

# Annual Report 2020

## Mid-Missouri Regional Planning Commission



## Mid-MO RPC Staff Members



### **David Bock - Executive Director**

Responsible for the overall project management as well as operational and personnel oversight of Mid-MO RPC activities. He served as Mid-MO RPC's Community and Economic Development Planner for five years before taking on the role of Executive Director for the organization in 2018. He has provided assistance and/or oversight on more than 30 projects involving grant funding support within the Mid-Missouri region. He holds a Master's Degree in Public Affairs from the University of Missouri with an emphasis in public policy analysis.



### **Rebecca Bias - Fiscal Officer**

Her responsibilities are for all RPC financial records, processing payroll, processing invoices, preparation of monthly financial reports, and human resource responsibilities. She has an extensive financial background serving as a Account Specialist and Financial Administrator for several years. She joined the RPC staff in December 2019 and was formerly employed by the Jefferson City News Tribune as CPA Assistant. Rebecca graduated Jefferson City High and holds a degree in Business Administration Accounting from Columbia College.



### **Debra Griffin - Administrative Assistant**

Provides administrative staff support in project development activities and has been with the organization since 2011. Her responsibilities include maintaining the Mid-MO RPC website, as well as, developing quarterly newsletters and preparation of the annual report. She has years of secretarial and administrative experience, is a former computer operator for Electronic Data Systems (EDS), Plano Texas, with seven years as computer room supervisor with a Tulsa, Oklahoma based credit union.



### **Lincoln Brown - Regional Planner/Grant Writer**

Provides services to communities throughout their project development cycles, ranging from economic analysis to grant writing and grant administration. He has written grants for Missouri's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, FEMA's Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, and for the Federal Home Loan Bank's Affordable Housing Program. He administers CDBG funds and conducts the necessary environmental reviews. Additionally, he has completed a benefit cost analysis for a flood mitigation project. Lincoln holds a Master's Degree in Public Affairs from the University of Missouri with an emphasis in public policy analysis.



### **Jennifer Bowden - Transportation Planner/GIS Specialist**

As the GIS Specialist and Transportation planner for Mid-MO RPC, she handles transportation related plans and initiatives, as well as GIS mapping projects throughout the region, while also putting focus on providing writing assistance for recreational and transportation related grant applications. She has a B.S. in Geospatial Science with a minor in Land Surveying from Missouri State University, along with several year's industry experience in GIS data coordination and mapping.



### **Melissa Stafford - Regional Planner/RHSOC Procurement Officer**

Serves as Procurement Officer and administers the RHSOC for the thirteen counties of Region F. She also serves as the Hazard Mitigation Planner reviewing and writing plans for the Mid-MO RPC region. She has an Associates of Applied Science, as well as many FEMA, CDC and other course completion certifications. She is Type 3 All-Hazard Incident Management Team certified, and Planning Section Chief certified. She was previously employed with SEMA starting in the MERC and being promoted to the Planning Preparedness section.

# July 2019 - June 2020 EXECUTIVE OFFICERS



**Chairman**  
Kris Schepeler



**Past Chairman**  
Gary Jungermann



**Vice-Chairman**  
Mike Kelley



**Secretary**  
Don Baragary



**Personnel Chairman**  
Les Hudson

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### **Boone County**

Dan Atwill - Boone Co.  
Gene Rhorer - Ashland  
Chris Cox - Centralia

### **Cole County**

Kris Schepeler - Cole Co.  
Sonny Sanders - Jefferson City  
Doug Reese - St. Martins

### **Howard County**

Jeremiah Johnmeyer - Howard Co.  
Robin Triplett - Fayette  
Walter Banks - New Franklin

### **Callaway County**

Gary Jungermann - Callaway Co.  
Dennis Houchins - Fulton  
Hanna Lechner - Holts Summit

### **Cooper County**

Don Baragary - Cooper Co.  
Ned Beach - Boonville  
Justin Hein - Bunceton

### **Moniteau County**

Mac Finley - Moniteau Co.  
Norris Gerhart - California  
Mike Kelley - Tipton

### **At-Large-Members**

Marsha Broadus  
Les Hudson

# Mid-Missouri Regional Planning Commission

The Mid-Missouri Regional Planning Commission (Mid-MO RPC) is an organization of city and county governments within the six-county region of Boone, Callaway, Cole, Cooper, Howard and Moniteau counties. Mid-MO RPC primarily works in the three key areas of community and economic development, transportation, and emergency preparedness. Within these three —often overlapping—areas of emphasis, Mid-MO RPC is responsible for multiple planning initiatives and performs a variety of technical assistance activities.



Technical assistance activities performed by the regional planning commission take a variety of forms. Grant writing and grant administration are central to the technical assistance role of the regional planning commission. Over the past six years alone, Mid-MO RPC has assisted communities secure more than \$7.5 million in grant funding. Environmental review and GIS mapping are also core technical assistance services that the organization provides to our local governments.

Core planning documents that the regional planning commission is responsible for maintaining include a regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) as part of our planning partnership with the Economic Development Administration (EDA), a Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) as part of our planning partnership with MoDOT, and hazard mitigation plans for each of our six counties. Mid-MO RPC also assists local governments with their local planning needs including comprehensive plans, land use and transportation planning, and other planning studies or reports as requested by our local governments.

Mid-MO RPC also serves as administrative and procurement support for the Region F Regional Homeland Security Advisory Committee (RHSOC), procuring emergency response equipment that can be shared as regional assets. Mid-MO RPC has procured more than \$4.9 million in equipment for the RHSOC since 2004.

## Collaboration and Partnerships

The work activities of the Mid-Missouri Regional Planning Commission would not be possible without collaborations and partnerships with numerous federal and state agencies. These established relationships assist with financial and technical support on projects identified by our local government membership.



# Mid-MO RPC Region



Boone County

Callaway County

Cole County

Cooper County

Howard County

Moniteau County

# COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## Overview

The focus of Mid-MO RPC's community and economic development activities is on providing technical assistance to member communities. Technical assistance activities take many forms, including, working with communities to identify funding sources for projects, project development activities, grant writing and administration, environmental reviews, planning studies, benefit-cost analysis reports, and GIS mapping services.

Mid-MO RPC's partnership with the federal Economic Development Administration (EDA) is a vital component of Mid-MO RPC's community and economic development program. Mid-MO RPC is recognized by EDA as an Economic Development District (EDD), a status which brings with it annual EDA funding that allows Mid-MO RPC to provide community and economic development technical assistance at no cost to our member communities outside of their annual membership dues.

## On the Horizon – Mid-Missouri Pursues EDA Funding

As fiscal year 2020 came to a close in June, Mid-MO RPC staff were working with member communities and stakeholders in the region on three major projects that are pursuing EDA funding. Each of these projects has submitted formal funding applications to EDA and have received a Merits Further Consideration letter back from the agency. Here is a synopsis of these three projects and the impact that they may have on the region.

### *Revolving Loan Fund (RLF)*

Better access to capital for small businesses and entrepreneurs has been a long-standing need in Mid-Missouri and around the country. EDA revolving loan funds have been established by many regional planning commissions in Missouri and nation wide in order to respond to this need; however, this has been an economic development tool that has remained unavailable in Mid-Missouri.

The need for a revolving loan fund became more evident as the economic impacts of the coronavirus pandemic hit our region and the country. EDA also recognized this need by making revolving loan fund capitalization a priority for its CARES Act funding. Existing revolving loan funds were capitalized with zero percent local match and regions without revolving loan funds were allowed to apply for funding to create new revolving loan funds at a significantly reduced match rate than is typically required.

Mid-MO RPC worked with local partners to raise the local match needed to apply for the revolving loan funding. Mid-MO RPC, Regional Economic Development, Inc. (REDI), Columbia Chamber of Commerce, Jefferson City Chamber of Commerce, and the Cole County Commission all contributed matching funds.

If established the revolving loan fund would work with traditional lenders to make loans to small businesses that are just outside the risk threshold for a lender to take on. The program would be structured where Mid-MO RPC's revolving loan fund may take on 30% of a loan while a traditional lender takes on 60% of the loan and a borrow contributes 10% capital to the project. This gives small business access to capital in circumstances where the traditional lender is not able to take on that 30% of the loan and where traditional Small Business Administration (SBA) loans are not a good option.

EDA has responded that the project Merits Further Consideration at a funding level of \$1.5 million. A final funding decision by EDA is anticipated in the fall of 2020.

## ***Ranken Technical College***

Mid-MO RPC has been working with Southern Boone School District, the City of Ashland, and Southern Boone Economic Development Council and other partners to bring a new Ranken Technical College campus to Mid-Missouri. A possible Ranken Tech campus in Ashland has been discussed for several years but has gained significant traction with the possibility of substantial EDA grant funding for the project.

The proposed Ranken Tech facility in Ashland would be a 21,000 square foot building with focus on healthcare education, construction trades, IT, and agriculture. It is anticipated that 150 students annually will have the opportunity to take classes at Ranken Tech with the possibility of expanding operations as needed.



Total project cost is \$7.3 million with an EDA grant of \$4.5 million. The remaining project costs will be covered by a mix of funding streams including donated property and local match contributions from Southern Boone School District, City of Ashland, and Boone County. Efforts are also underway to reach out to the business community in Mid-Missouri to raise the remaining funds still needed for the project, and Ranken Tech will also have a financial stake in the operation.

The project will also include an extension of Perry Ave which will improve highway safety along Highway 63. A subdivision currently located near the proposed project site has only one route of ingress and egress which is an access directly off Highway 63. This project would eliminate this direct Highway 63 access and divert traffic north to Route Y.

## ***Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP) Redevelopment***

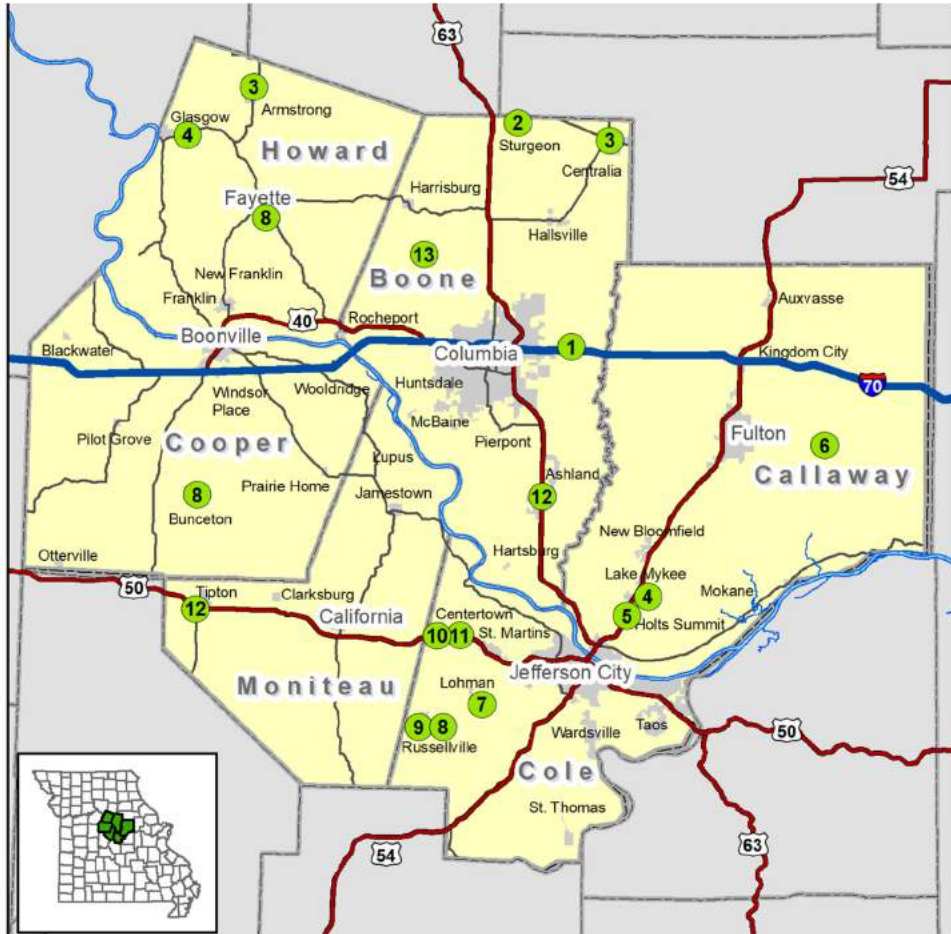
The City of Jefferson has been working with stakeholders for several years on efforts to redevelop the site of what was formerly the Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP). Through our relationship with EDA, Mid-Missouri Regional Planning Commission has been working over the last few years to put the MSP Redevelopment project on EDA's radar as a strong candidate for EDA funding.



This past year the MSP Redevelopment Project reached a point where it was ready to pursue EDA funding to assist with making infrastructure improvements at the site that are needed before any redevelopment may take place. Mid-MO RPC worked to coordinate city staff and EDA which were able to identify the needed improvements that would be most competitive for EDA funding.

The city has now applied for \$1.5 million in EDA funding for public road improvements that are needed as a developer is brought in to construct a hotel and conference/convention center on the project site. The hotel and conference/convention center along with the remaining historic prison buildings will be the anchor of the

# Mid-MO RPC Technical Assistance Projects 2019-2020



## 1. Boone County Infrastructure Improvements for American Outdoor Brands



Boone County secured a \$1.8 million Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for infrastructure improvements to Route Z and Enterprise Drive that accommodates the new American Outdoor Brands (AOB) distribution center. The new AOB distribution facility is 600,000 sq. ft. and AOB has created more than 93 new jobs as part of the project. Mid-MO RPC assisted with preparing the grant application, prepared the environmental review, and has served as grant administrator for the project.

## 2. Sturgeon Senior Housing Facility Renovations



Mid-MO RPC assisted Sturgeon's low-income senior housing facility successfully apply for more than \$660,000 in grant funding to make improvements to their two 16-unit complexes. Improvements will include new HVAC systems, foundation repair, window replacements, and numerous ADA improvements. ADA improvements are vital to the seniors living in the apartments that have limited mobility. Mid-MO RPC will also assist with some grant administration duties as the project moves forward.

## 3. Demolition of Unsafe Structures—Armstrong and Centralia



Mid-MO RPC assisted the communities of Armstrong and Centralia with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) applications to demolish unsafe structures in their communities, and both projects were awarded grant funding. The Centralia project provided \$78,000 to demolish two commercial buildings in town. The Armstrong project will provide \$125,000 to demolish seven residential structures in that community. Mid-MO RPC has served as grant administrator for both of these projects.

## 4. Environmental Review Services—Glasgow and Holts Summit



Mid-MO RPC completes several environmental reviews each year as part of our project development and grant administration services. We also sometimes take on environmental reviews when we are not part of securing funding for a project. For example, this year Mid-MO RPC completed environmental review assistance for a pool expansion in Glasgow, and we are starting an environmental review as part of a wastewater line extension outside of Holts Summit to a local elementary school.



### 5. Holts Summit Inflow & Infiltration Mitigation



Mid-MO RPC is serving as grant administrator for the City of Holts Summit for a \$315,000 CDBG grant that Mid-MO RPC helped the city secure in order to fix inflow and infiltration issues in two of the city's older subdivisions. Mid-MO RPC has assisted with the environmental review, contractor procurement process, and monitoring prevailing wage compliance.

### 6. Callaway County Regional Sewer District Study



Mid-MO RPC has been awarded a \$95,000 604(b) watershed planning grant through DNR which is being used to assist the newly formed Callaway County Regional Sewer District complete an initial construction plan for regionalizing wastewater collection and treatment in the area around the Route J exit off of I-70 and down to Millersburg.

### 7. Lohman City Hall / Community Center ADA Improvements



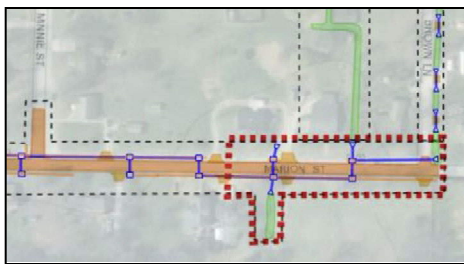
The City of Lohman received a CDBG grant to complete ADA improvements to its City Hall/Community Center. Improvements will include an ADA compliant ramp and bathroom renovations. Mid-MO RPC prepared the CDBG grant application, will serve as grant administrator for the project, and is currently completing the environmental review.

### 8. Wastewater Improvements—Bunceton, Fayette & Russellville



Bunceton, Fayette and Russellville have all been awarded \$500,000 in CDBG grant funding to make improvements to their wastewater systems. Mid-MO RPC has assisted each community with the CDBG applications, completed or will complete the environmental review for each project, and will be serving as grant administrator for each project.

### 9. Russellville Road and Stormwater Improvements



Mid-MO RPC assisted the City of Russellville with securing a \$500,000 CDBG grant application for road and stormwater improvements. As part of the application process, Mid-MO RPC assisted with a community income survey to ensure that the city qualified for CDBG funding. Mid-MO RPC is also serving as grant administrator on the project.

### 10. Centertown Water Tower Project



Mid-MO RPC assisted the Village of Centertown apply for \$625,000 in CDBG grant funding that will be combined with DNR grant funding and allow the village to construct a new water tower. As part of the application process, Mid-MO RPC assisted the village with completing a community income survey and completed the environmental review for the project.

### 11. Centertown Comprehensive Plan



Mid-MO RPC has been working with the Village of Centertown to complete a comprehensive plan for the community. The plan will allow the village to enforce planning and zoning and help the city increase competitiveness for future grant applications including outdoor recreation and sidewalk grants.

### 12. DNR Outdoor Recreation Grants—Tipton and Ashland



Mid-MO RPC assisted the cities of Tipton and Ashland with successful DNR Land and Water Conservation Fund grant applications. Tipton was awarded \$75,000 to build a new shelter house, and Ashland was awarded \$41,000 for baseball field and ADA bathroom improvements.

### 13. Boone County Hazard Mitigation Plan



Mid-MO RPC has been working to complete the five-year update to Boone County's FEMA approved Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP). HMPs identify actions to reduce or eliminate risk to life and property from natural hazards. The plans are required in order for jurisdictions to qualify for FEMA hazard mitigation grants.

# Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC)

A critical partner in our economic development program is the Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC). EDAC is comprised of community leaders throughout the region including economic development professionals, elected officials, utility provider representatives, chamber of commerce representatives, senate and congressional staff, university officials, and other interested parties.

The committee's function is to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas to promote economic development in the region.



EDAC Chair Mike Kelley  
Moniteau County Regional Economic  
Development Council



# Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)

TAC is an advisory committee which is responsible for identifying and prioritizing transportation issues as they impact the Mid-Missouri region. The committee is responsible for making recommendations each year during Mid-MO RPC's annual update to the region's transportation needs list and also assists with setting regional priorities for certain MoDOT grant funding opportunities. A variety of stakeholders including representatives from counties, cities, Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO), MoDOT engineering and planning staff, and engaged citizens all contribute to the conversation at TAC meetings.



TAC Chair Howard McMillan  
Howard County Commissioner



# **TRANSPORTATION PLANNING**

## **TEAP Funding and the Role of Mid-MO RPC**

The Traffic Engineering Assistance Program (TEAP) runs alternating years and provides assistance for corridor safety and/or operational analysis, intersection safety analysis, speed limit review, sign inventory, bike/ped route analysis, and much more. ADA Transition Plans also fall within the lines of TEAP funding. TEAP is an 80/20 reimbursement program through MoDOT with 80% funding for eligible projects up to \$8,000 coming from MoDOT and the entity having a 20% match. Funds for projects must be spent in the year that they are awarded for. If a project costs more than \$10,000 the entity can put more than the required 20% match toward completing the project.

Much like the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), Mid-MO RPC meets with MoDOT and the other regional planning commissions (RPCs) and metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) in the Central District office of MoDOT to help prioritize which projects will receive TEAP funding. Prior to meeting with MoDOT any applications from the Mid-MO RPC region are reviewed, scored, and prioritized by the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC). Scores from TAC and the RPC staff are sent to MoDOT where they aggregate the scores with those submitted from each RPC and MPO in the Central District.

One project in Mid-Missouri was funded in the 2020-2021 TEAP application cycle. The City of Fulton received funds to go toward an ADA Transition Plan. Transition Plans are important toward creating an inclusive community for those with disabilities. It takes inventory of current ADA shortcomings and lays the ground work for a community to become ADA accessible.

## **Transportation Planning: Not Just Roads and Bridges**

Transportation planning is among the core activities of the Mid-Missouri Regional Planning Commission. Annually, staff with Mid-MO RPC review and update the regional transportation needs list through meetings with the individual counties, jurisdictional leaders, and the public. During these meetings road and bridge safety needs are identified as well as multimodal needs throughout the region. Railroads, sidewalks, bike paths, ports and river travel, airports and other means of transportation activities not related to roads and bridges are included in a multimodal needs list. Funding through the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and Freight Enhancement Program (FRE), to name a couple, offer multimodal emphasis to funding opportunities.

Mid-Missouri is blessed with a variety of alternative transportation options. Having a major railroad and the Missouri River running through the heart of the region, as well as the Katy Trail and a larger freight capable airport, there are multiple ways people and goods can be moved around and through the area.

Quality multimodal projects can bring safety and economic stability to a region. Designated bike paths and sidewalks create safe routes to schools and businesses within their vicinity. Ports along the Missouri River and spurs off the rail line offer quick loading and unloading of commercial goods that allow the freight industry to remove semi-trucks from our roads. Such variability creates transportation resiliency. High-priority multimodal projects include a runway extension at the Columbia Regional Airport, terminal upgrades to the Jefferson City Airport, getting both Missouri River ports active, and ensuring kids who walk have safe routes to schools.

# EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

## Overview

An important component of our technical assistance services is assisting our local governments prepare for and mitigate the impact of future disaster events. We accomplish this by working with our cities and counties to ensure that they have updated FEMA approved hazard mitigation plans, by assisting with emergency management related grants, and by providing administrative support to the Region F Regional Homeland Security Oversight Committee (RHSOC).

## Hazard Mitigation Planning

Hazard mitigation planning seeks to reduce the loss of life and property by reducing the impact of disasters. Hazard mitigation plans identify natural disasters that impact the study area and develop actions to reduce the impact of these events. Having a FEMA approved local hazard mitigation plan is a requirement for local governments and school districts in order to be eligible for FEMA hazard mitigation grant funding.

Mid-Missouri Regional Planning Commission is responsible for updating the hazard mitigation plans for all six of our counties. Plans are updated every five years. These plans also incorporate city governments and school districts in each respective county, which eliminates the need for each jurisdiction to have their own individual plan.

## Boone County Hazard Mitigation Plan

Mid-MO RPC has been working this past year in coordination with the Boone County Office of Emergency Management and the various jurisdictions in Boone County to complete the five-year update to their Hazard Mitigation Plan. All cities and school districts were encouraged to participate in the planning process to identify potential projects that would help mitigate against natural and human-made hazards in the county.

Boone County is one of the few counties in Missouri to take the extra steps of thinking through ways to mitigate human-made hazards in addition to natural disasters in its hazard mitigation plan. The plan addresses ways to mitigate natural disasters such as flooding, tornadoes, levee and dam failures, severe thunderstorms, and more. Human-made disasters addressed in the plan include, but are not limited to, active shooters, nuclear incidents, cyber-attacks, and terrorism.

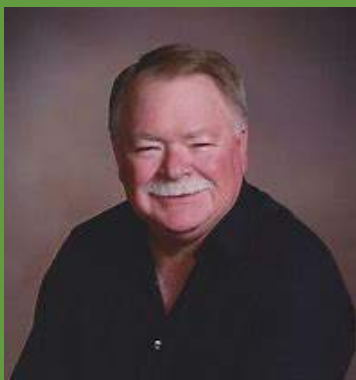


The initial draft of the Boone County Hazard Mitigation Plan five-year update has been completed and is awaiting final approval from SEMA and FEMA.

## Region F Regional Homeland Security Oversight Committee (RHSOC)

The Mid-Missouri Regional Planning Commission is responsible for assisting the Region F Regional Homeland Security Oversight Committee (RHSOC), in conjunction with the Department of Public Safety, in developing a planning process to assess, evaluate, identify, and prioritize existing and needed Homeland Security assets. This planning process is used as a basis for funding and policy recommendations from the region.

The Region F RHSOC uses discipline representatives to provide activity recommendations. The committee is comprised of one representative from the following 16 core positions or disciplines: Director of Emergency Management, Chief of Police, County Sheriff, Chief of Fire, County Health, Homeland Security Response Team, City or County Public Works, Mayor or City Administrator, County Commissioner, Private Industry/Public Utility, Emergency Medical Service, 911, Agriculture, Volunteer Sector, Education, and GIS Mapping.



RHSOC Chair Larry Benz  
Director of Public Works  
Cole County, MO



## **Regional Homeland Security Oversight FY19 Project Funding**

The Region F Homeland Security Oversight Committee was awarded \$261,291.46 for FY19 grant projects. These funds are awarded through the State Homeland Security Grant Program. The grant has a performance period of two years which runs from September 1, 2019 – August 31, 2021. Below you can view the FY19 projects that are either currently being worked on or have already been completed this past fiscal year.

### **\$63,750.00 – Cole County Mobile Emergency Operations Center (MEOC)**

Upgrade video projector for field support functions. New style radio for MOSWIN and dual band capabilities during operations for interoperable communications with technicians and ground support. Portable radio for mobile command unit to enable interoperable communications when deployed to events in Region F. Portable radio repeater will be used in conjunction with the MOSWIN capability of the portable radio cache.

### **\$69,811.26 – Miller County Generator 175kW**

Miller Co was awarded funds for a towable 175kW power generator with power cable and toolbox accessories. These will be used as a regional asset that will be deployed where needed both within Region F and throughout the state of Missouri.

### **\$38,280 – Portable Radios – Audrain and Callaway County Emergency Management Agencies**

Audrain and Callaway counties were each awarded funds to purchase 6 portable radios that will be distributed at the onset of an incident involving multiple agencies and/or jurisdictions. These radios are for response agencies to establish effective and interoperable communication. This will allow MOSWIN and analog channels to communicate.

### **\$34,100.00 – Cole County Homeland Security Response Team (HSRT)**

Decontamination equipment will blend with uses of health and safety, environmental issues as well and personal protection equipment. This equipment involves the use of water in a confined area so that individuals can be cleaned after becoming in contact with a known chemical which can be absorbed through the skin. This system allows the individual to be scrubbed and cleaned of contaminants before being allowed into the public or transported for medical treatment.

Funds will also be used to replace Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) cylinders for the HSRT. SCBA cylinders connect to a SCBA system to provide breathable air in locations with a dangerous atmosphere.

### **\$55,350.20 – Sustainment**

These funds go to sustain current equipment as well as management and administration (M&A). These funds will be used to pay the annual generator load testing as well as annual license fees for Elliott systems for the Region F counties that purchased this equipment in using past rounds of RHSOC funding. The M&A funds are paid to Mid-MO RPC for procuring the equipment and handling all aspects of the funding cycle.

# Mid-Missouri Regional Planning Commission

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Visit Mid-MO RPC online at <http://midmorpc.org>