The CMPDD Board of Directors on June 8, 2015 approved the appointment of Mike Monk as the new CEO effective August 1, 2015 to succeed Clarke Holmes who announced his retirement after serving the organization for 44 years (42 years as CEO). Mike is no stranger to CMPDD, having served in various capacities with the organization for over 23 years, most recently serving as Director of Community and Economic Development. Mike is a native of Mendenhall in Simpson County where he resided for much of his life. Earlier this year, Mike and his wife Becky Shows Monk moved to Rankin County near Florence to be closer to the Jackson Metro Area.

At the Board of Directors meeting on September 9th, Mike outlined the CMPDD Work Program for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 that included the following priorities:

- Evaluate and implement a paperless office environment at CMPDD to improve efficiency and reduce paperwork. A Data Users Group of employees at CMPDD has been assembled to help investigate and research software and hardware solutions that will serve as the backbone of the system.

- Implement an Electronic Notification System for the various committee members at CMPDD. The system is now in place for those who have opted to receive email correspondence for the Board of Directors, Steering Committee, and Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). This system will also be offered to other District committees such as the Southcentral Mississippi Works (SMW), Aging Advisory Committee, and others.

- Promote the region and help make it the best place to live, work, and raise a family by working collectively to support community and economic development efforts, workforce development, services to the elderly, and planning for transportation and infrastructure needs.

As CEO, Mike plans to continue to have greater visibility and interaction with all of our local governments. He plans to visit with local Mayors and County Supervisors periodically to make sure CMPDD staff are providing the highest level of attention and service possible. Mike welcomes your comments and suggestions, and please know his door is always open.

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Long Range Transportation Plan Available for Review

One of the responsibilities of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) in carrying out the Federally-mandated transportation planning process is to prepare a long range transportation plan for the area expected to become “urbanized” within a forecasted 25-year timeframe. The development of the 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan sets a vision for the course of actions that are needed to meet the future transportation needs of all modes of transportation in the metro-area for the next 25-years. A draft version of the plan is now available for review, and the MPO encourages you to review this document. The plan includes six (6) Draft Volumes:

- **Volume I: Metropolitan Planning Process**
  This volume provides an overview of the planning process used to develop the 2040 draft plan, and explains how the public and other interested parties were involved in the planning process. In addition, this volume sets the setting for the Jackson Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) by identifying current land use, population, economic (see Transportation Plan on p.2)
The Town of Braxton recently held a ribbon cutting and welcomed residents to their new Town Hall. On behalf of the Town of Braxton, CMPDD prepared, submitted and received approval of a Small Municipal and Limited Population County Grant Program (SMLPC) application to build the new building. The previous Town Hall was built in the 1970s and consisted of one small room that housed the Mayor’s office, City Clerk’s office, the Board Room, and a very small, inadequate bathroom that was not handicap accessible. The old Town Hall was not ADA accessible, including the sidewalk leading to the Town Hall from the parking lot that was not wide enough for a wheelchair and also had columns making it even smaller. The previous Town Hall was crowded and cluttered as there was no room for storage and there was no privacy to conduct meetings with the Mayor or City Clerk. The heater was an old gas type wall unit and the air condition was a portable window type unit, neither of which were energy efficient or safe to use.

With SMLPC funds, the Town was able to provide the citizens of Braxton with a larger, more efficient, handicap accessible Town Hall with separate offices, restroom, board room, and entrance lobby area. Additionally, the construction of the Town Hall brought new construction jobs to the community and will enhance and promote economic development.

Braxton Opens New Town Hall

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CMPDD’s Medicaid Waiver Program Update

CMPDD’s Elderly and Disabled Home and Community Based Medicaid Waiver Program provides case management and home-delivered meal services to Medicaid eligible elderly and/or disabled recipients who desire to remain in their home setting. The Registered Nurse and Licensed Social Worker teams assess the needs of the recipients, coordinate, and manage the services. As the need for in-home services is rapidly increasing, the District has expanded its staff to accommodate those needs:

- The District employs 22 teams serving 2,411 clients – a 1% increase in clients served over the last month.
- The third Rankin County team (Rankin 3) was added in July 2015 in an effort to serve more potential clients from the waiting list.
- An additional Hinds County team will be added soon, also as an effort to serve more potential clients from the Hinds County waiting list.
- A new Medicaid Waiver office at the Canton WIN Job Center was opened in August 2015. The two Madison County teams pictured above are now at the WIN Center, along with the Case Management Director.
- All 22 Case Management teams have been issued tablet computers to conduct assessments in the homes of potential clients. These allow the teams to submit necessary documentation to the Division of Medicaid in a more efficient electronic manner.

For more information, please contact Teresa Shoto, Case Management Director, at 601-855-5914 or tburrell@cmpdd.org.

2015 DRA SEDAP Applications

In central Mississippi, the Delta Regional Authority’s (DRA) States Economic Development Assistance Program (SEDAP) is only open to public and non-profit entities in the DRA-designated counties, which are all seven of the counties represented by CMPDD. This year approximately $1,383,363 will be available in the State of Mississippi from DRA through SEDAP.

Listed below are the applications that were submitted:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community/Organization Name</th>
<th>DRA Funds</th>
<th>Matching Funds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conference of Black Mayors</td>
<td>$ 250,000</td>
<td>$ -0-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Village of Eden</td>
<td>158,425</td>
<td>14,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hinds Community College</td>
<td>1,383,363</td>
<td>10,634,471</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UMMC (Children’s Health Initiative)</td>
<td>565,166</td>
<td>-0-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UMMC (Project CRIED)</td>
<td>748,829</td>
<td>-0-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UMMC (Soul City)</td>
<td>315,080</td>
<td>-0-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yazoo County</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DRA is a federal-state partnership created by Congress, which serves a 240 county/parish area in an eight-state region. In Mississippi, 45 counties (including all 7 CMPDD counties) are eligible for funding under DRA. The purpose of DRA is to remedy severe and chronic economic distress by stimulating economic development partnerships that will have a positive impact on the region’s economy. To find out if your project is located within the DRA designated area or for more information about DRA, please visit their website [www.dra.gov](http://www.dra.gov). For additional information, please contact Mitzi Stubbs at 601-981-1511.

Hazard Mitigation Planning Update

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) defines mitigation as, “the effort to reduce loss of life and property by lessening the impact of disasters. Mitigation is taking action now—before the next disaster—to reduce human and financial consequences later (analyzing risk, reducing risk, insure against risk).”

Predicting where the next disaster will occur, and how severe its impact will be on a community is difficult. Natural disasters can occur at anytime and anyplace, and their human and financial consequences can be significant. Mitigation planning is intended to assist communities in determining their risks to natural disasters and develop an action plan to address the known risks by lessening the impact of natural disasters when they do take place. Over the next year, CMPDD will be working with several local jurisdictions to update their existing Hazard Mitigation Plans including: the municipalities of Brandon, Flora, Florence, Georgetown, Jackson, Pelahatchie, Satartia, Wesson, and Yazoo City and the counties of Copiah, Madison, Rankin, and Yazoo.

For more information concerning the mitigation planning process underway or to find out how you can be involved in the process contact Lesley Callender at 601-981-1511 or visit the mitigation page on the District’s website at [www.cmpdd.org/mitigation-planning/](http://www.cmpdd.org/mitigation-planning/).
Farmers Market Nutrition Program for Seniors

For several years, eligible seniors in Mississippi have had an opportunity to participate in a program which promotes good nutrition and supports the local economy called the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP). This program is a cooperative effort of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce, and the state’s Area Agencies on Aging, and is designed to improve the health of seniors by providing access to fresh fruits, vegetables, as well as increase domestic consumption of agricultural commodities, and specifically to increase the use and awareness of local farmers’ markets.

Scientific evidence supports the importance of good nutrition status in senior’s benefits the individual, as well as the society by decreasing health care costs, promoting independence, and improving physical functioning. Factors that increase the risk for poor nutritional status in older Americans can include limited income, presence of medical problems, use of multiple medications, lack of transportation, and social isolation. Individuals who have low income and insufficient food are at increased risk of consuming diets that do not meet the United States Dietary Guidelines, and the federal recommendations for several nutrients.

Seniors (60 years of age or older) with certain income qualifications were eligible to receive a one-time benefit of $25.00 (five - $5.00 vouchers) to shop for fruits and vegetables at an authorized local farmer’s market. Vouchers are used to buy fresh fruits and vegetables grown directly by local farmers and participants are able to redeem the vouchers at an authorized local farmer’s market through November 2015.

In FY 2015, over 700 active congregate nutrition participants in Central District received vouchers during the month of July through the SFMNP. For more information, please contact Brenda Knott at 601-981-1516.

District Hosts MML Regional Meeting

CMPDD once again hosted this year’s Mississippi Municipal League’s (MML) Regional Legislative Meeting. The meeting was held in the District’s conference room on Monday, August 17, 2015. Lunch was provided and MML presented information regarding the group’s legislative agenda for the upcoming year. The meeting was attended by over 30 local Mayors and Aldermen in addition to District staff and MML board and staff members.

Additional Planning News

Yazoo City Sign Ordinance

The District has completed a draft of the Yazoo City Sign Ordinance, which is currently under review by the city’s Planning and Zoning Board. The new ordinance updates an older ordinance and provides for signs not needing a permit, prohibits some sign types, sets sign permit fees, permits temporary signs, dealing with nonconforming and discontinued signs, and permitted permanent signs by district.

After completing its review, the Planning and Zoning Board will recommend the Sign Ordinance to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen for review and approval.

Town of Summit

The Town of Summit contacted with CMPDD to update their Comprehensive Plan, Zoning Ordinance, and Zoning Map. District staff met with the town’s planning commission and some city board members to discuss some of the needed changes. District staff plans to meet with the Planning Commission over the next few months to present its findings. After the plan has been updated, amendments to the Zoning Ordinance will be presented to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen.
Insurance Counselors with CMPDD’s Area Agency on Aging, are available to answer questions regarding Medicare problems or concerns. This is a free service offered to help individuals make the best choice possible when it comes to their Medicare benefits. To decide if you need assistance, ask yourself these questions:

- What is the cost of my present health policies?
- Is this drug plan meeting my present needs?
- Am I satisfied with the service I receive?

The Medicare open enrollment begins October 15, 2015 and ends December 7, 2015. Take advantage of the annual Open Enrollment period to make sure you have the best coverage available to meet your health needs.

For more information, or to arrange for a Counselor to visit your area, or speak to a group, contact CMPDD at 601-981-1516.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community Name</th>
<th>Project Description</th>
<th>CDBG Funds</th>
<th>Matching Funds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hinds County</td>
<td>Raymond Courthouse - Americans With Disabilities Act Improvements</td>
<td>$242,444.50</td>
<td>$243,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Mendenhall</td>
<td>Unserved sewer</td>
<td>450,000.00</td>
<td>-0-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Pelahatchie</td>
<td>Unserved Sewer and Improvements</td>
<td>521,100.00</td>
<td>702,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yazoo City</td>
<td>Americans with Disabilities Act Improvements to City Hall</td>
<td>277,874.00</td>
<td>277,874</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information or to apply for a CDBG Public Facilities program you may contact Mitzi Stubbs 601-981-1511.

**EDA News**

CMPDD thanks all those who participated in the annual Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) survey. The numerous responses have been complied and used for the 2016 Update of the 2013–2018 CEDS. You may view the updated CEDS on the CMPDD website (www.cmpdd.org) in the Publications section.

**Medicare Counseling Available at CMPDD**

Insurance Counselors with CMPDD’s Area Agency on Aging, are available to answer questions regarding Medicare problems or concerns. This is a free service offered to help individuals make the best choice possible when it comes to their Medicare benefits. To decide if you need assistance, ask yourself these questions:

- What is the cost of my present health policies?
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The Medicare open enrollment begins October 15, 2015 and ends December 7, 2015. Take advantage of the annual Open Enrollment period to make sure you have the best coverage available to meet your health needs.

For more information, or to arrange for a Counselor to visit your area, or speak to a group, contact CMPDD at 601-981-1516.

**Pelahatchie Adopts First of Its Kind Comprehensive Plan**

At their September meeting, the Pelahatchie Board of Aldermen adopted a new Comprehensive Plan developed by CMPDD. This new plan is a first of its kind in Mississippi in that it incorporates an online version with an interactive digital format that is linked to a GIS map viewer. Those viewing the plan are able to view all areas of the town and activate various map layers such as land use, zoning, infrastructure, building footprints, community services, and ward boundaries. The user may also view aerial photography as well as topographic and street maps.

The town will continually work with CMPDD to maintain and update the infrastructure layers which include water and sewer lines, water valves, towers, manholes, and fire hydrants. Wi-Fi hotspots, rental properties, and community services will also be maintained and updated.

The new online version of Pelahatchie’s Comprehensive Plan is not only a guide to growth and development, but is also an economic development tool that highlights the character and small town atmosphere that people and businesses find when coming to Pelahatchie. The new Comprehensive Plan may be viewed at www.pelahatchie.org.
**CAP Loan Update**

CMPDD prepared, submitted and received approval of a Local Government Capital Improvements (CAP) Revolving Loan application on behalf of Copiah County in the amount of $454,802 to purchase two new fire trucks. One truck will serve the created Georgetown Rating District and the other one will serve the expanding Allen Rating District.

The District has also prepared and submitted a CAP loan application on behalf of the City of Brandon in the amount of $250,091 to purchase two new fire trucks. Additionally, the City will provide $515,229 to be used towards the purchase of the new trucks.

The Local Government CAP was enacted by the State Legislature and is designed for making loans to counties or municipalities to finance capital improvements in Mississippi. Counties and municipalities are encouraged to use these loans in connection with state and federal programs, and the funds for loans are derived from the issuance of state bonds. Eligible projects include the following:

- Construction or repair of water and sewer facilities
- Construction or repair of drainage systems for industrial development
- Improvements in fire protection
- Construction of new buildings for economic development
- Renovation or repair of existing buildings for economic development purposes
- Purchase of buildings for economic development purposes
- Construction of any county or municipally-owned health care facilities, excluding any county health departments
- Construction, purchase, renovation or repair of any building to be utilized as an auditorium or convention center
- Construction of multipurpose facilities for tourism development
- Construction or repair of access roads for industrial development
- Construction or repair of railroad spurs for industrial development
- Construction, repair and railroad of parks, swimming pools and recreational and athletic facilities
- Remediation of brownfield agreement sites in accordance with Sections 49-35-1 through 47-35-25.

The cumulative maximum loan amount for any eligible local unit of government during a calendar year is $1,000,000 for tax-exempt and taxable loans. The minimum loan amount allowed per project is $30,000. The maximum CAP loan indebtedness allowed per applicant is $2,500,000 outstanding principal balance. For more information or to apply for a CAP loan, please contact Mitzi Stubbs at 601-981-1511.

**New Plan for Workforce Training Offered**

With the passage of the *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act* in 2014, the State Workforce Investment Board has spent the last year developing a strategic and unified plan for improving the state’s workforce. Entitled The Mississippi Works Smart Start Career Pathway, the plan combines all of the core and strategic partners involved in workforce development in the state. Core partners include the Mississippi Departments of Employment Security, Rehabilitation Services, Human Services, and the Community College Board. Strategic partners include the Mississippi Department of Education, Mississippi Development Authority, Mississippi Department of Corrections, and local workforce boards.

Michael Monk, CMPDD’s CEO, is a member of the State Workforce Investment Board. CMPDD also administers a local workforce board serving 17 counties in west central and southwest Mississippi. CMPDD, in its role as a local workforce area, was directly involved in the development of the new plan.

The plan offers a new strategic vision which includes the following goals:

- Provide every Mississippian the opportunity to be work or career ready and to secure his or her dream job right here at home
- Create a workforce ecosystem where all parts are connected and line up to achieve common goals
- Develop a career pathway model that integrates programs and improves efficiency in service delivery across partners, with particular focus on individuals with barriers to employment
- Strategically align programs with current and emerging high demand sectors

The plan is based on the fact that the demand for middle skill jobs that require more than a high school diploma but less than a four year degree far exceeds the number of workers available with that level of skills. Middle skill jobs currently make up 66% of available jobs but only 37% of workers have the skills necessary to fill those jobs. The plan implements pathways for low or unskilled workers to increase their occupational skills to a point they can take advantage of well-paying jobs that have a shortage of qualified workers. Additionally, it allows for employers to meet their needs for qualified, productive workers and grow the state’s economy.

Mississippi’s plan will be submitted to the federal Departments of Labor, Education, and Human Services for approval. Once approved, initial implementation will begin in the spring of 2016. The plan can be reviewed at [www.swib.ms.gov](http://www.swib.ms.gov) by clicking on the MISSISSIPPI WORKS:WIOA header.
**CMDC BULLETIN**

The membership of the Central Mississippi Development Company, Inc. (CMDC) has elected corporate officers for a one year term beginning on July 1, 2015. These officers are Ms. Wanda Cowart, President and Mr. Frank Quinn, Secretary-Treasurer.

CMDC is a commercial lender certified by the U.S. Small Business Administration and works with local banks and other financial institutions in providing debt capital for small businesses. CMDC provides fixed rate, low interest, long term financing for small businesses that saves them thousands of dollars in debt service on fixed assets. This type of financing removes the problem of variable rate financing on long term assets. Many economic forecasters are certain that interest rates will rise. These predictable interest rate increases will not negatively impact the cash flow of those businesses that have fixed rate, low interest loans through the U.S. Small Business Administration’s 504 Loan Program.

Ms. Wanda Cowart announced that the current interest rates on business loans from the CMDC remain very low. The interest rates are as follow:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TERM (YEARS)</th>
<th>INTEREST RATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 (September 2015)</td>
<td>4.23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 (September 2015)</td>
<td>4.90%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CMDC also serves as the Loan Review Board for the Central Mississippi Planning and Development District’s (CMPDD’s) managed the Minority Business Enterprise (MBELP). The interest rate on loans made to minority business owners through this program is 2.75% per annum for a term up to 15 years depending on the use of the loan proceeds. The proceeds of these loans can be used to purchase a building, equipment, inventory, and provide needed working capital.

CMDC specializes in structuring loans for minority owned businesses (MBE/WBE) and other small businesses. Bankers, commercial loan officers, real estate developers, contractors, and others interested in locking up extremely low fixed interest rates on business loans are encouraged to call Larry Anderson or Dwayne Perkins at 601-981-1625.

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**For more information about the Madison Pre-School visit www.madisonpreschool.org**

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**New Congregate Meal Site for Terry’s Seniors**

On September 22, 2015, the Hinds County Human Resource Agency held an Open House for their new congregate meal site in Terry, Mississippi. For over 20 years the congregate meal site had been located on Morgan Drive in Terry, but as of October 2015, the site will be located at Little Bethel CME Church at 206 Brown Street in Terry.

The term “nutrition site” or “congregate site” is used to describe a gathering of individuals for a nutritious mid-day meal with opportunities for fellowship and sharing. In Central Mississippi, there are 19 congregate meal sites, with over 200 daily participants. At each congregate meal site, seniors are provided five (5) nutritious meals per week at centers where they can also obtain social, rehabilitative, and supportive services. Each meal meets a minimum of thirty-three and one-third of the daily Recommended Dietary Allowances (RDAs). To become an eligible participant at a congregate site, individuals must be 60 years and older or the spouse of an eligible individual. This nutrition service and the socialization that seniors receive at the site helps them remain independent and viable citizens in their communities for as long as possible.

CMPDD, and its Area Agency on Aging, look forward to supporting the new location as part of the “Healthy and Supportive Communities” initiative. For more information on the Elderly Nutrition Program please contact Brenda Knott or Chelsea Crittle at 601-981-1516.
The District Offers Tools for Business/Market Research

The District’s GIS Department offers research and reporting services for those seeking to start or relocate a business, purchase land, or simply have a need to analyze demographic and economic data for a specific geographic area within the District’s region. Capabilities include being able to aggregate and report data using radial searches and drive time analysis or by county, city, neighborhoods and even specific addresses. A vast array of data topics is available for analysis such as Population, Demographic Categories (i.e. age, race, education, nationality, etc.), Housing, Income, Disposal Income, Retail Sales, Business Summary, Market Potential and more. The District has unique experience in using GIS tools to enable better decision making and to assist in economic growth in the region. A minimal fee will apply for most projects, which is easily outweighed by the tremendous value of the information, reports, and maps the District provides. For more information, please call or email Jay Wadsworth at 769-777-7328 or jwadsworth@cmpdd.org.