

Flint Hills Regional Council Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes—April 23, 2010
Held at City Hall, 2nd Floor Conference Room, Wamego, KS

Present from Board of the Regional Council: **Ben Bennett** Geary County Commissioner; **Stan Hartwich**, Pottawatomie County Commissioner; **Vern Hay**, Morris County Commissioner; **Terry Heldstab**, Junction City Commissioner; **Debi Schwerdtfeger**, Council Grove City Council; **David Shover**, Riley City Council; **Vic Enns**, Wamego City Commissioner; **Karen McCulloh**, Riley County Commissioner; **Linda Hoeffner**, Fort Riley; **John Armbrust**, Gov's Military Council.

Present from Regional Council Membership:

Present from Staff Support: **Brian Williams**, City of Manhattan; **Kristina Hyland**, Regional Growth Coordinator.

Guests: **Bob Strawn**, City of Manhattan; **Bruce McMillan**, Flint Hills Regional Task Force; **David Yearout**, Junction City/Geary County Planning; **Abby Dechant**, Wabaunsee County; **Rodger Baedeker**, Wabaunsee County; **Merl Page**, City of Wamego; **Todd Moore**, Junction City Chamber; **Sarah Talley**, Junction City Chamber; **Phil LeBlanc**, KMAN; **Mark Portell**, Wamego Times; **Beth Day**, Smoke Signal/Daily Union.

Welcome and Approval of Minutes from Apr. 9 – Vice President Heldstab called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Bob Strawn mentioned that Member Sherow was unable to attend and asked if as Member Sherow's proxy he was allowed to vote. Having consulted the Bylaws, proxy voting is not allowed. Member Bennett moved approval of the April 9, 2010 minutes as submitted; Member Shover seconded the motion, and it carried 8 yeas, 2 absent (Sherow & Brown).

Informational Updates –

Executive Director Contract has been accepted and signed by Ty Warner. Waiting to get all the necessary signatures. His start date will be May 17 to be in town by June 1.

Bank Account has been opened. This is the last step before being eligible to receive OEA funding directly. Still need officers signatures, but will have those by Monday.

OEA Possibilities – as discussed at the April 9 meeting, we have verified with the OEA that we can receive an advance on most of the funds. Doing this will allow the office to cover payroll and other monthly expenses. There is still some question as to the details of transferring the grants funds to the FHRC will work. We will be meeting with the OEA next week on that question.

Consultant's Costs for Executive Director Process – Discussion: The original request to the City of Manhattan was to contract with Bill Dodge for \$6000 plus not more than \$1000 in actual travel costs. For various reasons having to do with the timing of the interviews to overlap with March Madness in Kansas City, Bill's actual travel costs

were \$1569. The Flint Hills Regional Council Accounts Detail shows that because of costs savings in other areas (candidate visits and executive director position postings) there is room to cover the additional \$569 in costs. Member Hay moved to cover Bill Dodge's additional costs as Mr. Dodge's help was invaluable to the process. Member Bennett seconded. Motion passed unanimously, 8 yeas, 2 absent.

EDCs Funding Proposal – Discussion: Because of the FHRC's legal standing as a non-profit, we have asked our legal counsel if we can actively work towards the suggested arrangement in the proposal (the proposal includes new legislation at the state level). Legal counsel is still researching that for us. However, he believes the council is ok in discussing the concept and in helping the local EDCs with the logistics of getting together to discuss the proposal. There is some hesitation in acting on the proposal at this time. EDC and Planning folks present felt that though the proposal was a non traditional approach it allows local and regional help for tax credits and has merits for study and review. Board would like to hear the legal counsel's advice first. Board would also like the advice of the Executive Director before moving on the proposal. Item was tabled.

Army Community Covenant – Discussion: Fort Riley has signed an Army Community Covenant with 8 regional counties. Because of the Smoky Hill range, they would like to add Saline County to the covenant. The original signing was a large gathering held on post. The Secretary of the Army was there as were many legislators and regional elected officials. As Fort Riley looks at adding Saline County, they would like to invite the FHRC to help with the logistics of the signing ceremony. The idea brought forward was instead of having one huge ceremony, to take the ceremony to the regional county partners by holding a shorter ceremony as part of a celebration already being held in the county. The details of which celebrations in each county and when the master covenant would be signed are not worked out yet. The process would not be branded as FHRC coming to your county to sign the Army Community Covenant. The idea is simply that the FHRC be the contact point for each of the 9 counties and whoever would need to be involved from the celebration and help with the logistics giving the FHRC. Junction City Chamber offered to help with any logistics should the FHRC take up this offer. Board would like to consult with the Executive Director on the details and concept of this proposal. Item was tabled.

Discussion on Rotating Location of Board Meeting – Discussion: Board noted pros and cons to rotating vs. holding Board meeting in a single location. Having a single location creates less confusion, while rotating allows members to get to know the area better as they visit the other members' venues. It was decided that while the weather was good and traveling easier changing location was helpful, especially as the Board was newly formed and that those members who had not hosted should be offered a chance to host. Council Grove volunteered to host the May 21 Board meeting. It was suggested that during the colder/winter months holding the Board meeting on Fort Riley in Bldg 500 each month might be a good alternative. At some point Fort Riley would like the FHRC to take over the CPCs on post. A smaller city

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would like to host when the rotation gets back to Riley County. Board would like to see a suggested list of rotation at the May meeting. Meeting place will be determined on a meeting by meeting basis until further notice. Item was tabled.

Discussion on Membership Assessment for 2011 – Discussion: Because many members are working on their 2011 budgets already and membership assessment level is set by the Board, it is likely time to select the level of membership assessment for 2011. All discussions in the fall indicated that \$.50 per capita was likely to be the assessment in 2011. However, based on discussions of cash flows issues from the April 9, 2010 Board meeting, a table has been supplied showing \$.50, \$.65, \$.75, \$.85, \$.95 and \$1.00 per capita. Bumping the assessment for 2011 to \$.65 per capita would nearly eliminate the cash flow issue and doubles the available cash. However, many members feel that this increase would be difficult to pass through their various commissions and councils. Board would like to see a plan from the Executive Director outlining how the cash flow issue can be resolved in the next 3-4 years. It was suggested that the FHRC must earn the increase in member assessment. Member Hartwich moved to set the 2011 membership assessment at \$.50 as this is what was discussed already with all the commissions and councils. Member Hay seconded. Motion passed unanimously, 8 yeas, 2 absent.

Other Business – Schools on post will be visited by OEA – a technical site visit – and they have invited Sharon to join the visit next Wednesday April 28. On post schools over capacity and overcrowded. May 17 – senior leadership will visit Fort Riley in conjunction with the school visit. Fort Riley would like Ty Warner there for that visit if possible.

May Meeting – will be May 21, 2010 in Council Grove location TBA.

Motion to adjourn – Member McCulloh moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Member Schwerdtfeger. Passed 8 yeas, 2 absent.

Adjourned at 9:53am