

BOONSLICK REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
Full Council Meeting – Monday, March 29, 2021

The general membership of Boonslick Regional Planning Commission met Monday, March 29, 2021. 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:

Patrick Flannigan, City of Moscow Mills
Joe Gildehaus, Warren County
Jennifer Meyer, Office of Senator Blunt
Gary Adams, City of Bellflower
Mary Lou Rainwater, City of Truesdale
Mike Mueller, Lincoln County
Heath Sellenriek, Gateway Fiber
Cory Eye, City of Jonesburg

Matthew Flake, Warren County
Ryan Poston, Montgomery County
Jim Schuchmann, Wright City
Sam Saffa, Office of Senator Hawley
David Lange, City of Marthasville
Julie Rodgers, Lincoln Co. Economic Dev.
John Meyer, Gateway Fiber

Tom Meyer, Warren County
Dave Teeter, Montgomery County
Trish Dunn, Village of Innsbrook
Dan Rowden, Wright City
Joe Kaimann, Lincoln County
Matt Bass, Lincoln County
Christa Montgomery, Office of Rep. Luetkemeyer

Chad Eggen, BRPC
JoAnn Toerper, BRPC

Chuck Eichmeyer, BRPC
Jane Cale, BRPC

Kim Meyer, BRPC

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

Agenda, Minutes & Financial Report

- Joe Gildehaus made a motion to approve the agenda. Dan Rowden seconded the motion. Agenda approved.
- Dan Rowden made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 28, 2020 meeting. Gary Adams seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.
- BRPC Executive Director Chad Eggen gave the financial report (copy attached). He explained miscellaneous income included a couple of things that are not typical. This included a refund from the organization's health insurance provider and remaining funding from ECMODEV which is an old economic development project no longer in operation. BRPC will use the leftover ECMODEV funding to do some planning activities in Lincoln and Warren counties. On the expense side, the Workers' Comprehensive Insurance rates are higher due to a couple of claims that were made. Mike Mueller made a motion to approve the financial report. Joe Gildehaus seconded the motion and the financial report was approved.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Poston took a moment to thank the caterers for providing a good meal. He mentioned that he has been the chairman of the organization since January 1, that he felt there had been a lot of good people who had held this position before him, and that he would try to live up to it. Chairman Poston also mentioned the individuals who serve on the BRPC Executive Board and thanked them.

Guest Presenters

Heath Sellenriek and John Meyer from Gateway Fiber were guest presenters for the meeting. Gateway Fiber is a locally-based internet service provider, currently serving Winfield, Troy, Moscow Mills, Hawk Point, Old Monroe, Warrenton, and Wright City.

Many rural communities don't have access to high speed broadband. This access is required by businesses in order to compete. With the COVID-19 pandemic, more people working from home and virtual learning for students accelerated the need for reliable internet service. Also, there has been an explosion of smart home devices, streaming video, and ecommerce. High speed broadband used to be a luxury and is now a necessity in everyday living.

The presenters discussed how many companies are not interested in providing better internet in some areas because of the rural nature and low population density. Some traditional providers do their own studies, meet certain speed requirements for one person in a census block, and claim that the area has high speed internet. This has not been working for people in rural areas. Mr. Sellenriek and Mr. Meyer shared information about the mission of Gateway Fiber, their focus on the customer, their knowledge of the area, and some of the work they have been doing in local communities.

Following the presentation, many people in attendance had questions and expressed a need for service in the communities in which they lived.

Work Program Updates

Executive Director Eggen reported the following:

- Workforce Development – The Missouri Job Center-Warrenton is open to the public for in-person sessions with occupancy limits. Staff members handled over 16,000 phone calls since last March. BRPC will be submitting an application in response to the Request for Proposals to administer the WIOA Adult & Dislocated Worker programs for the next program year.
- Hazard Mitigation – Staff is currently working on the Warren County Hazard Mitigation Plan. The public comment period is open, and communities can contact BRPC Planner Krishna Kunapareddy. Work will next begin on the Lincoln County Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- Missouri River Country – BRPC staff is looking at businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and will be documenting those findings.
- Traffic Counting and Speed Trailer – BRPC can help member communities with traffic counting services. Contact the organization if you are interested in determining the amount and type of traffic on a particular road. Staff can also assist in making residents more aware of how fast they are traveling by placing a speed trailer at a location in your community.
- GIS Mapping – BRPC can create a map for your community showing the location of infrastructure such as water shut off valves, manhole covers, etc. The organization has assisted the communities of Marthasville, Bellflower, High Hill, and Elsberry with such projects.
- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program – CDBG funding announcement has been delayed, but opportunities should be available in the May/June timeframe. BRPC will keep membership posted and also send out more information about CARES Act funding.
- Revolving Loan Fund – Staff is working with 7 or 8 businesses regarding possible loans.
- MO Rides Transportation Program – BRPC is looking to partner with the state and have MO Rides be part of a resource guide for the State of Missouri.
- Solid Waste Management Program – BRPC has submitted a grant application for continued operation of the East Central Missouri Recycling Center. We are still working on the possibility of collecting polystyrene. Staff will be working on the Assessment Inventory for the Region I SWMD and will be contacting communities.
- Regional Homeland Security – Grant funding will be available in May.
- Transportation – The City of Warrenton sidewalk project is ranked as one of the top two Transportation Alternative projects in the Northeast District.

Adjournment

With no other business, Dave Teeter made a motion to adjourn. Gary Adams seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned.

Approved on: _____

Ryan Poston, BRPC Chairman