

MINUTES

COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (CEDS) COMMITTEE

February 22, 2005. 6:00 p.m.

Committee Members Present:

David Laurie – Atchison County, KS
Mike Souther – DeKalb County, MO
Mary Montgomery – Andrew County, MO
Mike Johnson – Clinton County, MO
Bill Webb – Buchanan County, MO
Mike Cavanaugh – Atchison County, KS

Mo-Kan Staff Present:

Tom Bliss – Executive Director
Tye Parsons – Community Development Director

The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee of the Mo-Kan Regional Council (MKRC) met on February 22, 2005 at the Mo-Kan office at 1302 Faraon St., Saint Joseph, Missouri. The meeting was called to order by Chairman David Laurie at 6:25p.m.

Tom Bliss, Mo-Kan Executive Director discussed the CEDS, its purpose, history, and importance. The CEDS is mandated by the Economic Development Administration (EDA), and serves as a general planning document for the six-county Mo-Kan Region. Local economic development projects that are mentioned specifically in the CEDS, or that support one of the CEDS primary elements (goals) are more likely to be funded by the EDA. Keeping the CEDS current is a primary function of regional planning commissions.

Mike Cavanaugh suggested that CEDS committee members should be elected officials, as each county will be asked to re-authorize the document after the next major revision (2006). The current plan was created in 2001, and will be fully revised in 2006, at which time Mo-Kan staff will solicit public input from the six counties covered by the document. Committee members will be asked to help facilitate meetings in each of the counties to promote public input into the plan.

Tom Bliss began reviewing each of the primary elements (goals) of the CEDS, with committee members offering suggestions / open discussion on each. The committee's help will be needed to update items in Element 2 (Regional Strategic Plan). Mo-Kan is currently working on improving ties with state and federal legislators (Element 3).

Committee members discussed impact of federal CDBG funding cuts.

Mike Cavanaugh and other committee members suggested adding a bio-sciences component to Element 4 (Economic Development). Committee members also suggested adding a similar objective to Element 5 (Small Business Loans). Mo-Kan will produce sample verbiage for the additions to be presented to the MKRC full board.

Mary Montgomery and other committee members noted that many of the implementation strategies for Elements 6 (Block Grant Program) and 7 (Transportation) will need to be updated during the major revision in 2006.

Committee members stressed the continued importance of Element 8 (Local Planning) in the Mo-Kan region, especially during times of major economic change (for example, infrastructure and social support associated with the Triumph Foods plant coming to Saint Joseph).

Mike Johnson and other committee members suggested adding an objective to Element 9 (Cartography and Printing) to address emerging geographic information systems (GIS) services provided by Mo-Kan. In addition, Mr. Johnson suggested adding an objective to Element 10 (Other Related Planning Activities) to address coordination efforts by Mo-Kan with the Department of Homeland Security. Mo-Kan will produce sample verbiage for the additions to be presented to the MKRC full board.

Hearing no further business, the CEDS committee meeting was adjourned at 7:20p.m.