



**Flint Hills Regional Council Board of Directors**  
**Board Meeting Minutes – September 18, 2015**  
**C. L. Hoover Opera House**  
**Junction City, 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; **Honey Grant**, Grandview Plaza Vice-Mayor; **Stan Hartwich**, Pottawatomie County Commissioner; **Sharon Haun**, Council Grove Councilwoman; **Vern Hay**, Morris County Commissioner; **Tim Livsey**, Fort Riley; **Karen McCulloh**, City of Manhattan Mayor; **Mike Ryan**, Junction City Commissioner; **Jimmy Thatcher**, Clay Center Mayor; and **Phil Weishaar**, City of Chapman Mayor.

Absent from the Board: **Vic Enns**, Wamego City Mayor; **Jon Geitz**, City of Emporia Mayor; **Jackie Hartman**, Kansas State University; **Joe Kormanik**, City of Alta Vista Commissioner; **MarySue Roller**, City of Woodbine Mayor; **Kevin Sorenson**, City of Reading Mayor; **Brande Studer**, Chase County Clerk; 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: **Cheryl Beatty**, Junction City Assistant Manager & Finance Director; **Krista Blaisdell**, Junction City Prosecutor; **Allen Dinkel**, City Manager (Junction City); **Ron Fehr**, City Manager (Manhattan); **Kevin Griffith**, 1420 KJCK News Reporter; **Wayne Grigsby Jr.**, Commanding General 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division & Fort Riley; **Kay Hutchinson**, Greater Morris County Development Executive Director; **Jennifer Laird**, Chase County Chamber Economic Development Director; **Edward Lazear**, Junction City Parks & Recreation; **Greg Miller**, Junction City Chamber Economic Development Director; **Kelley Paskow**, Fort Riley Plans, Action & Integration Office; **Kevin Royse**, Junction City Fire Chief; **Traci Scott**, Fort Riley Regional Liaison Officer; **Mike Sellman**, Junction City Daily Union News Reporter; **Representative Susie Swanson**, Kansas House of Representatives (District 64); **Dawn Van Horn**, Junction City Human Resources 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 Mike Ryan, City, Junction City Commissioner, welcomed the board members, staff and guests.

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**Commanding General, 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division & Fort Riley** – Major General Wayne Grigsby, Jr., Commanding General 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division & Fort Riley, gave a brief overview of his outlook on the partnerships/support between the installation and surrounding communities.

- Stressed the important of community as well the three important missions of the installation that include training/leadership development, maintaining equipment and caring for the soldiers, airmen and families.
- In 2017, 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division will be celebrating 100 years and the commanding general would like the Flint Hills Regional Council to be involved with the celebration.
- Intergovernmental Partnerships – assistance is needed in telling the story nationally.
- The Soldier For Life Program and War Transition Unit have been two major components on the installation that have been assisting soldiers and their families.

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

- Member Pam Bales motioned for approval of the July 17, 2015 Board Meeting Minutes. Member Karen McCulloh 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 \$309,052.09, which includes \$106,268.53 in MPO funding, as of 09/16/15. The FHRTA costs incurred to date is \$43,1351.42; 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. He reported on a meeting with David Kennedy, Project Manager with the Office of Economic Adjustment. There are two OEA grants that we are going to pursue. A Reduction in Forces Grant that will evaluate the impact on the region of reductions at Fort Riley. A Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) grant to update the 2005 JLUS.

**PRESENTATION:**

- **Review of the FHRC Mission Statement** -- Shelley Carver lead a review of the mission statement for the FHRC that was started at the annual retreat in August. The Board approved the following mission statement:

**The Flint Hills Regional Council will enhance economic viability and improve quality of life through regional collaboration in the Flint Hills.**

- **Grant Administration/FHRC Mission Statement** – Shelley Carver, Community Development Manager, gave a brief overview of the grant administration process, which included compliance guidelines on deliverables and funding. There was also a vote

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taken on the FHRC Mission Statement that was drafted at the Annual Board Retreat. It reads as follows: “*The Flint Hills Regional Council will enhance economic viability and improve quality of life through regional collaboration in the Flint Hills.*” Member Karen McCulloh motioned for the mission statement to be accepted as drafted and presented. Member Honey Grant seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

**CITY/COUNTY/PARTNER UPDATES:**

- Fort Riley
  - Tim Livsey, Deputy Garrison Commander briefed the board on the following:
    1. Communication is key and there will be an effort to enhance this via public relations.
    2. On September 2, 2015, there was a multi-national training evolution that occurred on the installation.
  
- Governor’s Military Council
  - John Armbrust, Executive Director, briefed the board on the following:
    1. Legislation Session is coming up – send any documentation to Shelley about legislative concerns.
  
- Kansas State University
  - Jackie Hartman was not in attendance at the meeting.
  
- Emporia State University
  - Member Scott Briggs, FHRC Vice President & Lyon County Commissioner, briefed the board on the following:
    1. There is a \$1.5M Scholarship Program has been established by the Lyon County residents and matching funds are being provided by the foundation and cities.
    2. An ongoing search for a new college president is currently underway.
  
- City of Chapman
  - Member Phil Weishaar briefed the board on the following:
    1. Street Project that was proposed in 2008 is underway.
    2. The Annual Labor Day celebration held in the city.
  
- City of Clay Center
  - Member Jimmy Thatcher, FHRC Executive Committee At-Large, briefed the board on the following:
    1. New Pool (had 28,000 visitors over the summer months).
    2. \$39K in sales tax revenue was generated.
    3. \$7M Bond (New Ballpark Field)
    4. \$7M Facility (CTI Hub)
  
- Geary County
  - Member Ben Bennett briefed the board on the following:
    1. Dennis Beson was hired as the new CEO for the Chamber of Commerce.
    2. Greg Miller was hired as the new Economic Development Director.
    3. Search was underway for new Human Resources Director, down to one candidate.

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- City of Grandview Plaza
  - Member Honey Grant, FHRC Secretary, briefed the board on the following:
    1. The new city building is currently under construction.
    2. A contract was signed between the city and Flint Hills Regional Council staff for work on the design and grant applications for funding of the Splash Park.
    3. There will be a meeting about Milford Lake held on September 29, 2015 at Flagspot Campground at 6:30 p.m.
  
- City of Junction City
  - Member Mike Ryan briefed the board on the following:
    1. The new Walmart grocery store is scheduled to be opened by Thanksgiving.
    2. Ace Hardware is scheduled to be opened by Spring 2016.
    3. There is a vet clinic on Spring Valley Road.
    4. Two out of 25 lots were sold from the land bank.

**ADDITIONAL ITEMS / ADJOURNMENT:**

- Representative Susie Swanson was given an opportunity to provide a brief question/answer session with the board members.
- FHRC staff will work on obtaining contact information for the state legislators in order to invite those respective Kansas Senators/Representatives in the region to the November 2015 board meeting.
- The October 16, 2015 meeting will be held in Emporia, KS due to the building construction in Grandview Plaza. Meeting location will be determined.
- FHRC Board President Robert Boyd motioned for the meeting to be officially adjourned at 12:18 p.m. Vice President Scott Briggs seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.