



---

## Harry S Truman Coordinating Council Board & Membership Meeting

Minutes from January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026 @ 11:30 AM  
Joplin Public Library

### HSTCC Executive Committee

Cyndy Hutchings, Jamey Cope, Richard Leavens, Josh Detar, Rusty Wilson, Mark Bridges, and David Johnson  
(7 Members total, missing 3)

---

**OFFICERS:** Cyndy Hutchings, Chair  
Richard Leavens, Vice President

**ATTENDEES;**

Rusty Wilson, Mayor of Anderson  
Amy Kauffman, MOKAN  
Lisa Robinson, Missouri Extension  
Mark Bridges, Newton County Commissioner  
Tina Hang, MCHD  
Richard Leavens, City of Neosho  
Will Cline, HSTCC  
Carrie Campbell, HSTCC  
Olivia Spencer, HSTCC

Anna Swearengen, HSTCC  
Bill Sherman, City of Duquesne  
Cyndy Hutchings, City of Seneca  
Cody Green, USDA  
Robin Ceperley, Own Inc.  
Jeff Ceperley, Own Inc.  
Nathan Adams, TREKK Design Group  
Mike Ussery, Senator Eric Schmitt  
Brian Schwarz, Missouri DED

### CALL TO ORDER

Cyndy Hutchings called the meeting to order at 11:40am

### CONSENT AGENDA

Motion to approve made by Richard Leavens. Seconded by Mark Bridges. All in favor, none opposed.

### MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Motion made by Richard Leavens. Seconded by Rusty Wilson. All in favor, none opposed.

### EXECUTIVE REPORT

Dr. Carrie Campbell, Executive Director, provided the Executive Director's Report. She noted Truman's continued strong performance in grant development and management, with \$5,844,009 in grant applications submitted to date and \$9,902,887 currently under management. Recent activity included submission of a \$5 million workforce development grant and a successful partnership with the Seneca-Cayuga Nation to secure a \$926,155 transportation grant, supporting the establishment of a tribal transportation department serving tribes in Northeast Oklahoma and strengthening long-term regional coordination. Truman also recognized staff accomplishments, including completion of a clean audit with no findings. Dr. Campbell reported that Truman has adjusted its hazard mitigation services and will continue providing hazard mitigation planning support for McDonald and Barton Counties. She also shared that the Missouri CDBG Competitive Grant Cycle opens in April,

with no local match required and a completed Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) needed for eligibility; staff are actively working with communities on project readiness and PER development. The Board also recognized Richard Leavens for his decades of service as he retires and steps down from the Board.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

Will Cline, Transportation Planner, provided a year-end update on transportation planning activities and regional safety initiatives. He reported the Southwest Missouri Vision Zero Action Plan was completed and adopted in December 2025, marking a major milestone in the region's safety efforts. He also shared that Truman successfully secured \$1.7 million in Safe Streets for All (SS4A) awards, including \$500,000 to support development of a Regional Safe Routes to School Plan and \$1.2 million to expand transportation planning capacity for Northeast Oklahoma tribal governments. Mr. Cline noted that Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grants are expected to open soon, with a maximum of \$600,000 per project, requiring a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) and an 80% federal / 20% local match. He added that eligible projects may include bike and pedestrian trails, crosswalks, and sidewalks.

Anna Swearngen, Environmental Planner, provided an update on current environmental initiatives supporting communities across the region. She reported that HSTCC continues advancing environmental protection work through grant development, workforce training, and expanded water monitoring, with two pending grant applications including a USDA Solid Waste Management Grant for technical assistance and training related to solid waste planning and landfill operations and an EPA Brownfields Job Training Grant to support a regional environmental monitoring workforce program. She also noted that the Missouri DNR Water Monitoring Grant (604B) was approved, expanding sampling efforts through additional monitoring sites and increased capacity using HSTCC's certified water testing lab.

## **FINANCE REPORT**

Olivia Spencer presented the Finance Report and reviewed current financial activity for the organization. She reported bank balances as of January 13, 2026, showing \$46,005.88 in the Harry S Truman Coordinating Council account and \$12,486.33 in the Hometown Legacy account. Ms. Spencer also provided an overview of the FYTD budget summary for the period July 1, 2025–January 31, 2026, reporting \$279,152.26 in total revenue and \$257,333.59 in total expenses, resulting in a positive net of \$21,818.67. She noted that 43.07% of the expense budget has been used to date and confirmed that expenditures and revenues continue to be monitored to maintain fiscal stability and support ongoing program and grant activity.

## **AUDIT**

Olivia Spencer reported that the FY 2024–2025 audit has been completed with no findings. A full printed copy is available for review if desired, and the audit is also posted on the organization’s website. Cyndy Hutchings requested a motion to accept the FY 2024–2025 audit. Rusty made the motion and Mark Bridges seconded. The motion carried unanimously, with all in favor and none opposed.

## **ELECTION OF HSTCC EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS**

Cyndy Hutchings asked for a motion to approve the nomination of Adam Worster to replace Richard Leavens on the Executive Board due to Richard’s retirement. The remaining board members will continue to be Cyndy Hutchings, Rusty Wilson, Mark Bridges, Josh Detar, David Johnson, and Jamey Cope. A motion was made by Richard Leavens and seconded by Mark Bridges. The motion carried unanimously, with all in favor and none opposed.

## **ELECTION OF BANK ACCOUNT SIGNERS FOR HSTCC**

Cyndy Hutchings asked for a motion to approve the nomination of Adam Worster to replace Richard Leavens as a signer on the HSTCC bank account at SMB, with all other authorized signers remaining unchanged. A motion was made by Richard Leavens and seconded by Mark Bridges. The motion carried unanimously, with all in favor and none opposed.

## **ELECTION OF HOMETOWN LEGACY BOARD MEMBERS**

Cyndy Hutchings asked for a motion to approve the nomination of Adam Worster to replace Richard Leavens as a board member for Hometown Legacy. The remaining board members will continue to be Cyndy Hutchings, Carrie Campbell, Mark Bridges, and Rusty Wilson. The motion carried unanimously, with all in favor and none opposed.

## **MEMBER REPORTS**

### **Mark Bridges, Newton County Commissioner**

Mark Bridges reported that Transportation Planner Will Cline is assisting Newton County with the Coyote Bridge project, which is in need of critical support. He also noted the Newton County budget is expected to be approved tomorrow, following additional work due to the recent minimum wage increase.

### **Richard Leavens, City of Neosho**

Richard Leavens shared that the City of Neosho is seeing increased development interest due to continued growth in Northwest Arkansas. He reported the City’s CDBG mitigation project is in the final stages of closeout and the ARPA flooding mitigation project is approximately 75% complete. He also noted increased interest in the Neosho airport.

### **Bill Sherman, Mayor of Duquesne**

Bill Sherman reported the City of Duquesne is in the final stages of its park project, with the restroom portion being the largest remaining

component. He also noted the city is in need of major road upgrades between 7th Street and 32nd Street.

**Mike Ussery, Senator Eric Schmitt's Office**

Mike Ussery provided an update on current federal activity and referenced several bills with an upcoming deadline of January 30.

**Brian Schwarz, Missouri Department of Economic Development (DED)**

Brian Schwarz shared that he continues meeting with local businesses to support expansion efforts and assist with job training opportunities.

**Amy Kauffman, MOKAN**

Amy Kauffman reported the region continues to grow and is working toward bringing approximately 85 jobs to Jasper County. She expressed appreciation for HSTCC's assistance with site development efforts supporting business recruitment.

**Lisa Robinson, University of Missouri Extension**

Lisa Robinson reported Missouri Extension is working on confirming dates for a conference planned for September 2026. She noted a survey will be distributed in the coming weeks and shared that activities will take place at the new Crowder College building in Joplin. She also noted Extension is exploring second-chance hiring initiatives.

**Nathan Adams, TREKK Design Group**

Nathan Adams shared that TREKK Design Group provides civil engineering services and supports communities with transportation projects as well as water and sewer system assessments.

**Tina Hang, McDonald County Health Department**

Tina Hang reported the Health Department is applying for Building Communities for Better Health, focused on chronic illness prevention including diabetes. She also shared plans to conduct four water safety trainings and two walk audits to help identify alternative transportation options.

**Rusty Wilson, Mayor of Anderson**

Rusty Wilson reported the City of Anderson is preparing to begin its SRF project and will be working with HSTCC to reapply for lift station upgrades.

**Robin Ceperley, OWN, Inc.**

Robin Ceperley reported OWN, Inc. is assisting Anderson with its SRF project and is preparing to begin work on a project in Granby.

**Jeff Ceperley, OWN, Inc.**

Jeff Ceperley noted that OWN, Inc. is a civil engineering firm providing support to communities on infrastructure-related projects.

**Cody Greene, USDA**

Cody Greene shared that he serves as the local USDA contact and is available to assist communities with grants related to housing, first responders, and small businesses.

June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026, @ 11:00 AM

**TENTATIVE NEXT  
MEETING**

**ADJOURN**

Cyndy Hutchings asked for a motion to adjourn. Richard Leavens made the motion and Rusty Wilson seconded. The motion carried unanimously, with all in favor and none opposed.