



An Economic & Community Development Organization

Mo-Kan Regional Council 2017 Annual Report



Mo-Kan Regional Council (Mo-Kan) is a designated regional planning commission and economic development district, recognized by the states of Kansas and Missouri and the federal government. Mo-Kan provides community and economic development services to 36 municipalities across 6 counties in northwest Missouri and northeast Kansas.

Services include long-range community planning; grant procurement and administration; business loans; hazard mitigation; GIS; and homeland security.



GIS: Integrating Geographic Information

A Geographic Information System (GIS) makes it possible to integrate different kinds of geographic information such as digital maps, aerial photographs, satellite images and global positioning. Mo-Kan utilizes GIS extensively for planning reports and technical studies. Member counties and municipalities utilize these services for spatial analysis of transportation systems, demographics, land use, flood plains and other geo-spatial data. More than 70 maps were produced for hazard mitigation, disaster resiliency, transportation and comprehensive planning documents.

2017 GIS Projects Include:

- Warning siren coverage map for Buchanan County.
- Clinton County flood plain map.
- City and County road maps.

Brownfield Activities



Brownfields may be found in a variety of communities and can include abandoned factories, industrial facilities and other sites or facilities that have dealt with hazardous substances or contaminants.

Mo-Kan works to facilitate the clean-up of contaminated properties through a Revolving Loan Fund Grant awarded from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), spurring reuse and redevelopment of those properties.

In 2017, the City of Agency applied to Mo-Kan Regional Council for a sub-grant to remediate a vacant property in Agency. The brownfield (formerly a convenience store and gasoline station) contains a canopy with fueling pumps and a concrete pad. Remediation and removal plans include developing the site as an expansion of the current city park, with work beginning in Spring 2018.

Business Financing

Since 1982, Mo-Kan has partnered with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) to provide commercial loans to area businesses in an effort to strengthen our region's workforce and economy. Mo-Kan is able to fill the financing gap between what local banks are able to provide to entrepreneurs and what the borrower has available for a down payment. In addition to loan programs, Mo-Kan offers technical assistance to entrepreneurs requesting aid in analyzing their financial needs.

Business Loans in 2017:

2017 lending efforts have resulted in six funded loans, worth more than \$1.3 million. The total project costs exceed \$3.4 million. The investment in these companies located in Buchanan, Clinton, Gentry and Leavenworth Counties also resulted in the creation of 22 new jobs and 18 retained jobs.

2017 Mo-Kan Success Story: SJC Marketing



In 2017, Mo-Kan worked with Susan Campbell of SJC Marketing to secure funds to purchase a building and expand her current business. SJC Marketing is a full-service marketing, communication and content creation company located on North 36th Street in St. Joseph, Mo. The company was created in 2005 by Susan J. Campbell. Mo-Kan is proud to partner with Susan and her team and we look forward to her continued success.

Workforce Development

In 2008, the Northwest Missouri Workforce Development Board (WDB) recognized Mo-Kan Regional Council's quality work and contracted with the organization to provide workforce development services to adult customers in Andrew, Buchanan, Clinton and DeKalb counties. Today, Mo-Kan continues to assist our Job Center customers in finding quality jobs. Services include resume and cover letter writing, interview techniques, computer skills, help for veterans seeking work and applications and job seeking assistance.

Workforce Development in 2017:

In 2017 we served over 9,614 job seekers. Of this number, more than 75% (or 7,211) received training, job search assistance, and eventually jobs at Johnson Controls, Hillyard Industries, Sealed Air and many more area firms.

Community Development and Grant Administration

Through planning, program coordination, advocacy and technical assistance, Mo-Kan staff strives to make the region and its communities a better place to live and work. Much of Mo-Kan's efforts continue to focus on the preparation and management of member communities' grant programs. Through regional partnership, community representatives can come together to tackle common obstacles and reach common goals. Mo-Kan provides grant writing services for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and other funding sources to member communities.

Recent CDBG projects include:

- › A downtown sidewalk project in Atchison, Kan.
- › Exterior improvements at DeKalb County's Nutrition Center.
- › Street improvement projects in Stewartsville.
- › The Savannah School District received \$1,000,000 in CDBG funding to construct an Early Childhood Education Facility that will open in 2018.
- › Community Action Partnership (CAP) received \$500,000 in CDBG funds to renovate an existing building to serve as a Head Start facility in Cameron, Mo, which is expected to open in late 2018.

Homeland Security

In 2006, the signing of Missouri Executive Order 06-09 formed the nine Regional Homeland Security Oversight Committees (RHSOC) throughout the State of Missouri. Northwest Missouri which is Region H, is a 32-member committee, representing 16 disciplines. It is formed of members from emergency response disciplines, local and county agencies and other organizations across 15 counties in Northwest Missouri. Mo-Kan Regional Council is the lead regional planning commission for the Region H RHSOC and serves as the primary administrative and fiscal agent. The committee is charged with the task of planning regional response to acts of terrorism and natural disasters, as well as allocating State Homeland Security Grants.

Transportation

Mo-Kan has partnered with the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) since 1968 to identify and prioritize regional needs through a Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC). It is the TAC's primary responsibility to serve as the public conduit in the planning process, which ultimately shapes the Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan.

Mo-Kan also works with MoDOT and TAC to develop and expand on the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The RTP specifies both long and short-term transportation planning for Andrew, Buchanan, Clinton and DeKalb counties. A Joint TAC meeting is held yearly with two adjoining regional planning commissions and we collaborate regularly with neighboring regional planning organizations to conduct road safety assessments.

Transportation Achievements In 2017:

- › Member communities utilized Mo-Kan resources, such as a camera-equipped drone, speed radar trailer, LED event sign and traffic counters as transportation safety devices.
- › A recent collaboration with the St. Joseph Area Transportation Study Organization will result in the creation of a Safety and Innovation Mobile Lab.





Hazard Mitigation

Missouri regional planning commissions were approached by the Missouri State Emergency Management Agency in 2002 to facilitate Hazard Mitigation Plans (HMPs) for Missouri counties.

Communities identify the hazards that present the greatest threats, assess their risks and vulnerabilities and develop a strategy with goals to mitigate the potential effects. Communities and school boards within each county must then adopt the county's updated plan to be eligible for mitigation grant funding.

Mo-Kan is partnering with both Clinton and DeKalb Counties to update their HMPs, which will expire in 2018.

Community and Regional Planning

Buchanan County Comprehensive Plan

Buchanan County contracted with Mo-Kan to complete a Comprehensive Land-Use Plan. It is the systematic assessment of land and water, economic and social conditions to provide a vision for the future possibilities of development or non-development of land.

Human Service Transit Plan

The Mo-Kan Public Transit Human Services Transportation Coordinated Plan was prepared following the guidelines set by MoDOT and the Federal Transit Administration. This plan will identify areas where both transit and service providers may improve effectiveness and reduce transportation barriers.

Healthy Watershed Plan

Mo-Kan, in collaboration with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, hosted a series of meetings to collect information and input to form the Independence-Sugar Healthy Watershed Plan. The watershed encompasses portions of eight counties in Kansas and Missouri. State agencies, county and city officials, residents, business owners, farmers and others attended the meetings to provide input.

Governance

The voting membership of the Mo-Kan Regional Council consists of 32 persons, 16 each from Missouri and Kansas. Kansas members are named directly to MKRC by Atchison and Doniphan Counties and the municipalities of Atchison and Morrill. Missouri members are first named by the counties and municipalities to the ABCD Planning Commission, which then holds a caucus to name the 16 who will be MKRC voting members. Robert Caldwell, presiding commissioner of Andrew County, Mo, is the board president.

Mo-Kan Regional Council Staff

Mike Spady – Executive Director
Gary Miller – Fiscal Officer
Rebecca Thacker – Planner
Jon Ecker – Senior Loan Officer
Kathy Hahn – Loan Officer/Brownfield
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Patti Long – Planning Assistant

Missouri Job Center

Janice Spearman – Functional Leader
Laura Brewer – Career Counselor
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