



**Flint Hills Regional Council Board of Directors**  
**Board Meeting Minutes – March 18, 2016**  
**Grandview Plaza, 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 Commissioner; **Honey Grant**, Grandview Plaza Vice-Mayor; **Steve Harmon**, City of Emporia Commissioner; **Jackie Hartman**, Kansas State University; **Sharon Haun**, Council Grove Councilwoman; **Vern Hay**, Morris County Commissioner; **Galen Johnson**, City of Dwight Mayor; **Jennifer Laird**, Chase County; **Karen McCulloh**, City of Manhattan Mayor; **Dee McKee** (*for Stan Hartwich*), Pottawatomie County Commissioner; **Mike Ryan**, City of Junction City Commissioner; **Jimmy Thatcher**, City of Clay Center Mayor; and **Phil Weishaar**, City of Chapman Mayor.

Absent from the Board: **Joe Kormanik**, City of Alta Vista Commissioner; **Tim Livsey**, Fort Riley Deputy Garrison Commander; **MarySue Roller**, City of Woodbine Mayor; **Kevin Sorenson**, City of Reading Mayor; and **James E. Williams**, Emporia State University.

Present from Staff Support: **Jennifer Jordan**, Regional Planning Manager; **Unique Hiram**, Administrative Manager; and **Stephanie Watts**, Transportation Planning Manager.

Guests: **LTC Lawrence Baker**, Fort Riley; **Jeff Blixt**, City of Chapman Councilman; **COL Andrew Cole Jr.**, Fort Riley Garrison Commander; **Karen Davis**, City of Manhattan Community Development Director; **Kay Hutchinson**, Greater Morris County Development Corporation Executive Director; **Jeff Lynch**, City of Emporia Community Development Coordinator; **Criss Mayfield**, City of Manhattan Chamber Workforce Advisory Board Chair; **Bruce McMillan**, CEDS Chair; **Greg Miller**, City of Junction City Chamber Economic Development Director; **Linda Morse**, City of Manhattan Commissioner; **Ron Trewyn**, Kansas State University NBAF Liaison; **Monty Wedel**, Riley County Planning & Development Director; and **David Yearout**, Junction City/Geary County Planning 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 & Board Secretary Honey Grant, Grandview Plaza Vice-Mayor, welcomed the board, staff and guests. Highlighted the new city building and work being done in regards to the Splash Park.

## **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:**

- Member Phil Weishaar motioned for the February 19, 2016 meeting minutes to be approved as presented. Member Jennifer Laird seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

## **DIRECTOR'S UPDATES:**

### Staff Activities & Updates

- Status Report on OEA Force Reduction Grant.
  - Grant Award is \$294,653 with \$240,000 allocated to the consultant work completed by Matrix Design Group out of Colorado.
  - Grant Award Period: December 1, 2015 – November 1, 2016
- Status Report on OEA Joint Land Use Study
  - Grant Award will be \$276,000 with a local match of \$27,600. There is a \$230,699 allocation that will be utilized for work to be completed by a consulting firm. The staff-based TAC and Policy Committee will be working to select the consulting firm.
  - Grant Award Period: April 1, 2016 – July 31, 2017
- The City of Onaga has decided to join the council and have signed a \$21,000 contract to have work completed by staff on their Comprehensive Plan.
- Flint Hills Regional Transit Administration has submitted a grant application for improving transit service planning for seniors and disabled citizens in the region.
- Kickoff meetings will be held for the economic impact analysis and the Onaga comprehensive plan.
- Contractual assistance was given to Pottawatomie County Economic Development Corporation for research on financing development projects.
- Work continues on the Grandview Plaza Splash Park and design concepts for City Park.

### Finance/Budget Review

- The bank balance, as of March 16, 2016, is \$234,682.16 with \$116,486.06 belonging to the FHMPO.
- FHRTA expenses currently total \$99,526.11 with KDOT having reimbursed \$38,586.82 to date. The new FTA system has gone online; however, request for reimbursements have not been authorized at this time.

## **PRESENTATIONS:**

- **National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF)**
  - Ron Trewyn, Kansas State University NBAF Liaison, gave an update on the facility construction from conception to date.
  - Shared information about projected local impact – 2035 Goal: 5,000 jobs with a Payroll/Operating Budget of \$450M.
  - Stressed the importance of public/private partnerships.
  - NBAF Website: [www.k-state.edu/nbaf](http://www.k-state.edu/nbaf)

➤ **What's Happening at Fort Riley**

- COL Andrew Cole Jr., Fort Riley Garrison Commander, gave an update on the highlights from the most recent economic impact analysis (2010-2015).
  1. FY15 – Fort Riley's economic impact was \$1.5B.
  2. Built \$1.8B in training facilities and infrastructure.
  3. Train approximately 22,000 reserve partners annually (federal, state and local agencies).
  4. Partnership agreements with Kansas State University and Kansas University.
  5. Hosting "Housing the Force 2016" Conference (08/30/16 – 09/02/16).

➤ **Flint Hills Transportation Plan for the MPO Area**

- Stephanie Watts, FHMPO Transportation Planning Manager, gave an update on the Flint Hills Transportation Plan.
  1. This is a long-range blueprint for the region's multimodal (vehicle, bicycle, pedestrian and transit) transportation network and guides investments to support the organization's transportation goals through 2040. There was a booklet handout provided with detailed information about the current plan.

**CITY/COUNCIL/PARTNER UPDATES:**

- Fort Riley - Tim Livsey, Deputy Garrison Commander, was not in attendance at the meeting. There were no further updates outside of the meeting's presentation.
- Kansas State University - Jackie Hartman, Office of the President, reported on the following:
  - There are a number of construction projects underway at the university – engineering building (officially opened), soccer field, Seaton Hall (remodeling), Vet Med (Diagnosis Center) and Mid-Campus Drive will be closed to driving.
  - Expecting a flat enrollment
  - 2025 Strategic Plan <http://www.k-state.edu/2025/>
- Governor's Military Council – John Armbrust, Executive Director, reported the following:
  - The Flint Hills Region was formerly presented the Associate of Defense Communities Award in Washington, DC (June 2016).
  - Last day serving in current role will be April 30th.
  - Stressed the importance of serving as advocates and ensuring that the value of Fort Riley is high to the Department of the Army.
- Emporia State University - John E. Williams was not in attendance at the meeting.
- City of Dwight – Member Galen Johnson, City Mayor, reported on the following:
  - New City Office / New Recycling Shed in Morris County
  - New Water System (some issues)
  - Fiber Optics & High Speed Internet

- City of Manhattan – Member Karen McCulloh, City Mayor, reported on the following:
  - Clemson University Visit.
  - April 10<sup>th</sup> Selfie Challenge.
  - Studies (Parks & Recreation / Transportation).
- Pottawatomie County – Member Alternate Dee McKee, County Commissioner, reported on the following:
  - Drainage Study in Blue Township.
  - Excel Road Improvements.
  - Tulip Festival (April 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>).
- City of Riley – Member & Board President Robert Boyd, County Commissioner, reported on the following:
  - New City Office / Dealing with issues from stray dogs and cleanup.
- Riley County – Member & Board President Robert Boyd, County Commissioner, reported on the following:
  - One new fire station and two more in the works.
  - Partnering with the City of Manhattan to house Emergency Management System.
  - Partnering with Fort Riley on being able to utilize the firing range.
- City of Wamego – Member Vic Enns, City Mayor, reported on the following:
  - Power Plant passed emissions tests.
  - July 4<sup>th</sup> Festival will be the 150<sup>th</sup> celebration.
  - Voting has begun for the 15 best small towns in Kansas – Wamego & Chapman are on the ballot.

#### **ADDITIONAL ITEMS:**

- Proposed Seventh Amendment to the Bylaws – “6.4 (d) Notice of Meetings to the Public. It is the policy of the Council to be transparent and accountable to the public. All meetings of the Council, with the exception of the Annual Retreat, are open to the public. Agendas for the meetings will be posted on the Council’s website and distributed to the media throughout the region. At least twice a year the agenda will be published in a newspaper within the region.”
- The proposed amendment was made by Director Gary Stith in order to satisfy EDA Federal Requirements about public meetings.
- The board actions include the following:
  - March 18, 2016 – Review proposed amendment language
  - April 15, 2016 – Vote to officially approved proposed amendment

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

- The April 15, 2016 meeting will be held in Junction City, KS. The location is to be determined.
- FHRC Board President Robert Boyd adjourned the meeting at 12:33 p.m.