



Flint Hills Regional Council Board of Directors
Board Meeting Minutes - September 21, 2018
Wamego, KS

Present from Board of the Regional Council: **Ben Bennett**, Geary County Commissioner; **Scott Briggs**, Lyon County Commissioner; **Tim Brown**, City of Junction City Commissioner; **Linda Cook**, Kansas State University; **Galen Johnson**, City of Dwight Mayor; **Tim Livsey**, Fort Riley Deputy Garrison Commander; **Linda Morse**, City of Manhattan Mayor; and **Richard Weixelman**, City of Wamego Commissioner. **Ryan Armbrust**, City of Alta Vista Councilman; **David Fox**, Morris County Commissioner; **Darci Pottroff**, City of Riley Councilwoman; and **Jimmy Thatcher**, City of Clay Center Mayor.

Absent from the Board: **Marvin Rodriguez**, Riley County Commissioner; **Todd Hensley**, City of Reading Mayor; **Sharon Haun**, City of Council Grove Councilwoman; **Pam Bales**, City of Alma Councilwoman;; **Rodney Allen**, Wabaunsee County Commissioner; **Honey Grant**, City of Grandview Plaza Vice-Mayor; **Dee McKee**, Pottawatomie County Commissioner; **Susan McKenzie**, City of White City - City Clerk; **Eladio Reid**, City of Ogden Councilman; **Dale Renfro**, City of Onaga Councilman; **MarySue Roller**, City of Woodbine Mayor; **Jeff Rosell**, City of Westmoreland Representative; **Perry L. Wiggins**, Governor's Military Council; and **Lee Wolf**, City of Chapman Councilman.

Present from Staff Support: **Gary Stith**, Director; and **Janna Williams**, Regional Planner.

Guests: **Kay Hutchinson**, Greater Morris County Development Corporation Executive Director; **Chris Mayfield**, Wamego; **Eric Cattell**, City of Manhattan Community Development Director; and **Jessica Venneberg**, Pottawatomie County Economic Development Corporation.

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 Richard Weixelman welcomed everyone to Pottawatomie County and Wamego. He reported on activities and events in the community.

DISCUSSION OF STATE ASSISTANCE:

- State Legislators Sydney Carlin, Roger Elliott, Tom Hawk, and Susie Swanson introduced themselves to the meeting attendees and Board President Briggs began the discussion. The following was discussed:
 - President Briggs discussed the financial situation and asked the panel if FHRC was a viable organization serving the region? If so, FHRC needs direction/assistance from the state. The Kansas Department of Commerce (KDOC) should invest in organizations like FHRC. Representative Carlin noted that the state doesn't give KDOC any dollars; the agency receives all federal money.

Director Gary Stith reviewed the federal grants received by FHRC. Representative Carlin stated FHRC should make a request to KDOC and copy it to her. Senator Tom Hawk

- stated the state political picture won't be known until after the election. EDIF funds are a possibility.
- Discussion of the value of FHRC and what the organization contributes to the region, the state and to the Kansas Department of Commerce.
- Suggestion to plan a meeting with Bob North in Topeka with FHRC board members and representatives.
- Make a request to KDOC, legislators present today and FHRC board members will attend. Prepare how to make the budget request and present one-page elevator speech.
- Representative Elliott asked if the top ten employers of the region have been asked to donate?
- The board will prepare its presentation with a representative delegation.
- Senator Tom Hawk reviewed state transportation projects and broadband issues.

AUDIT PRESENTATION:

- Russell Shipley, CPA Audit Director, Sink, Gordon & Associates, LLP presented the 2017 audit report.
 - The board will accept the audit report at the next meeting since there was not a quorum at the meeting.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATES:

Staff Activities & Updates

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

Finance/Budget Review

- The bank balance, as of September 20, 2018, is \$10,171.28
- Outstanding Reimbursement Requests - OEA \$10,130.00
- Current balance on the line of credit is \$115,500.00
- Galen Johnson advised the board that he visited bank president.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

- The board will accept the July 20, 2018 draft minutes at the next meeting since there was not a quorum present.

DISCUSSION OF CHANGE TO BYLAWS

- There was a discussion to change the majority vote to 40 percent of the members for a quorum.
- The board will further discuss and vote on this item at the next meeting since there was not a quorum present.

CITY/COUNTY/PARTNER UPDATES:

- Fort Riley – Tim Livsey, Deputy Garrison Commander, gave an update on the following:
 - Fort Riley assisted in flood emergency response in Manhattan.
 - No problem with lead-based paint at the installation.
 - Brigade will be returning next week.
 - Working with Kansas National Guard to headquarter on installation.
 - Apple Day is this upcoming weekend, Saturday, September 22nd.
 - Agreement signed with K-State to support ongoing programs between the university and Fort Riley.

- Kansas State University - Linda Cook, Office of the President, was not in attendance at the meeting.

- Governor’s Military Council - Perry L. Wiggins, Executive Director, was not in attendance at the meeting.

- Emporia State University - Ed Bashaw, was not in attendance at the meeting.

- City of Onaga - Jessica Venneberg, PCEDC, reported on the following:
 - A large new sign on the highway for Onaga will be installed after KDOT approval. Developer built two new homes and the City still has free lots by the golf course.

- Pottawatomie County - Venneberg reported they have funds from Network Kansas, E Community grant, also Start up Kansas funds for a total of \$450,000 total to award.

- City of Wamego – Member Richard Weixelman, gave on update on upcoming events in Wamego.

- Wabaunsee County – Member Ryan Armbrust gave an update on road and bridge issues.

- City of Manhattan - Member Linda Morse, City Mayor, reported on the following:
 - Recent following in the City.
 - Plans continue to enlarge the conference center.
 - Hiring a new Riley County police director.
 - Community improvement district to renovate the mall.
 - Initiating a vision to develop the river front.
 - USD 383 referendum for a school in Blue Township
 - Cities to define districts to have alcohol outside, Blue Earth Plaza will be able to have events outside with alcoholic beverages.
 - Aggieville and downtown will be considered next.

- City of Alma – Member Pam Bales, City Councilwoman, was not in attendance at the meeting.

- City of Westmoreland – Member Jeff Rossell was not in attendance at the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

- The next board meeting will be held on October 19, 2018 at the following location: High View Church, 402 Main Street, Alta Vista, KS from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- Member Jimmie Thatcher motioned for the meeting to be officially adjourned at 11:55 a.m. Member Galen Johnson seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.