



**Flint Hills Regional Council Board of Directors**  
**Board Meeting Minutes – July 17, 2015**  
**Wamego City Hall**  
**Wamego, KS**

Present from Board of the Regional Council: **John Armbrust**, Governor's Military Council; **Pam Bales**, Alma City Councilwoman; **Ben Bennett**, Geary County Commissioner; **Robert Boyd**, Riley County Commissioner; **Scott Briggs**, Lyon County Commissioner; **Vic Enns**, Wamego City Mayor; **Honey Grant**, Grandview Plaza Vice-Mayor; **Stan Hartwich**, Pottawatomie County Commissioner; **Vern Hay**, Morris County Commissioner; **Tim Livsey**, Fort Riley; **Karen McCulloh**, City of Manhattan Mayor; **Mike Ryan**, Junction City Commissioner; and **Jimmy Thatcher**, Clay Center Mayor.

Absent from the Board: **Jon Geitz**, City of Emporia Mayor; **Jackie Hartman**, Kansas State University; **Sharon Haun**, Council Grove Councilwoman; **Joe Kormanik**, City of Alta Vista Commissioner; **MarySue Roller**, City of Woodbine Mayor; **Kevin Sorenson**, City of Reading Mayor; **Brande Studer**, Chase County Clerk; **Phil Weishaar**, City of Chapman Mayor; Emporia State University; and Leonardville/Randolph/Riley.

Present from Staff Support: **Shelley Carver**, Community Development Manager; **Unique Hiram**, Administrative Manager; and **Gary Stith**, Director.

Guests: **Jack Allston**, Pottawatomie County Economic Development Corporation Executive Director; **Karen Davis**, City of Manhattan Community Development Director; **Rick Dykstra**, Milford Lake Outdoor Alliance Director; **Connie Hall**, Geary County Convention & Visitor's Bureau Director; **Bailee Henry**, Wabaunsee County Economic Development Intern; **Tracy Henry**, Wabaunsee county Economic Development Director; **Karen Hibbard**, City of Manhattan Convention & Visitor's Bureau Director; **Kay Hutchinson**, Greater Morris County Development Executive Director; **Jennifer Laird**, Chase County Chamber Economic Development Director; **Criss Mayfield**, Human Resource Management Network Board Member; **Bruce McMillan**, City of Manhattan Business Owner; **Lyle Peterson**, Kansas Department of Commerce NE Regional Programs Manager; **Megan Umschied**, City of Wamego Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director; **Diane Wolfe**, City of Council Grove/Morris County Chamber & Tourism Director; and **David Yearout**, Junction City/Geary County/Milford Planning & Zoning Director.

**WELCOME:**

- Robert Boyd, FHRC Board President, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and invited the board members, staff and meeting guests to introduce themselves.
- Member Vic Enns, City of Wamego Mayor, welcomed the board members, staff and guests. City Manager Merle Page gave an overview about some of the projects going on throughout the city.

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**APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING'S MINUTES:**

- Member Karen McCulloh motioned for approval of the June 19, 2015 Board Meeting Minutes. Member Mike Ryan seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

**DIRECTOR'S UPDATES:**

➤ **Finance/Budget Review**

- 1) Gary Stith, Director, presented board members the bank and budget slides for the finance/budget review.
- 2) The HUD Grant was 100% project completed in June 2015; however, there is still personnel costs that will be incurred until July 31, 2015 due to close out grant work.
- 3) The bank account has a balance of \$276,988.55, which includes \$152,909.96 in MPO funding, as of 04/16/15. The FHRTA costs incurred to date is \$19,162.48; however, reimbursements can't be requested until October 2015.

➤ **Staff Activity and Updates**

- Stith briefed the board on activities that the staff has been involved with over the past few weeks.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

- **2014 Audit** – Melanie Tuttle, CPA from Reese & Novelly gave a brief overview of the 2014 Financial Audit.
  - There were no significant or adverse findings.
  - The board was advised of the reporting changes with agencies that meet the \$700,000 threshold beginning in 2015.
  
- **Tourism in the Flint Hills** – Several regional economic development professionals gave an overview of the various projects that have been going on in their respective communities.
  - Karen Hibbard, City of Manhattan Convention & Visitor's Bureau Director
  - Connie Hall, Geary County Convention & Visitor's Bureau Director
  - Megan Umscheid, City of Wamego Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director
  - Jack Allston, Pottawatomie County Economic Development Corporation Executive Director
  - Jennifer Laird, Chase County Chamber Economic Development Director
  - Diane Wolfe, City of Council Grove/Morris County Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Executive Director
  - Rick Dykstra, Milford Lake Outdoor Alliance Director

**CITY/COUNTY/PARTNER UPDATES:**

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- Fort Riley
  - Tim Livsey, Deputy Garrison Commander briefed the board on the following:
    1. The new leadership team is currently undergoing their transitional period. There will be four out of five new Brigade Commanders.
    2. The change of command will occur on August 06, 2015.
    3. 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade is scheduled for a one-year deployment to Kuwait.
  
- Governor's Military Council
  - John Armbrust, Executive Director, briefed the board on the following:
    1. The numbers for the civilian workforce downsizing should be available either September or October 2015.
  
- Kansas State University
  - Jackie Hartman was not in attendance at the meeting.
  
- Emporia State University
  - No representative was in attendance at the meeting.
  
- City of Leonardville
  - Upcoming Event(s): Hula Bowl Festival
  
- City of Manhattan
  - Member Karen McCulloh briefed the board on the following:
    1. The city is currently working with the Flint Hills Metropolitan Planning Organization (FHMPPO) and Flint Hills Regional Transit Administration (FHRTA) for funding of several sidewalk, transportation & transit projects
    2. COMP Land Use Plan (meeting with Pottawatomie County)
    3. 2016 Budget
  
- Pottawatomie County
  - FHRC Board Treasurer Stan Hartwich briefed the board on the following:
    1. Plans are underway for several road improvement projects
    2. Highway 24 Corridor Study
    3. \$2M Excel Road Project
  
- City of Randolph
  - Upcoming Event(s): July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration and Car Shows
  
- Riley County
  - FHRC Board President Robert Boyd briefed the board on the following:
    1. Completion of the 2016 Budget
    2. EMS Facility
    3. Courthouse Security
  
- City of Riley
  - Water Project is underway
  
- City of Wamego
  - Member Vic Enns briefed the board on the following:
    1. New Grain Facility

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2. New Water Tower (Oz Balloon Shaped)

**ADDITIONAL ITEMS / ADJOURNMENT:**

- The Annual FHRC Board Meeting Retreat will be held on August 21, 2015 at the Volland Store in Alma, KS.
- FHRC Board President Robert Boyd motioned for the meeting to be officially adjourned at 12:20 p.m. Member Karen McCulloh seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.