



## Flint Hills Regional Council Board of Directors

Board Meeting Minutes – July 20, 2018

Ogden, KS

Present from Board of the Regional Council: **Ryan Armbrust**, City of Alta Vista Councilman; **Pam Bales**, City of Alma Councilwoman; **Ben Bennett**, Geary County Commissioner; **Scott Briggs**, Lyon County Commissioner; **Tim Brown**, City of Junction City Commissioner; **Linda Cook**, Kansas State University Office of the President; **David Fox**, Morris County Commissioner; **Honey Grant**, City of Grandview Plaza Vice-Mayor; **Sharon Haun**, City of Council Grove Councilwoman; **Galen Johnson**, City of Dwight Mayor; **Tim Livsey**, Fort Riley Deputy Garrison Commander; **Dee McKee**, Pottawatomie County Commissioner; **Susan McKenzie**, City of White City - City Clerk; **Linda Morse**, City of Manhattan Mayor; **Eladio Reid**, City of Ogden Councilman; **Marvin Rodriguez**, Riley County Commissioner; **Jimmy Thatcher**, City of Clay Center Mayor; **Richard Wiexelman**, City of Wamego Commissioner; and **Perry L. Wiggins**, Governor's Military Council.

Absent from the Board: **Rodney Allen**, Wabaunsee County Commissioner; **Ed Bashaw**, Emporia State University; **Todd Hensley**, City of Reading Mayor; **Darci Pottroff**, City of Riley Councilwoman; **Dale Renfro**, City of Onaga Councilman; **MarySue Roller**, City of Woodbine Mayor; **Jeff Rosell**, City of Westmoreland Representative; and **Lee Wolf**, City of Chapman Councilman.

Present from Staff Support: **Unique Hiram**, Administrative/HR Manager; **Justin Kuzila**, Community Development Planner; **Gary Stith**, Director; and **Janna Williams**, Regional Planner.

Guests: **Eric Cattell**, City of Manhattan Community Development Director; **Ron Fehr**, City of Manhattan City Manager; **Kay Hutchinson**, Greater Morris County Development Corporation Executive Director; **Bruce McMillan**, Private Citizen; **Usha Reddi**, City of Manhattan Commissioner; and **Diane Wolfe**, Council Grove/Morris County Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Executive Director

### WELCOME:

- Scott Briggs, FHRC Board President, called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. and invited the board members, staff, and meeting guests to introduce themselves.
- Member Eladio Reid, City Councilman, welcomed meeting attendees to the jurisdiction.

### APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

- Member Pam Bales motioned for the June 15<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes to be approved as presented. Member Ben Bennett seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

**CONSIDERATION OF OEA JLUS IMPLEMENTATION GRANT FUND  
ADVANCEMENT AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF MANHATTAN:**

- The City of Manhattan Commission approved the OEA JLUS Implementation Grant Fund Advancement Agreement on June 5, 2018. This will allow periodic fund advancements to be requested up to \$404,519.00. FHRC will reimburse the city once the grant funds are received from the Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA).
- Member Pam Bales motioned for the approval of the council to enter into the agreement and have Gary Stith sign the document. Member Tim Brown seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

**CHANGE OF BYLAWS FOR QUORUM DISCUSSION:**

- There was a board discussion about the challenges with having a quorum at every meeting, especially when there are items that need to be voted on and approved.
- Stith presented bylaws language that was adopted by the Flint Hills Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) regarding the way that meetings are handled. Teleconferences are held at times and allows for those voting members who can't be present to listen in on the meeting and provide action if required. Member Ben Bennett brought up concerns about this.
- Member Jimmy Thatcher suggested that the board may need to think about lowering the required quorum number. Member Galen Johnson suggested reducing the quorum to 40%. There are currently 23 voting members and 4 non-voting members on the board.
- The item was tabled until the September 2018 meeting allowing for further discussion.

**DIRECTOR'S UPDATES:**

Staff Activities & Updates

- Gary Stith, Director, gave an update about what the staff is currently working on throughout the region.

Finance/Budget Review

- The bank balance, as of July 19, 2018, is \$23,515.63.
- Outstanding EDA Reimbursements - \$21,833.24.
- Outstanding Other Contract Reimbursement Requests - \$8,866.24.
- Current balance on the line of credit is \$115,500.00.

**PRESENTATION:**

- **Flint Hills Leadership Program**
  - Jack Lindquist, Executive Director, provided a brief presentation about the Flint Hills Leadership Program from its inception to how the program has been enhancing over the years.

**CITY/COUNTY/PARTNER UPDATES:**

- Fort Riley – Tim Livsey, Deputy Garrison Commander, was in attendance at the meeting.
- Kansas State University – Linda Cook, Office of the President, reported on the following:
  - The campus library was totally destroyed internally due to the water damage from the fire. It will reopen next school year.
  - Active student recruiting is underway; working to get the enrollment numbers increased.
  - Strategic Enrollment Management is one of the main focuses at the university.
- Governor's Military Council – Perry Wiggins, Executive Director, reported on the following:
  - The Army is planning to increase the number of soldiers by 28K through 2019. There are currently 480K soldiers serving; the overall goal is 520K.
  - The Heritage Foundation is currently conducting a study about force structure.
  - There is a focus on growing the initiatives for P4 Relationships with the surrounding communities and the military installation.
  - The governor signed off on Nursing Licensing/Credentialing for military spouses.
  - Working on bringing an increased number of Defense Industry company visits to the state.
- Emporia State University – Ed Bashaw, School of Business Dean, was not in attendance at the meeting.
- City of Clay Center – Member Jimmy Thatcher, City Mayor, reported on the following:
  - The ground has been laid for a 24 affordable housing unit on the East side of town.
  - Pump Station has been authorized; it is a \$8M project slated for May 2019.
  - ½ Sales Tax is up for vote on August 7<sup>th</sup>; this has accounted for \$3.5M of work done throughout the city.
  - \$19M Hospital expansion has been completed.
  - Kansas Air Tour (September 28<sup>th</sup>) from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. It is a 4-day tour with 12 stops. There will be 60-70 planes flying through the city.
- City of Manhattan – Linda Morse, City Mayor, reported on the following:
  - Chamber of Commerce will be hosting an intercity visit to Lincoln, NE.
  - New Flint Hills aTa Bus Route will begin in August 2019.
  - Street Maintenance is currently underway.
  - Manhattan Area Technical College HVAC and IT classes are full.
  - Applied for a \$17M Bill Grant, which replaces the Tiger Grant.
- City of Onaga – Member Dale Renfro, City Councilman, was not in attendance the meeting.
- City of Riley – Member Darci Pottroff, City Councilwoman, was unable to attend the meeting. However, she did send an email that was read by Board President Scott Briggs.

- Riley County – Member Marvin Rodriguez, County Commissioner, reported on the following:
  - The work on Marlatt Avenue is currently underway.
  - Kansas Gas Service is in a building at the industrial park by the airport.
  - There are two firehouses in District #1 (Cities of Riley and Leonardville).
  - Employment search currently going on for a new RCPD Director. The application dates are July 30, 2018 through August 21, 2018.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

- The annual board retreat will be held on August 17, 2018.
- There was a board discussion about the current financials of the organization and a few suggestions were made about how what can be done to work through this:
  - Member Galen Johnson gave three suggestions that included raising the membership dues to \$1.00 per capita, joining another council or reducing employees.
  - There was a suggestion from the floor about meeting with the Kansas Department of Commerce Secretary to inquiry about what type of funding, if any, would be available for the council.
  - The board members were tasked with inviting the state representatives from their jurisdictions to the September 2018 meeting. Member Galen Johnson also asked Stith to invite the Interim Secretary of Commerce to the board meeting.
  - Time will be carved out during the retreat to discuss the organizational finances.
- Member Honey Grant motioned for the meeting to be officially adjourned at 11:48 a.m. Member Tim Brown seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.