

BOONSLICK REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
Full Council Meeting – Monday, March 28, 2022

The general membership of Boonslick Regional Planning Commission met Monday, March 28, 2022. The meeting was held at the MaryLou Community Center, 821 Market Street, Truesdale, Missouri, at 12:00 p.m. The following individuals were present:

Matt Flake, Warren County
Dena Saak, City of Wellsville
Donna West, Village of Innsbrook
Jim Schuchmann, Wright City
Samuel Saffa, Office of Senator Hawley
Mike Mueller, Lincoln County
Michelle Heiliger, Wright City
Brandie Walters, City of Warrenton

Patrick Flannigan, City of Moscow Mills
Gary Adams, City of Bellflower
Elsa Smith-Fernandez, City of Truesdale
Ryan Poston, Montgomery County
Matt Bass, Lincoln County
Joe Kaimann, Lincoln County
David Lange, City of Marthasville
Linda Martin, MO DED/RF

Joe Gildehaus, Warren County
Jeff Niemeyer, MoDOT
Chris Watson, City of Truesdale
Dave Teeter, Montgomery County
Dana Heath, Village of Pendleton
Dan Rueter, Village of Innsbrook
Christa Montgomery, Office of Cong. Luetkemeyer
Jeff Thomsen, Village of Innsbrook

Chad Eggen, BRPC
Christine Zika, BRPC
Mikala Walton, BRPC

Jenn Weber, BRPC
Kathy Bingham, BRPC
Kim Meyer, BRPC

Chuck Eighmeyer, BRPC
Krishna Kunapareddy, BRPC
Jane Cale, BRPC

Chairman Ryan Poston called the meeting to order. Following the pledge of allegiance, introductions were made. MoDOT District Engineer Jeff Niemeyer provided an update regarding projects in the region. Christa Montgomery from the office of Congressman Blaine Luetkemeyer and Sam Saffa from the office of Senator Josh Hawley were in attendance to provide legislative updates for the BRPC membership.

Agenda & Minutes

- Joe Gildehaus made a motion to approve the agenda. Chris Watson seconded the motion. Agenda approved.
- Chris Watson made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 27, 2021, meeting. Joe Gildehaus seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

Guest Presentation

Missouri Humanities Council Program Director Caitlin Yager provided a presentation via Zoom regarding programming, grants, and opportunities for Missouri communities. The mission for Missouri Humanities is to enrich lives and strengthen communities by connecting Missourians to the people, places, and ideas that shape our society. Caitlin shared information about Missouri Humanities' Annual Signature Series, Veterans Programs, Education Programs, and Heritage Programs. She also shared information about grants that are available for non-profits (including cities) and went over some grant writing tips. Applicants are welcome to submit for early review and then re-submit. Ways to get involved with Missouri Humanities include becoming a member, hosting a program such as a workshop, and submitting community events so they'll be featured on an online calendar.

A cultural heritage workshop presented by Missouri Humanities and Boonslick Regional Planning Commission will be held on April 6, 2022, at the Warren County Administration Building in Warrenton. Topics will include Warren County history, placemaking, building community engagement, and regional collaboration. The workshop is free and open to the public.

Caitlin provided resources for rural communities and a community tourism inventory which were included in the meeting packet. She invited the BRPC membership to contact her with any questions or potential projects in their communities.

Chairman's Report

BRPC Chairman Ryan Poston mentioned that the Executive Board had held its March meeting at Grow2Gather in New Florence. Grow2Gather sells crafts and gifts and has a coffee shop. Individuals with special needs are employed and paid minimum wage. Chairman Poston invited members to let the board know if they have a facility in their community they would like the board to see and a meeting could be scheduled there.

Executive Director's Report

BRPC Executive Director Chad Eggen shared that the Missouri Humanities Council has been a great partner and an excellent resource. For example, the organization provided funding for several communities as they celebrated their bicentennials. Director Eggen said that the slides from today's presentation would be sent out to members in attendance. He also reminded everyone of the Cultural Heritage Workshop that will be held on April 6.

Approval of Financial Report

Director Eggen reviewed the financial report. We are 2/3 of the way through the year and the budget is tight, as usual. Most of the budget is for people. David Lange made a motion to approve the financial report. David Teeter seconded the motion, and the financial report was approved.

Work Program Updates

- **ARPA Funding** – Director Eggen reported that ARPA information will be sent out this week. At this time we are working under the interim rule. He suggested that people wait for the final rule which will begin on April 1 and allow for more flexibility.
- **Workforce Programs** – Workforce Development Director Jenn Weber shared information about the Job Center. Staff has been working on a 3-stage hiring event. The first stage involved job seekers attending workshops to create a resume. The second was a resume review process which included employers giving their feedback and suggestions regarding resumes. The final stage is a hiring event where individuals can email or drive by and drop off their resume and apply at the businesses where they would like to be employed.
- **Revolving Loan Fund** – Director Eggen reported that BRPC's revolving loan programs have been de-federalized. This will take away a requirement that the loans be reported on forever. Economic Development Specialist Christine Zika reported that BRPC currently has loans with three businesses in Warren County. There are loans with two businesses, and potentially a third in Montgomery County.
- **Missouri River Country** – This tourism initiative celebrates the German Heritage Corridor. Christine Zika reported that an audio tour of the region is being created.
- **Transportation** – BRPC can help communities with traffic counts and has a speed trailer available for use. Contact Chuck Eichmeyer if you are interested.
- **MO Rides Transportation Program** – Program Manager Kathy Bingham reported that since last quarter MO Rides has received 335 calls and has had 7,842 hits on the website. Kathy has been attending wellness fairs to share information about the program. Improving access to transportation around the state is an ongoing process.
- **Solid Waste Management Program** – Scott Murphy has been hired as the new manager of the East Central Missouri Recycling Center.
- **Homeland Security** – Funding is available. Contact BRPC if your community has a need.

Local Government Projects/Announcements

- Montgomery County – Presiding Commissioner Ryan Poston reported that work is being planned for the courthouse including windows, a new roof, and ground source heat. Rehab will also be done on the jail.
- City of Truesdale – Mayor Chris Watson said that the city has gone out for bids for flooring in the new safe room. Future added improvements include sidewalks, stairs, and security cameras.
- Wright City – City Administrator Jim Schuchmann and Mayor Michelle Heiliger shared that downtown revitalization "First Fridays" events will start in May. The Strassenbash festival will take place in October. The city has broken ground on a 62-acre park.
- Moscow Mills – Mayor Patrick Flannigan reported that the city is trying to address neglected infrastructure needs.
- City of Wellsville – Mayor Dena Saak shared that the city is planning for use of ARPA funds. Sewer is a need. The city is also interested in grants for streets.
- Village of Innsbrook – Chairman Jeff Thomsen reported that they are in the early stages of a new village hall project. The village has purchased land, hired an architect, and is getting finance through an agricultural program loan.
- City of Marthasville – Mayor David Lange reported the city is in the middle of a depot project and a demolition project. He thanked BRPC for the assistance the organization has provided. The city is also applying for a grant to create an RV park and splash pad.
- City of Warrenton – City of Warrenton Administrator Brandie Walters shared that the Warrenton Fall Festival will be held on September 24. The city has experienced some short staffing. A remodeling project should be done by fall.

Next Meeting Date

The next general membership meeting will be held on June 20, 2022, at the BRPC office and begin at noon.

Adjournment

Joe Gildehaus made a motion to adjourn, and the meeting adjourned.

Approved on: _____

Ryan Poston, BRPC Chairman