



Mo-Kan Regional Council 2018 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 northwest Missouri and northeast Kansas.

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

www.mo-kan.org



Buchanan County Comprehensive Plan

Buchanan County contracted with Mo-Kan to update the 1996 Comprehensive Plan. The purpose of the plan is to develop goals, objectives and strategies based upon analysis of past and current conditions to be used as a foundation for future planning decisions. The plan addresses growth management, natural resources, land use, transportation access, housing, economic development and recreation. The completed plan is expected to be presented to Buchanan County by Mo-Kan for adoption in early 2019.

Hazard Mitigation

Mo-Kan partnered with Clinton and DeKalb Counties to update their Hazard Mitigation Plans. Both counties received FEMA approval of their plans in 2018. By having a current hazard mitigation plan, communities remain eligible for several types of FEMA mitigation grants. Mo-Kan assisted four jurisdictions with submitting Notice of Interest to apply for these grants.

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 by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), spurring reuse and redevelopment of those properties.

In 2018, the City of Agency moved forward to remediate a vacant property in Agency. The brownfield (formerly a convenience store and gasoline station) contained 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 2019.

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. Over the years, Mo-Kan has identified other programs that have led to the creation of multiple internal loan pools. The variety of programs have given Mo-Kan staff the ability to assist more businesses, as each have different eligibility criteria. All programs are designed 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 2018:

Fiscal year 2018 loan activity included loans totaling \$5.7 million. These loans generated total capital investments of nearly \$10 million, which includes other financing and owner equity. Most importantly, this financing activity led to the creation and/or retention of 106 jobs.

2018 Mo-Kan Success Story:



In 2018, Mo-Kan worked with Brandy and Chad Bumphrey of Bump Properties, LLC to secure funds to purchase Country Kids Learning Center. Country Kids is a childcare facility located on State Route E in Savannah, MO. They provide care for children ages birth to 11 years. Mo-Kan is proud to partner with Brandy and Chad and look forward to their 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 2018:

In 2018 the Job Center served over 7,950 job seekers. Of this number, more than 79% (or 6,267) received training, job search assistance, and eventually jobs. Some of our top hiring companies are Johnson Controls, Blue Scope Inc., Daily's Premium Meats, Alorica, WIS International and other area firms.

Community Development and Grant Administration

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:

- › Community Action Partnership (CAP) received \$500,000 in CDBG funds to renovate an existing building to serve as a Head Start facility in Cameron. Construction will begin in early spring 2019.
- › Clarksdale was awarded \$500,000 for water distribution system improvements. Construction will begin in spring 2019.
- › Street improvement project to mitigate flooding was awarded to Cameron.
- › The Savannah School District received \$1,000,000 in CDBG funding to construct an Early Childhood Education Facility. The preschool opened in 2018.



Transportation

Mo-Kan's yearly transportation activities includes working with the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) to provide local input into the transportation planning process with MoDOT. Mo-Kan was also involved with a Roadway Safety Assessment, Sidewalk Inventory updates, Joint TAC meeting and Freight Summit. Mo-Kan also offered three free Traffic Incident Management (TIM) trainings to first responders.

2018 Transportation Achievements

- › The Safety and Innovation Mobile Lab assisted Minnie Cline Elementary School with the installation of stop bars and crosswalks. In addition to the speed radar trailer, traffic counters and Safety and Innovation Mobile Lab, Mo-Kan acquired a message board with speed radar capabilities.



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.

Facade Improvements

A section of the outer metal shell of the Mo-Kan office building was dislodged during a thunderstorm. It was discovered that an attractive brick facade existed under the metal covering. Mo-Kan applied and received a Save Our Heritage Grant and a Facade Improvement Grant, both from the City of St. Joseph. New windows were installed on the east side of the building, and facade improvements are scheduled for early 2019.



Mo-Kan Celebrated 50 Years of Service

Mo-Kan celebrated 50 years of service on December 5, 2018. The St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce started the festivities at the Mo-Kan office with a ribbon cutting, followed by a Proclamation from the Mayor of St. Joseph, Bill McMurray. The doors opened to the open house celebration with food and beverages. Lots of memories were served at the event. Thank you to all who came to celebrate the anniversary and kick-off Mo-Kan's next 50 years.

Job Center Ribbon Cutting

The Job Center moved from its downtown location to 2202 Frederick Boulevard. The staff celebrated the move with an open house and ribbon cutting ceremony on November 15, 2018. Rob Dixon, the Director of the Missouri Department of Economic Development spoke and the St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce arranged the ribbon cutting. Once again, thank you to all who attended this special event.



Mo-Kan Regional Council Board Officers

Bob Caldwell - Chair

Harry Roberts - Treasurer

Nic Hutchison - Vice-Chair

Tim Wymes - Secretary

Missouri Job Center

Janice Spearman – Functional Leader

Laura Brewer – Career Counselor

Janis Arn – Career Counselor

Mo-Kan Regional Council Staff

Jon Ecker – Executive Director

Gary Miller – Fiscal Officer

Rebecca Thacker – Community Planner

Linda Laderoute - Community Planner

Kleci Moss – Loan Officer

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.



224 North 7th Street
St. Joseph, Missouri 64501
Phone: (816) 233-3144
Fax: (816) 233-8498