



**Flint Hills Regional Council Board of Directors  
Meeting Minutes of October 16, 2015**

**Flint Hills Regional Council Board of Directors  
Board Meeting Minutes – October 16, 2015  
Lyon County Fairgrounds (Anderson Building)  
Emporia, KS**

Present from Board of the Regional 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; **Sharon Haun**, Council Grove Councilwoman; **Tim Livsey**, Fort Riley; **Linda Morse** (*for Karen McCulloh*), City of Manhattan Commissioner; **Mike Ryan**, Junction City Commissioner; **Jimmy Thatcher**, Clay Center Mayor; **Phil Weishaar**, City of Chapman Mayor; and **James E. Williams**, Emporia State University.

Absent from the Board: **John Armbrust**, Governor's Military Council; **Jon Geitz**, City of Emporia Mayor; **Honey Grant**, Grandview Plaza Vice-Mayor; **Jackie Hartman**, Kansas State University; **Stan Hartwich**, Pottawatomie County Commissioner; **Vern Hay**, Morris County Commissioner; **Joe Kormanik**, City of Alta Vista Commissioner; **MarySue Roller**, City of Woodbine Mayor; **Kevin Sorenson**, City of Reading Mayor; Chase County; and Leonardville/Randolph/Riley.

Present from Staff Support: **Makenzie Deines**, Intern; **Unique Hiram**, Administrative Manager; and **Gary Stith**, Director.

Guests: **Karen Davis**, City of Manhattan Community Development Director; **Susan Fowler**, Information Management Consultant; **John Giffin**, Emporia Gazette Reporter; **Karen Hibbard**, City of Manhattan Convention & Visitors Bureau Director; **Kay Hutchinson**, Greater Morris County Development Executive Director; **Jennifer Laird**, Chase County Chamber Economic Development Director; **Kelley Paskow**, Fort Riley Plans, Action & Integration Office; **Dan Slater**, Lyon County Commissioner; **Sue Stringer**, KDWPT Kansas Byways & Agritourism Manager; and **Monty Wedel**, Riley County Planning & Development Director.

**WELCOME:**

- Robert Boyd, FHRC Board President, called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m. and invited the board members, staff and meeting guests to introduce themselves.
- Vice President Scott Briggs, Lyon County Commissioner, welcomed the board members, staff and guests.

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

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- Member Pam Bales motioned for approval of the September 18, 2015 Board Meeting Minutes. Member Phil Weishaar seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

**DIRECTOR'S UPDATES:**

- **Finance/Budget Review**

- 1) Gary Stith, Director, presented board members with the bank slide for the finance/budget review.
- 2) The bank account has a balance of \$287,408.98, which includes \$112,316.38 in MPO funding, as of 10/13/15. The FHRTA costs incurred to date are \$50,186.63.

- **Staff Activity and Updates**

- Stith briefed the board on activities that the staff has been involved with over the past few weeks, which included progress of OEA Reduction in Force Grant and JLUS. The City of Onaga has inquired about the organization possibly completing a Comprehensive Plan for them. An electronic invitation was sent out to the legislators for the November 2015 meeting in Alma, KS.
- New Hire Jennifer Jordan will begin her employment on 11/02/15 with the organization as the Regional Planning Manager.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

- **Kansas Scenic Byways** - Sue Stringer, KDWPT Kansas Byways & Agritoursim Manager, gave a brief overview of the Kansas Scenic Byways.
  - Four Main Objectives – Preserve, Protect, Interpret and Promote
  - There are 11 Byways in the state with two (2) of them being National Scenic Byways
  - \$6M in Grants to update kiosks and make them more educational based
  - No commercial billboards are allowed once a byway is established
  - Visitation reached \$33.7M (according to 2013 statistics)
  - Day Travelers make up 60% of the traffic on the Kansas Scenic Byways
- **Native Stone Scenic Byway** – Marsha Ericson & Terry Dykstra, NSSB Committee, gave a brief overview of the Native Stone Scenic Byway.
  - Extensions of the Native Stone Scenic Byway are proposed from K-18 to the County Line and K-18 to 177 to I70
  - There is a public information meeting scheduled on 10/20/15 at 7:00 p.m. and the location is the Zeandale Community Center.
- **Flint Hills National Scenic Byway** – Kay Hutchinson, FHNSB Committee, gave a brief overview about the Flint Hills National Scenic Byway.

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- There are 24 nationally recognized historic sites
- Possible extension to I-70, north of Council Grove

**CITY/COUNTY/PARTNER UPDATES:**

- Fort Riley
  - Kelley Paskow, Plans, Action & Integration Office, briefed the board on the following:
    1. Commanding General Grigsby is appreciative of meeting with the FHRC.
    2. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade deploying to the Middle East.
    3. Division Artillery is back at the installation.
    4. Sustainment Brigade is still deployed.
    5. The installation is keeping an eye on the federal budget; Congress approved a temporary measure that extends through 12/11/15.
- Governor's Military Council
  - John Armbrust was not in attendance at the meeting.
- Kansas State University
  - Jackie Hartman was not in attendance at the meeting.
- Emporia State University
  - James E. Williams, Vice President Division of Student Affairs, briefed the board on the following:
    1. There is a new Dean for the School of Business that was hired.
    2. The institution completed on campus interviews for its 17<sup>th</sup> President
    3. Scholarship Programs are being funded by the partnership between the county, city and foundation.
    4. Forensic Science is a new Masters Degree program that will be introduced on campus; there are currently 24 potential students on the wait list.
- City of Alta Vista
  - Member Joe Kormanik was not in attendance at the meeting.
- Chase County
  - Jennifer Laird, Chase County Economic Development Director briefed the board on the following:
    1. The county was ranked first in generosity/giving with funds totaling \$1.7M.
    2. Ad Astra Food & Drink will be re-opening (Strong City, KS) near Thanksgiving after being purchased by new owners.
- City of Council Grove
  - Member Sharon Haun briefed the board on the following:
    1. There is a bid out for Riverwalk Trail, which will double its length and connect to the Flint Hills Nature Trail.

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2. The Flint Hills Regional Council is currently completing work on the city's COMP Plan.
  3. There are plans for an amphitheater being constructed.
- City of Emporia
    - Member Jon Geitz was not in attendance at the meeting.
  - Lyon County
    - Vice President Scott Briggs briefed the board on the following:
      1. There is a partnership between the county, city and Emporia State University for funding the hospital.
      2. Kansas State HS Rodeo will be held on 10/16/15 at Lyon County Fairgrounds.

**ADDITIONAL ITEMS / ADJOURNMENT:**

- On October 19, 2015, there will be a groundbreaking for the WWII Monument in Wamego, KS. It was privately funded and is constructed of black granite.
- A vote will be taken at the November 2015 board meeting to officially invite the City of Onaga to become an FHRC Member.
- There was a brief discussion led by Member Pam Bales about the updates to the FHRC Bylaws. This item will be placed on the November 2015 agenda for an official vote because the board did not have a quorum present at this point in the meeting.
- The November 20, 2015 meeting will be held at Alma Community Center, 244 East 11<sup>th</sup>, Alma, Kansas 66401.
- Member Phil Weishaar motioned for the meeting to be officially adjourned at 11:50 a.m. Member Jimmy Thatcher seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.