partner with cities and help them establish local community groups. They can also provide information about fundraising and assistance with writing grants. Natalie shared that communities need places to interact and that small towns can accomplish big dreams. She has marketing materials available and encouraged those interested in future projects to contact her.

Local Government Projects/Announcements

The following updates were given by local officials:

- Lincoln County Economic Developer Julie Rodgers shared that Ranken Technical College, in collaboration with the county and Lincoln County R-III School District is establishing a new campus in Troy, Missouri. Ground has been broken and they hope to be ready for students in the fall of 2021. Dual enrollment will be available for high school students, and partnerships are being secured with local businesses in the hopes of creating internships which allow people to earn while learning. Julie stressed that this is a regional project with a goal of bringing industry to the area and creating a workforce development pipeline. Another goal is to create an endowment foundation for Ranken Tech West, giving everyone access to a good education. Julie also shared that the Lincoln County jail has been offering classes so that people can earn high school equivalency certificates and that efforts are underway for a program in which prisoners can participate in an apprenticeship program building tiny homes.

Chairman Kluesner thanked BRPC for its role and work in securing EDA grant funds in the amount of \$5.1 million for the project bringing education through Ranken Tech to the region.

- City of Hawk Point Clerk Samantha Shelton reported that 95 to 98 percent of the work has been done on the city's wastewater project. The new lagoon has been finished. The city has also started a park project.
- City of Moscow Mills Mayor Patrick Flannigan shared that the city started a comprehensive sewer system last fall with two major lift stations and plans for a new well. The city is also working on a broadband project.
- City of Middletown Alderwoman Georgia Scarbrough shared that the city is working on a wastewater project and is in the last phase of a demolition project.
- Montgomery City Administrator Steven Deves reported that the city is in need of some new housing to be built and is working on a fiber optics grant with EDA.
- City of New Florence Clerk Adell Jonas shared that the new Love's Truck Stop has been very busy. The city is also doing a sewer study.
- City of Truesdale Mayor Chris Watson reported that the city is currently working on a park project, a community safe room, and a wastewater development project.
- City of Warrenton Director of Operations Brandie Walters shared information about a new interceptor line and that the project for the well is in progress and going well.
- Wright City Mayor Dan Rowden reported that the city is wrapping up stage 1 in moving the police department. This will give the police more space. The city is also working on a street infrastructure project and in the preliminary design phase of a 62 acre park.
- Eli McDonald from Lake Sherwood reported that they are working on an infrastructure project to replace sewer lines and have a big water project coming up. Bids are out for a new clubhouse project which should be awarded in July. Eli also shared about a new pump access system which will keep the water level in the lake.

Work Program Updates

The following updates were provided

- Workforce Development – Though the building has been closed to the public due to COVID-19, staff members have been on site to serve customers. Enrollments to programs have been made through video conference. With the dramatic increase in unemployment, the staff has taken 5,577 calls since the end of March. Staff members have also been asked to call 5,377 customers to provide information about programs. The Disaster Recovery Jobs Program is underway with flood cleanup being done in Lincoln, Montgomery, Pike, and Ralls counties. Jobs are available for those who have faced long term unemployment. In addition, State and Federal wage posters are available and funds are available for residents eligible for job center program services.
- Census 2020 – Encourage residents to respond to the Census. Funding for many programs is based on those counts.
- MO Rides – Staff continue efforts to connect people with transit services. MO Rides was a pilot program and BRPC is working with Mid MO RPC and attempting to replicate the program throughout the state.
- EDA – BRPC will be working on planning projects, including GIS/mapping. In addition, please let staff know if there are areas in need increased access to broadband.
- Transportation – BRPC has finalized its work program with MoDOT. There is strong interaction with the State and the Missouri model is considered good for planning activity.
- EDA Revolving Loan Fund - - Funding will be available for business loans.

- Solid Waste Management Program – Several letters of support have been written for those in the region submitting scrap tire grants for funding consideration. The grant for continued operation of the East Central Missouri Recycling Center has been approved.
- Region C Homeland Security – FY18 projects are almost all complete, work is being done on FY19 projects, and applications for FY20 projects are currently being scored.
- Community Development Block Grant – Two projects are underway in Warren County, including one for Turning Point and one for Warren County Handicapped Services. Membership was encouraged to let BRPC know of their community's needs so that staff have more time to prepare quality applications.
- GIS/Mapping - BRPC will be working with several communities to map infrastructure including Elsberry, Bellflower, Marthasville, and High Hill.
- Speed Trailer/Traffic Counts – BRPC has a speed trailer which was placed in Moscow Mills. Local governments can contact BRPC if they are interested in having it placed in their community. Traffic counts can also be done which might show a need in a particular area.

Reopening Plans

Director Eggen shared that plans for reopening the BRPC building to the public had been submitted. Plexiglas dividers have been ordered. Once the building has been approved for reopening, customers will be able to access the Job Center and fingerprinting services will resume.

Next Meeting Date

The next regularly scheduled BRPC general membership meeting is September 28, 2020. The March meeting was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. If it is necessary to make up that meeting, it will probably be scheduled in October.

Adjournment

With no other business, Ryan Poston made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by John Noltensmeyer and the meeting was adjourned.

Approved on: _____

Hubert Kluesner, BRPC Chairman

Prepared by: _____
Jane Cale, BRPC Office Manager