

**Flint Hills Regional Council Board of Directors
Board Meeting Minutes – April 26, 2013
Riley County Public Works Building**

Present from Board of the Regional Council: **John Armbrust**, Governor’s Military Council; **Cecil Aska**, Junction City Commissioner; **Ben Bennett**, Geary County Commissioner; **Robert Boyd**, Riley County; **Dan Deiter**, Alma City Councilman; **Vic Enns**, Wamego City Commissioner; **Honey Grant**, Grandview Plaza Vice-Mayor; **Vern Hay**, Morris County Commissioner; **Linda Hoeffner**, Fort Riley; **Rich Jankovich**, Manhattan City Commissioner; **Galen Johnson**, Dwight City Mayor; **Joe Kormanik**, Alta Vista Commissioner; **John Ray**, Abilene City Commissioner; **Debi Schwerdtfeger**, Council Grove Councilwoman; **David Shover II**, Riley City Mayor; and **Phil Weishaar**, Chapman Mayor.

Absent from the Board: **Jackie Hartman**, Kansas State University; **Stan Hartwich**, Pottawatomie County Commissioner; **Keith Kahnt**, White City Councilman; **MarySue Roller**, City of Woodbine Councilwoman; and **Jimmy Thatcher**, Clay Center Mayor.

Present from the Greater Regional Council Membership: *No additional members present.*

Present from Staff Support: **Gary Stith AICP**, Interim Executive Director; **Unique Hiram M.S.**, Administrative Manager; **Jeff Adams PhD**, Regional Planner; and **Scott Moore**, Community Liaison.

Guests: **Debbie Adcock**, Council Grove Chamber of Commerce Director; **Abby Amick**, Wabaunsee County EcoDevo Director; **Suzan Barnes**, Cottonwood Falls; **Lyle Butler**, President/CEO, Manhattan Chamber of Commerce; **Brandy Carpenter**, Asst. to President, Manhattan Chamber of Commerce; **Bob Cole**, Pottawatomie County EcoDevo; **Kay Hutchinson**, Greater Morris County Economic Development; **Susan Jagerson**, Junction City Chamber of Commerce; **Lauren Palmer**, Assistant City Manager (City of Manhattan); **John Pagen**, Economic Development Director Manhattan Chamber of Commerce; **Lyle Peterson**, Kansas Department of Commerce; **Robert Reece**, Pottawatomie County Administrator; **Julie Roller**, Pottawatomie County EcoDevo; **Angie Schwerdtfeger**, TCT Public Relations Director; and **Monty Wedel**, Riley County Planning & Development Director.

MEETING START TIME:

Vern Hay, FHRC President, called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM

Welcome: Host, Dave Lewis, Riley County Commissioner, welcomes everyone to the Riley County Public Works campus, twenty to thirty years old, renewable, green energy, ATA bus barn is at this facility, welcome and tour follows;

Approval of Minutes:

Hay: Any additions or corrections? Found one minor error, Draft of March 1st, Economic Impact, \$1.2B not M, on page 4

ACTION: Grant, motion to approve, with noted revision, seconded by Shover, unanimously approved.

Financial Report:

If you have any questions, Unique can get back to you, no motion required.

Legislative Committee report: Bennett: Everyone's on vacation; city and county administrators are looking at some tough times ahead. There are concerns over what is happening in DC and what is happening at Fort Riley. Next year's work a little harder. Now is the time to have a face-to-face with legislators if you get the opportunity.

Ennes: \$200 M for NBAF?

Bennett: not sure.

Lewis: have the funds for initial construction phase of power-plant, \$714M in President's budget, Now 1.5 billion projected total for project. Just continuation for local match asked of state.

Hay: Linda will give us an update on the Fort.

Hoeffner: Listening Meetings were helpful, showed support. Troop strength around 17,000. First deployments starting around early June. Colonel Clark change of command scheduled for July 2nd. Still planning on 14-day furlough. No other guidance but decreases possible of 0-7 days. Have to have 30-day notice. First scheduled to take place on June 30.

Hay: What is immediate impact on workers?

Hoeffner: 400 contractors, almost fired all 400 last week. Large contract is on day-by-day notice. Received funding to get through rest of the year and into next fiscal year. Not reducing their side of the contract.

Hay: Listening meeting at Fort was great. Presence and information provided was great.

Armbrust: The charts were developed about 12 hours before meeting. Interesting process. Does everyone know why listening process took place?

Others: No

Armbrust: There are several factors that play into the Army's decision-making process such as DOD budget reductions, sequestration and the fact that we are coming out of two wars. Per the Budget Control Act of 2011, DOD is required to reduce its budget by nearly \$500 billion over a 10 year period beginning in FY 2013. This reduction is required independent of sequestration. Should sequestration take place, DOD will be required to take additional budget cuts, which could be as much as an additional \$500B over those same 10 years if full sequestration takes place. Additionally, the Army is reducing its size from 570,000 soldiers to 490,000 soldiers over the same period. This reduction is a result of the budget reductions discussed above, the fact that we are coming out of two wars, and the new DOD security strategy. This 80,000-soldier reduction is expected to result in at least 8 fewer BCT, two of which will come out of Europe. In preparing of these decisions, the Army is analyzing the impact of growth scenario and reduction scenario at 21 of its bases, to include Ft. Riley. In analyzing the impacts of these scenarios, they review not only environmental impacts but also impacts on the local communities. The Listening Session was to ensure the Army understood the true partnership that has been formed by the Fort and the local communities as well as the investments made by the community partners.

Adams: is your presentation available for website?

Armbrust: Public document, we'll give it to you. We will say, we have done more or as much as other installations. Trying to gain KC 46 Tanker. Competing with other Kansas installation. Governor's Military Council trip to DC is scheduled for June 4-6. May know decision on Fort Riley by then. Association of Defense Communities Summit in DC is June 10-14. Continuing shared services discussions with communities. Legal contracting needs protection from top so nobody goes to jail for contracting or setbacks. Wanting to go out in front under new law. Crucial to working together between Forts and communities.

Hay: Shared Services has real possibilities.

Armbrust: We need top cover for this process so contractors will not go to jail.

Hay: Lyle Butler will provide a report from the Leadership Retreat.

Adams: we can switch this slot with the economic development, because Lyle isn't here yet.

Flint Hills Economic Development District formation process: Jeff Adams, Regional Planner:
Full presentation available on the flinthillsregion.org website.

Armbrust: how many communities considered rural?

Jeff: if you are outside of Metropolitan Statistical Area.

John: in Pottawatomie there is a micro is that rural?

Adams: yes it is

Armbrust: do we have economically distressed areas? How is that defined?

Jeff: there are three measures, income, unemployment and urgent need. Lyon county is the only county that qualifies within the region by one of the first two standards. Yet, the third, need, is more vague, which falls to more subjective determination. If one area is distressed, it opens the region up to special funding. If someone loses an important employer to economy, that could be considered distressed. Since the area is not an accepted EDD, currently, then not in position for funding. Why do this? The CEDS is an opportunity to give the region a plan/platform for future growth and a measure of performance against other regions; even those outside of the state. Do it because it's in growth plan and not simply because of distress.

Cole: where is Lyon County within this discussion

Adams: still in meetings and open to EDD.

Leadership Retreat Report: Lyle Butler CEO of Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce.

Full presentation available on the flinthillsregion.org website.

Take 30 seconds on leader retreat. Done once a year and began as a chance to get away from community and look back on issues facing Manhattan/riley county area. 5-6 years ago broadened leaders retreat, invited Junction City and Geary County, then, last year, Wamego and Pottawatomie. Three counties have been meeting for a while and helped form this council. Over time we have continued to meet and deal with different subjects. Counties were evaluated and priorities set. Since the Retreat, the staff of the Council and Chambers have been working on priorities. Takeaways: workforce development, working with council on labor study and attraction of certain businesses. Labor study identifies workforce issues within counties and within region. Next topic is developing a regional brand and marketing strategy. There is continued interest in developing a regional brand, to work with individual strategies. We will continue to meet and discuss these strategies. Another topic is building trust within the region and developing better communication. How to better communicate, find a way to have businesses in Manhattan connect to others Chambers with discounted pricing to join multiple chambers, hopefully growing connections. Next is regional transportation, where we are all in support of the MPO and continue to communicate and have input from the Chambers. Traffic of leaving and coming in region for work connects transportation to economy. Next is regional inventory of commercial and industrial land. A regional website to help inventory all of the region's separate inventories. Next, the Fieldhouse project, local group planning on indoor athletic building, doing a feasibility study, which has prompted other cities to review recreational facilities. What are recreational opportunities? Next, FH regional welcome center, is still being investigated. Next, target industries for recruitment, what are the strengths and weaknesses, recruitment and development strategies to bring the best industries to our area? Next, support of improvements to K-99, for economic development and safety. Caterpillar has issues moving inventory to interstate, which has a regional impact. Next, regional economic development district, the FHEDD, we need to get this up to speed. All pieces interconnected on all these projects and issues, goal is January 2014 to give progress reports on all projects and issues. Will answer any questions.

Enns: can this tie into shared services with military?

Armbrust: this can connect to that and tie into what we are doing.

Bennett: sharing and openness is important to this entire project. We need to work on this to accomplish goals. We are all in this together but we need trust.

Jankovich: open up retreat to council itself. Invite this group to be apart of retreat.

Butler: it's being considered and it's important that we do communicate together, staffs do get big picture and now everyone else needs to get on board.

Hay: let s take a break

Economic Development District Presentations:

Each Presentation can be found on flinthillsfrontiers.org website.

John Pagan, City of Manhattan

Susan Jagerson, Junction City/Geary County

Bob Cole, Pottawatomie County

Abby Amick, Wabaunsee County

Debi Adcock & Kay Hutchinson, Council Grove/Morris County

Suzan Barnes, Chase County

Director's Report: Gary Stith, the MPO is interviewing for Transportation Planner position and should have a decision by the next meeting. Jeff Adams and Scott Moore are certified as Community Development Block Grant administrators and have now, taken a class for CDBG grant application writing. Jeff Adams has secured Capacity Building Technical Assistance, I estimate to be worth about \$10,000, for our FHEDD CEDS work, through National Association of Development Organizations.

Other Business & Next Meeting:

Hay: Next meeting will be May 24, in Woodbine.

Meeting Adjournment:

ACTION: Shover motioned to Adjourn, Bennett seconded, unanimously approved at 12:10PM.