

**MINUTES
ABCD REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
AND
MO-KAN REGIONAL COUNCIL**

**February 23, 2005
7:00 PM**

PRESENT:

Mike Cavanaugh, Atchison County
Paul Dittmore, Doniphan County
David Laurie, City of Atchison
Jack Euler, Doniphan County
Illah Marie Pulley, DeKalb County
Bill Thornton, Atchison County
Cindy Lee Weers, City of Lathrop

Michael Johnson, City of Cameron
Bill Webb, Buchanan County
Fred Simmerman, Lewis & Clark
Robert Slater, City of St. Joseph
Mike Souther, City of Maysville
Galen Weiland, Doniphan County

OTHERS PRESENT:

Missouri Western State College
Missouri Western Institute – Dr. Chris Shove

Mo-Kan Regional Council Staff Members

Tom Bliss Tye Parsons
John Perrino Joan Hill-Nichols

The combined meetings of ABCD Regional Planning Commission and Mo-Kan Regional Council were held February 23, 2005 at the Mo-Kan Regional Council offices, 1302 Faraon Street, St. Joseph, MO at 7:00 PM with Chairman David Laurie presiding.

Motion to approve minutes of the combined meeting of Mo-Kan Regional Council and ABCD Regional Planning Commission of December 8, 2004 was made by Bob Slater, seconded by Bill Thornton, Council approved.

ACTION ITEMS

- a) Proposed Revolving Loan Collection Policy was explained. First notice will be sent after 15 days late and a \$50 late fee will be added. Another notice will be sent after 30 days late advising there will be no credit of payment on principal until interest and late fees have been paid. The \$50 late fee will be added every 30 days. After 90 days late it will be turned over for collection.

A motion to accept the Collection Policy was made by Illah Marie Pulley, it was seconded by Michael Johnson, Council approved.

- b) Tye explained the National Map Initiative. It is a program to gather information for a national Geographic Information System (GIS). The program is being spearheaded by the United States Geological Survey, who will be contracting with the RPC's to access all data. We are asked to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to participate in the initiative.

Michael Johnson made a motion to sign the MOU, it was seconded by Paul Dittmore, Council approved.

Tye also explained U.S. Highway 36 Resolution. The resolution lends supports to the counties in northeast Missouri that will attempt to pass a tax in April to complete U.S. 36 as a four-lane highway.

Mike Souther made a motion to accept and sign the Highway 36 Resolution; it was seconded by Mike Cavanaugh, Council approved.

- c) Michael Johnson reported on the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) meeting. He explained that it was a living document thereby it is ever-changing. Present changes are as follows:

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- **Element 4, Economic Development**
Add eighth objective – In response to a rapidly changing regional economy, support policies that encourage the development of innovative and development industries, including bio-sciences and value-added agriculture.
 - **Element 5, Small Business Loans**
Add fifth objective – Utilizing available financing options, encourage small businesses that operate within or directly support innovative and developing industries, including biosciences and value-added agriculture.
 - **Element 9, Cartography and Printing**
Add tenth objective – Provide geographic information systems (GIS) products as requested and assist member governments in acquiring and utilizing GIS data layers.
 - **Element 10, Other Related Planning Activities**
Add seventh objective – Assist local governments in coordinating with the Department of Homeland Security to improve the safety and security of the citizens of the Mo-Kan Region.
- d) Michael reported that the Personnel Committee is asking to add a non-compete clause to our Personnel Manual; this clause will be for our service area. They also are asking to add the title of Assistant Director as part of our staff positions. In addition they agreed to add Dental Insurance for the Mo-Kan employees at a total cost of around \$1,200 per year.

Michael Johnson made a motion to accept the changes listed above, it was seconded by Illah Marie Pulley, Council approved.

David Laurie welcomed and introduced our guest, Dr. Chris Shove from Missouri Western Institute. We then had self-introductions by Council Members and staff. Dr. Shove has experience working with RPC's and the Economic Development Administration. We have been working with Dr. Shove and Missouri Western Institute and area Chambers on the New Economy Program. They will partner with us to train economic developers, organize clusters of businesses to be strategically aligned, create research centers headed by faculty, create a website, have quarterly meetings, speakers, etc. There will also be an economic development newsletter and business information services.

STATUS REPORTS

Community and Regional Planning Activities

Tye Parsons

- a) Tye presented a demonstration of our new website followed by a brief discussion. The Council members were very pleased with the new Mo-Kan Website.
- b) Community/Regional Planning Activities
- Met with Clinton County Hazard Mitigation December 14, 2004 and again January 28, 2005. This will complete the planning meetings. March 15th the 1st draft is due for proofing, once approved it will be on the website.
 - Attended Regional Transportation Planning Meeting on February 3, 2005.

- February 9, 2005 held TAC meeting at Mo-Kan. Introduced new MoDOT Transportation Planning Manager Shannon Kusilck and District Engineer Don Wichern.
- Tye said there was \$810,000 Transportation Enhancement Funds (TE) available for District 1. TE funds can be used for walking-biking trails, sidewalks, etc. We have applications if your town is interested.
- February 15, 2005 MoDOT held a Major Project meeting in Jefferson City. Passage of Amendment 3 redirecting funds, 10 districts presented programs they would like to see funded. On a state-wide impact in District 1 the top 3 projects stated were: 1) four- lanes on U.S. Highway 36; 2) funding for Amelia Earhart Bridge; and 3) Route AC extension in St. Joseph extending U.S. 36 to U.S. 169 to open a large industrial park bringing 700 to 1,000 jobs to the area.

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- Cameron is 1 of 2 finalists for a major employer. Mo-Kan is working on a community development block grant and a MoDOT economic development grant to help them attain the final position. One grant is for improvements to U.S. 69 adding intersections and shoulders; the second is for crossroad improvements and utilities.
 - Working with Andrew County on a community development block grant elevator at the Court House.
 - Also working with Rosendale on a possible sewer grant and a possible grant for Union Star to revitalize their downtown area.
 - DNR Recreation Trail Grants are available and applications due April 8th.
- c) John Perrino passed out a list of loans in process and their status, see attachment. He also informed the Council of two new staff members: Gary Miller, who fill the Loan Officer position and Jon Ecker, an intern from Missouri Western who will be working on loans.

REPORT OF CHAIRMAN- David Laurie

Nothing to report.

REPORT OF DIRECTOR- Tom Bliss

- Tom brought to the attention of the Board what a great job John Perrino and Tye Parsons are doing. They both are taking on a high volume of responsibility and an extra workload and it is greatly appreciated.
- We are working on grants for Cameron and Plattsburg, Missouri and Highland and Leona, Kansas.
- Tom will be meeting with Representative Talent's people and will be discussing Community Development Block Grants and Community Service Block Grants. He encourages us to write to our representatives regarding proposed cuts to the aforementioned programs.

OTHER BUSINESS

As there was no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Jack Euler, seconded by Paul Dittimore, Council approved, meeting adjourned.

Secretary