EAST-WEST GATEWAY
Council of Governments

Creating Solutions Across Jurisdictional Boundaries

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Memo to: Board of Directors

From: Staff

Subject: Amendment to the FY2020 Unified Planning Work Program – Element 2.37: Sustainable Funding Options for the Urban Waters Ambassador Program

Date: September 13, 2019

The Urban Waters Federal Partnership (UWFP) program was formed in 2010 to reconnect urban communities to their waterways by improving coordination among federal agencies and collaborating with local revitalization efforts. Fourteen federal agencies and 19 urban areas nation-wide currently participate in the program. The Meramec/Big River watershed is one of the 19 designated urban waters.

This project includes a review of the UWFP program for the Meramec/Big River, engagement of UWFP partners and an investigation of sustainable funding options that would continue the efforts of the UWFP Ambassador to coordinate among agencies and organizations (federal, state and local) in an effort to reach the UWFP's vision of revitalized urban waters and the communities that surround them.

We anticipate the work will begin in October and be completed by May 2021. The funding available for this project is $36,355.00 through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through Wichita State University. The updated UPWP element describing the work tasks is attached.

Staff Recommendations: Staff recommends that the FY2020 Unified Planning Work Program be amended to add work element 2.37: Sustainable Funding Options for the Urban Waters Ambassador Program as attached. Staff further recommends that the Executive Director be authorized to enter into a subaward agreement with Wichita State University to conduct the necessary work.

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Sustainable Funding Options for the Urban Waters Ambassador Program

2.37

Activities:

1. Work with the Wichita State University Environmental Finance Center (EFC) on the development of a transition plan for the Urban Waters Federal Partnership (UWFP) River Ambassador positon
2. Provide information and feedback to the EFC during research phase of transition plan development
3. Facilitate partner meetings as part of transition plan development
4. Develop and distribute a stakeholder survey for input into transition plan development
5. Provide the basic requirements assigned to the UWFP River Ambassador
6. Facilitate planning for a meeting of the Urban Waters Big River Task Force
7. Attend meetings related to the UWFP
8. Implement pilot project included in transition plan

Products / Outcomes:

1. Stakeholder Survey (March 2020)
2. Report Summarizing Pilot Project for transition plan (September 2020)
3. Report evaluating Pilot Project (May 2021)

Estimated Costs:

Federal:

EPA

Wichita State University	$36,335
TOTAL	$36,335

MINUTES
EAST-WEST GATEWAY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SEPTEMBER 25, 2019

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held in the Council offices on Wednesday, September 25, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.

Members in Attendance
Mark Kern, *Chair*, Chairman, St. Clair County Board, IL Board
Steve Ehlmann, *Vice-Chair*, County Executive, St. Charles County, MO
Robert Elmore, *2nd Vice-Chair*, Chairman, Monroe County, IL Board
Tim Brinker, Presiding Commissioner, Franklin County, MO
Dennis Gannon, County Executive, Jefferson County, MO
Dr. Sam Page, County Executive, St. Louis County, MO
Ron Counts, Jefferson County, MO
Robert Eastern III, Mayor, City of East St. Louis, IL
Barbara Geisman, Regional Citizen, City of St. Louis, MO
Bill Grogan, Regional Citizen, St. Clair County, IL
Reggie Jones, Mayor, City of Dellwood, St. Louis County, MO
Richard Kellett, Regjonal Citizen, St. Louis County
James Knowles III, Mayor, City of Ferguson, MO
John A. Laker, Regional Citizen, St. Clair County, IL
Herb Simmons, President, SW IL Metropolitan and Regional Planning Commission
John White, Councilman, St. Charles County, MO
Tom Blair, MoDOT
Taulby Roach, President, Bi-State Development

Members Absent
Lyda Krewson, Mayor, City of St. Louis, MO
Kurt Prenzler, Chairman, Madison County, IL Board
Cheryl Maguire, Mayor, City of Wood River; Vice President, SW IL Council of Mayors
Roy Mosley, Board Member, St. Clair County, IL
Mark Kupsky, Mayor, City of Fairview Heights, IL; President, SW IL Council of Mayors
Erika Kennett, State of Illinois Department of Commerce and Opportunity
Holly Ostdick, IDOT
Lewis Reed, President Board of Aldermen, City of St. Louis
Michael Walters, Regional Citizen, Madison County, IL

Others in Attendance
Gary Elmestad, St. Charles County, MO
Paul Hampel, St. Louis County, MO
Scott Ogilvie, City of St. Louis, MO

EWGCOG Staff:

Jim Wild, Staci Alvarez, Royce Bauer, Dale Chambers, Joyce Collins-Catling, Ben Fleschert, Ross Friedman, Brenden Giblin, Paul Hubbman, Gena Jain, Frank Johnson, Peter Koeppel, Jason Lange, Carol Lawrence, Mary Grace Lewandowski, Maureen McCarthy, Marcie Meystrik, Christopher Michael, Anna Musial, Rachael Pawlak, Sonya Pointer, John Posey, Jennifer Reiman, Mary Rocchio, Roz Rodgers, Josh Schwenk, Lubna Shoaib, Himmer Soberanis, Christine Thomas, Michael Wohlstadter, Aaron Young

CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order by Mr. Kern, Chairman.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 28, 2019

Motion approving the August 28, 2019 Meeting Minutes made by Mr. Laker, seconded by Mr. Eastern. Motion carried, all voting aye.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

STL.works

Kathy Osborn, Regional Business Council (RBC), provided background on the RBC's activities in workforce development. She noted that during the last two years RBC has been involved in an initiative called STL.works. The initiative is a partnership/collaboration research effort focusing on creating a broad consortium, rebranding skilled careers, connecting talent to training, and investing in programs connecting smart jobs and bright futures for builders/doers/problem solvers in our communities. Ms. Osborn pointed out the following challenges the region is facing: urgent need for skilled workers, no centralized source of information, and a lack of marketing strategy. She highlighted four industry areas of concern in the community that STL.work will work towards filling job gaps: Healthcare, Manufacturing, Trades, and Technology. She commended Jim Wild and his collaborative efforts in this initiative. She noted the goal of RBC is to ensure that all High School students have a broad understanding of all available career paths and training before they graduate High School.

Ms. Osborn introduced Alaina Macia, CEO of MTM, to brief the committee of how this initiative can provide training programs, and increase job prospects in the community to fill various industry job gaps. Ms. Osborn then introduced Brian Hall, Chief Marketing Officer with Explore St. Louis, to brief the committee on various marketing strategies of STL.works that will address many of the community workforce challenges. He pointed out that many of the strategies include social media campaigns, sponsors and stakeholders, as well as celebrity and employer contribution solicitations. Lastly, Ms. Osborn introduced Scott J. Wilson, CEO of S.M. Wilson & Co., to brief the committee on the next steps of the initiative including marketing campaigns, expanding workforce collaborations, developing recruiter networks, train recruiters, and presentations and investments.

Chairman Kern asked what East-West Gateway can do to support this initiative. Ms. Osborn asked that people spread the word. Mr. Ehlmann inquired about support from Governor Parson's office. Ms. Osborn answered that she has found the State of Missouri to be very receptive of this initiative, and she encourages workforce development boards to work together to make the industry work better in the community.

All Hazard Mitigation Plan

Jennifer Vuitel, EWGCOG, gave a brief recap of the draft plan presented to the board in January. She reminded the committee that the Plan is in response to an October 2018 agreement between EWGCOG and the Missouri State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) to update the St. Louis Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan for the Missouri portion of the region. The Plan primarily provides information regarding natural disasters, levels of risk, and strategies for local governments and school districts to reduce the adverse effects of natural hazards. She also pointed out that grant funding eligibility is available to counties, cities, and school districts that adopt the Plan. Ms. Vuitel noted that the draft plan has been completed and is now available for review on the EWGCOG website; the final draft will be submitted to SEMA no later than January 1, 2020. She stressed that staff requests that all interested and involved jurisdictions adopt the Plan by resolution, and reiterated that only jurisdictions that have adopted the Plan are eligible for funding primarily through FEMA's Hazard Mitigation grant programs.

Where We Stand 8th Edition Update #2: Homicide Rates

Jim Wild, EWGCOG, noted that as a result of recent discussions surrounding crime and gun violence, he thought it would be appropriate to continue the conversation presenting the *Where We Stand* update on homicide data/statistics. John Posey, EWGCOG, then began his presentation by highlighting data comparing St. Louis to its peer metro regions. He noted that the two data sources used were from the FBI Crime Reporting program mentioning not all 50 states provide data to this source therefore data is provided for only 46 states; the other data source used is from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) for all 50 states. He then discussed in detail the graphs and tables presented that rank and compare homicide rates for St. Louis nationally as well as county level data on murders by race, age, firearms, and non-firearms. He also noted that the FBI data source was used for the Missouri counties, and the CDC data source was used for the Illinois counties. Mr. Posey also noted that the data points to a strong connection between homicide and poverty, reflecting higher rates of murder being committed in higher poverty areas.

Lastly, Mr. Posey highlighted graphs comparing trends for similar homicide increases in central cities pointing out that the rising murder rates in Midwestern industrial cities is not inevitable. He mentioned that the reports cites successes in the region, barriers and challenges, as well as recommendations and suggestions from the Department of Justice in response for technical assistance from the City of St. Louis. Some of the successes highlighted include the Violence Prevention Commission (VPC) collaboration of more than 100 agencies working towards a coordinated approach at violence prevention, as well as the City of St. Louis Police Department for building/fostering collaborations and relationships, and a new hospital based collaboration developed by the United Way. Among the barriers/challenges highlighted include concentrated poverty, strong racial/economic segregation, as well as low levels of trust in police in high crime neighborhoods. Recommendations from the Department of Justice offered several models

including the Cure Violence Program embraced by the City of St. Louis recently, and recommended continued support for the VPC.

After Mr. Posey's briefing, there was considerable discussion and questions regarding the data and various issues relating to the poverty correlation of higher rates of homicides in rural areas, regional problem versus metropolitan problem, conceal and carry, family unit/poverty impact, as well as the percentage of crimes made by convicted felons versus non-felons. Mr. Posey thanked the board for their questions and comments and will research further to provide answers to questions raised. The board thanked him for providing the information. Mr. Page noted that this is the number one problem in the area requiring everyone's support working together at addressing this problem. Mr. Wild noted this conversation, relating not only to homicide but crime as a whole, will continue and is proposing to have Mr. Posey work with experts gathering more data to bring back more information relating to how the region can better work together. He encouraged questions from the board relating to crime for our Research team to further research and share.

ACTION ITEMS

Amendment to the FY2020 Unified Planning Work Program – Element 2.37: Sustainable Funding Options for the Urban Waters Ambassador Program

MaryGrace Lewandowski, EWGCOG, provided information describing the Urban Waters Federal partnership (UWFP) program formed in 2010 that reconnects urban communities to their waterway by improving coordination among federal agencies and collaborating with local revitalization effects. She pointed out that 14 federal agencies and 19 urban areas nation-wide currently participate in the program and the Meramec/Big River watershed is one of the 19 designated urban waters. She noted that the work is anticipated to begin in October and completed in May 2021 with funding of $36,355.00 available through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through Wichita State University. Staff recommends that the FY2020 Unified Planning Work Program be amended to add work element 2.37: Sustainable Funding Options for the Urban Waters Ambassador Program, and further recommends that the Executive Director be authorized to enter into a subaward agreement with Wichita State University to conduct the necessary work.

Motion approving the recommendation was made by Mr. Kellett, seconded by Mr. Eastern. Motion carried, all voting aye.

Modifications of the FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Connected2045, and the Related Air Quality Conformity Determination – Requested by MoDOT

Josh Schwenk, EWGCOG, summarized the request from the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) to amend the FY 2020-2023 TIP, *Connected2045*, and related Air Quality Conformity Determination adding one new project and modifying one existing project splitting the work into two projects.

The projects are summarized below:

TIP #	Sponsor	Action	Description
6991X-20	MoDOT	Add	Franklin; I-44-West of MO OO; Repair westbound slope Failure and eastbound rock bluff stabilization
6811Q-18/ 6811QQ-20	MoDOT	Modify	Franklin; I-44/BL 44 – I-44, St. Louis County-MO 30; BL 44; Neosho St-MO 100; Pavement resurfacing, guardrail upgrades, Upgrade sidewalk. I-44 – MO 47 eastbound off ramp and Westbound on and off ramps; pavement resurfacing

Motion approving the recommendation was made by Mr. Ehlmann, seconded by Mr. Laker. Motion carried, all voting aye.

OTHER BUSINESS

Jim Wild informed the board of the upcoming retirement of Royce Bauer, EWGCOG Director of Administration, after 43 years of service at the end of October. He further announced that Staci Alvarez, Grants/Contract Compliance Administrator, will be promoted to that position as the new EWGCOG Director of Administration. He noted that it will be a huge loss, but is very confident that the right replacement choice was made and expects a smooth transition.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Courtway seconded by Mr. Terveer. Motion carried, all voting aye.

Respectfully submitted,

James M. Wild
Secretary, Board of Director