

**BOONSLICK REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**  
**Full Council Meeting – Monday, September 28, 2020**

The general membership of Boonslick Regional Planning Commission met Monday, September 28, 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the desire to meet with appropriate social distancing guidelines, the meeting was held at the Wright City Lions Club, 678 Westwoods Road, Wright City, Missouri at 12:00 p.m. The following individuals were present:

Rich Daniels, Montgomery County  
John Noltensmeyer, Montgomery County  
Jim Schuchmann, Wright City  
Patrick Flannigan, City of Moscow Mills  
Jennifer Meyer, Office of Senator Blunt  
Richard West, State Representative Elect  
Joe Kaimann, Lincoln County

Hubie Kluesner, Warren County  
Steve Deves, Montgomery City  
Chris Watson, City of Truesdale  
Eli McDonald, Lake Sherwood  
Adell Jonas, City of New Florence  
Sam Saffa, Office of Senator Hawley  
Matt Bass, Lincoln County

Ryan Poston, Montgomery County  
Dan Rowden, Wright City  
Joe Gildehaus, Warren County  
Julie Rodgers, Lincoln County  
Mike Sutherland, Missouri State Parks  
Mike Mueller, Lincoln County  
Jeff Thomsen, Village of Innsbrook

Chad Eggen, BRPC  
Chuck Eichmeyer, BRPC  
Cory Schmitt, BRPC

Krishna Kunapareddy, BRPC  
JoAnn Toerper, BRPC

Janet Hickey, BRPC  
Jane Cale, BRPC

BRPC Chairman Hubert Kluesner called the meeting to order. Following the pledge of allegiance, introductions were made. Jennifer Meyer from the office of U.S. Senator Roy Blunt and Sam Saffa from the office of U.S. Senator Josh Hawley were in attendance and available to provide legislative updates for the BRPC membership.

**Agenda, Minutes & Financial Report**

- Chris Watson made a motion to approve the agenda. Dan Rowden seconded the motion. Agenda approved.
- Upon review of the minutes, it was noted that Joe Gildehaus's name had been omitted in the list of attendees for the June 29, 2020 meeting. Mike Mueller made a motion to amend the minutes from the June 29 meeting by adding the omitted name. Joe Gildehaus seconded and the motion was approved. Steve Deves made a motion to approve the corrected minutes from the June 29, 2020 meeting. Rich Daniels seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.
- BRPC Executive Director Chad Eggen gave the financial report (copy attached). He explained that the budget was tight, as usual. Dues invoices have been sent out to the membership. BRPC will receive EDA funding for two years to look at the impact of COVID-19 on the region. The biggest expenses for the organization are salaries and fringe benefits, as people are the important aspect in providing services. Rich Daniels made a motion to approve the financial report. Ryan Poston seconded the motion and the financial report was approved.

**Chairman's Report**

Chairman Kluesner asked for thoughts and input regarding the planning of the BRPC annual meeting. Feedback indicated most would be okay with having a day meeting as opposed to the usual evening event, with the preferred days being Monday and Thursday. This will likely take place in late November.

**Executive Director's Report**

Executive Director Eggen reported the following:

- COVID-19 changed things for everyone this year. The BRPC office was closed to the public beginning March 20: however, staff continued working with many on site to serve customers. The building reopened on September 16.
- We are unsure of when CDBG applications will be accepted this year.
- BRPC has received \$1 million in EDA funding for a revolving loan fund to assist businesses. Loans of up to \$150,000 can be used for working capital or expansion. The funding is tied to the CARES Act and must be spent within two years.
- There are several water and wastewater projects in the region.
- Area projects are receiving good bids.

**Guest Presenter**

Missouri State Parks Division Director Mike Sutherland was the guest presenter for the meeting. He shared that COVID-19 brought challenges, with several campgrounds having to be closed. Most are now open. A bright spot is that many people are discovering and taking advantage of outdoor activity. There has been record breaking attendance (in some places double), with a tremendous amount of new visitors. The State Parks are advantageous to economic development and businesses within a region. Potential employees are interested in the quality of life in the areas they choose to work. There are a lot of opportunities within the Boonslick region which has 3 major parks, including Cuiivre River, Graham Cave, and the Katy Trail.

Mr. Sutherland mentioned two funding programs that are administered by the State Parks. The Land & Water Conservation Fund grant program is available to local communities and counties for outdoor recreational amenities. These grants can be up

to \$250,000 and require a 50% match. They can be for large projects such as a swimming pool or small parks and trails. The Recreational Trail Program is available for any kind of trail amenity. These grants are more competitive with a 20% match.

Mr. Sutherland concluded the presentation by expressing the importance of being a good partner to communities and property owners. He invited the membership to contact him if they had any challenges or needs.

### **Work Program Updates**

The following updates were provided

- Workforce Development – From March 20 – September 25 Job Center staff answered 9,721 calls, many regarding unemployment. In addition, staff contacted those in the region receiving unemployment to let them know of available training opportunities. Through the CARES Act, \$458,000 is available for Adult and Dislocated Workers which can be used for education and certification. The Job Center is working with the Connections to Success program. Flood clean-up continues in Lincoln, Montgomery, Pike and Ralls counties through the Disaster Recovery Jobs Program. There are currently 3 employees and those interested in working on the project can contact the Job Center.
- MO Rides is partnering with other entities including the Missouri Transportation Task Force. Projects include working with Mid-MO Mobility Management to add JEFFTRAN routes and schedules to Google Maps. In 2020, MO Rides received 995 calls for transportation assistance, coordinated more than 400 trips, and had over 15,000 visits to the website, with a 73% resolution rate. Work has begun on a HealthTran Regional Mobility Coordinator Pilot Project.
- BRPC will send out information regarding the 2020 Census next month.
- The Missouri River Country Annual meeting will be a virtual meeting held on October 8, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.
- MoDOT personnel are not attending in-person meetings at this time. Bridge replacement projects on Missouri Route 19 and Missouri Route 161 in Montgomery County are in progress. In addition, work is progressing on the climbing lanes project of Mineola Hill.
- BRPC traffic counters and speed trailer are available for communities interested in those services.
- Grants are available through the Homeland Security program.

### **Local Government Projects/Announcements**

The following updates were given by local officials:

- City of Moscow Mayor Patrick Flannigan reported working with Lincoln County and the City of Troy regarding the outer roads. The City wants to extend water and sewer to some property to attract some new homes. One major tool & die manufacturer is looking at an expansion which will close to double its size.
- Montgomery City Administrator Steve Deves shared that they are looking at spring for the opening of the potato chip factory. 40 – 60 jobs will be created in this phase, with the possibility of up to 300 in the future. He also mentioned that they are waiting on the government to approve the city's fiber optic project.
- City of New Florence Clerk Adell Jonas shared that there is a lot of volume at the new Love's Travel Stop. There has also been some interest in establishing a recreational vehicle storage unit in the city.
- Village of Innsbrook Chairman Jeff Thomsen reported that they are still working on getting a new location for Village Hall. The Innsbrook Corporation owns the land where the current facility is located.
- Eli McDonald from Lake Sherwood Estates reported that a new community center project is in progress. Work is also being done on a new pump back system. They are looking at some pretty big water system upgrades next year.
- City of Truesdale Mayor Chris Watson shared that there will be a pre-construction meeting for the city's new safe room/community center. A site plan for the park project has been approved.. The city is on hold with a wastewater treatment grant.
- City of Wright City Administrator Jim Schuchmann shared that the Police Department has moved in to the side of what had been the City Hall. They are also going to work renovating the other side of the building. The Park project is moving ahead and they are reaching design completion of phase I. The city continues to grow, with 70 new home permits this year. It is hoped to get approval for Stracks Church to change to a full interchange.

### **Adjournment**

With no other business, Rich Daniels made a motion to adjourn and the meeting was adjourned.

Approved on: \_\_\_\_\_

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Ryan Poston, BRPC Chairman