



Flint Hills Regional Council Board of Directors

Board Meeting Minutes – June 15, 2018

Emporia, KS

Present from Board of the Regional Council: **Pam Bales**, City of Alma Councilwoman; **Ed Bashaw**, Emporia State University; **Ben Bennett**, Geary County Commissioner; **Scott Briggs**, Lyon County Commissioner; **Tim Brown**, City of Junction City Commissioner; **Linda Cook**, Kansas State University; **Sharon Haun**, City of Council Grove Councilwoman; **Todd Hensley**, City of Reading Mayor; **Galen Johnson**, City of Dwight Mayor; **Tim Livsey**, Fort Riley Deputy Garrison Commander; **Linda Morse**, City of Manhattan Mayor; **Marvin Rodriguez**, Riley County Commissioner; and **Richard Weixelman**, City of Wamego Commissioner.

Absent from the Board: **Rodney Allen**, Wabaunsee County Commissioner; **Ryan Armbrust**, City of Alta Vista Councilman; **David Fox**, Morris County Commissioner; **Honey Grant**, City of Grandview Plaza Vice-Mayor; **Dee McKee**, Pottawatomie County Commissioner; **Susan McKenzie**, City of White City - City Clerk; **Darci Pottroff**, City of Riley Councilwoman; **Eladio Reid**, City of Ogden Councilman; **Dale Renfro**, City of Onaga Councilman; **MarySue Roller**, City of Woodbine Mayor; **Jeff Rosell**, City of Westmoreland representative; **Jimmy Thatcher**, City of Clay Center Mayor; **Perry L. Wiggins**, Governor's Military Council; 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: **Jann Briggs**, Lyon County Resident; **Bryan Crouch**, Flint Hills Technical College Admissions Representative/Recruiter; **Kay Hutchinson**, Greater Morris County Development Corporation Executive Director; **Rollie Martin**, Lyon County Commissioner; Bruce McMillan, Private Citizen; and Heather Stewart, Fort Riley Analyst.

WELCOME:

- Scott Briggs, 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 Briggs welcomed everyone to Lyon County and Emporia. He reported on activities and events in the community.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

- Member Pam Bales motioned for the May 18, 2018 meeting minutes to be approved as presented. Member Galen Johnson seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

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 June 14, 2018, is \$22,726.35
- Outstanding Reimbursement Requests - EDA \$14,325.40 and Other Contracts \$9,580.07
- Current balance on the line of credit is \$115,500.00

FLINT HILLS TECHNICAL COLLEGE:

- Bryan Crouch, Admissions Representative/Recruiter, gave a brief presentation about Flint Hills Technical College:
 - “Thinking Outside the Books” is the theme for the college with its student recruitment efforts
 - There are three campuses in the City of Emporia; there are four programs at the Downtown Campus
 - Hands on Education – 75% Lab Setting & 25% Classroom; the average class size is 15 and won't go over 20 students. There are currently 1300 online students and 700 students who attend classes in person. Job placement is 96%.
 - There are 20 Programs/Majors; two new programs are due to be launched in 2019 (Associate RN Program)
 - The college has a two plus two agreement with Emporia State University
 - Email: bcrouch@fhc.edu or Phone: (620) 412-6535 / (620) 341-1301

LYON COUNTY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES UPDATE:

- Corrine Patterson and Mike Arndt, Lyon County Fairgrounds Foundation, gave a brief update on some of the Lyon County Fairground developments:
 - 43.5 acres of land were donated by E.T. & Cora Anderson in 1946 which housing the Lyon County Fairgrounds
 - The Clint Bowyer and Anderson Building were developed after the improvement committee met monthly. The total renovation costs were \$1.6M. There was \$113K in private funding raised for the Anderson Building.
 - The final phase of development at the fairgrounds is an event center that will accommodate seating up to 1500. It will be 120,000 square feet, which will cost \$6M and the infrastructure \$2M. The goal is to raise up to \$10M in private funding.
 - The goal is for the fairgrounds to be a destination venue, increasing the number of visitors to the area.

LYON COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE:

- Kent Heerman, Regional Development Associations of East Central Kansas President, gave a brief presentation on the economic development in Lyon County.
 - There have been five prospect visits to the county.
 - Simmons Pet Food - \$38M Expansion (125 square feet at the Main Building). There are projected to be 700 employees on the 130 acres of this facility, which would be an increase from their current employment level of 500 employees.
 - Improvements at 12th avenue due to the water issue last year.
 - EPA Grant was awarded for work regarding the county's water tower.

CITY/COUNTY/PARTNER UPDATES:

- Fort Riley – Tim Livsey, Deputy Garrison Commander, gave an update on the following:
 - Change of Commands will be coming up / Division Staff Turnover (replacements haven't arrived yet).
 - Public Affairs has created an app to promote events on the installation s well as the surrounding communities. The staff has been pulling information from the communities' websites.
 - 3,800 soldiers are currently training (live fire)
- Kansas State University – Linda Cook, Office of the President, gave an update on the following:
 - Chuck Taylor was selected as the new Provost and should be begin his employment either on August 12th or August 15th. He is from Stonybrook, New York.
 - There will be a \$15M budget cut in 2019.
 - The focus is on strategic enrollment with recruitment efforts to include Texas, California and Oregon. The university will look at scholarships for students who may need financial assistance.
 - There is no damage estimate on the library fire yet; extensive smoke and water damage occurred.
- Governor's Military Council – Perry L. Wiggins, Executive Director, was not in attendance at the meeting.
- Emporia State University – Ed Bashaw, School of Business Dean, was in attendance at the meeting but had to leave early due to other scheduled meetings.
- City of Council Grove – Member Sharon Haun, Councilwoman, gave an update on the following:
 - Washunga Days will be held June 15th through June 17th.
 - Some businesses are expanding in the city.
 - There are currently 80 permanent residents; sewer system work is being done.
- Lyon County – Board President Scott Briggs, County Commissioner, didn't have any additional updates from earlier.

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- Morris County – David Fox, County Commissioner, was not in attendance at the meeting.
- City of Reading – Member Todd Hensley, Mayor, gave an update on the following:
 - In the North Lyon County School District, the school will be permanently closed. For grade school, the kids will go to school in Americus.
 - Currently awaiting word on the Wind Farm.
 - There will be a fish fry celebration at the end of June.
- City of White City – Member Susan McKenzie, City Clerk, was not in attendance at the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

- There was some discussion about the challenges with having a quorum at the meetings as of late. Ideas thrown out included email votes, conference call-ins as well as encouraging members to attend. No decision was made, and discussions will be ongoing.
- The next board meeting will be held on July 20, 2018 at Ogden Community Center, 220 Willow Street, Ogden, KS 66517 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- Member Pam Bales motioned for the meeting to be officially adjourned at 12:15 p.m. Member Galen Johnson seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.