



**Flint Hills Regional Council Board of Directors  
Meeting Minutes of January 25, 2013**

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**Board Meeting Minutes – January 25, 2013  
Life’s Finer Moments Event Lodge & Cabins  
Clay Center, KS 67432**

Present from Board of the Regional Council: **John Armbrust**, Governor’s Military Council; **Cecil Aska**, Junction City Commissioner; **Ben Bennett**, Geary County Commissioner; **Robert Boyd**, Riley County; **Dan Deiter**, Alma City Councilman; **Vic Enns**, Wamego City Commissioner; **Honey Grant**, Grandview Plaza Vice-Mayor; **Vern Hay**, Morris County Commissioner; **Linda Hoeffner**, Fort Riley; **Rich Jankovich**, Manhattan City Commissioner; **Galen Johnson**, Dwight City Mayor; **Keith Kahnt**, White City Councilman; **Joe Kormanik**, Alta Vista Commissioner; **John Ray**, Abilene City Commissioner; **MarySue Roller**, City of Woodbine Councilwoman; **David Shover II**, Riley City Mayor; **Jimmy Thatcher**, Clay Center Mayor; and **Phil Weishaar**, Chapman Mayor.

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Absent from the Board: **Jackie Hartman**, Kansas State University; **Stan Hartwich**, Pottawatomie County Commissioner; **Ervan Stuewe**, Wabaunsee County Commissioner; and **Debi Schwerdtfeger**, Council Grove Councilwoman.

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Present from the Greater Regional Council Membership: *No additional members present.*

Present from Staff Support: **Gary Stith AICP**, Interim Executive Director; **Unique Hiram M.S.**, Administrative Manager; **Jeff Adams PhD**, Regional Planner; and **Scott Moore**, Community Liaison.

Guests: **Ben Van Becelaere**, Fort Riley Plans Chief; **Karen Davis**, Manhattan Community Development Director; **David Dillner**, Abilene City Manager; **Bruce McMillan**, CEDS Committee Chair; **Lyle Peterson**, Kansas Department of Commerce; **Mike Spohn**, Rock Springs Operations Manager; **Monty Wedel**, Riley County Planning & Development Director; and **David Yearout**, Junction City/Geary County Planning Director.

**MEETING START TIME:**

- Vern Hay, FHRC President, called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

**WELCOME:**

- Member Jimmy Thatcher welcomed the Board, Staff and meeting guests to Clay Center.

**Flint Hills Regional Council Board of Directors  
Meeting Minutes of January 25, 2013**

- Mayor Thatcher talked briefly about the ½ cent sales tax that has helped to fund roadway work and there is \$600,000 worth of street work that will be completed this year.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- Member Vic Enns motioned for approval of the minutes from November 30, 2012 and December 13, 2012. Member Rich Jankovich seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

- Gary Stith, Interim Executive Director, suggested that a monthly financial report be distributed during the monthly board meetings in lieu of the current report, which dates back to the beginning of the grants.
- Member Jimmy Thatcher has asked for a quarterly report to be distributed as well.
- The financial report will be filed for audit purposes; no vote is required for approval.

**FHRC BOARD ELECTION OF OFFICERS (VICE-PRESIDENT & TREASURER):**

- Member Vern Hay asked for a volunteer to fill the Treasurer position until July 2013 when official elections will be held for the new Executive Committee. No volunteers were identified from the floor; therefore, it was decided that the Executive Committee would make an appointment for this position.
- Member David Shover motioned for Member Ben Bennett to fill the Vice-President position and Member Rich Jankovich to fill the second At-Large position until July 2013 when official elections will be held for the new Executive Committee. Member Phil Weishaar seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

**KDOC: OPERATIONS AND INCENTIVES:**

- Lyle Peterson, Kansas Department of Commerce North Central Region Project Manager, gave a presentation on the business and community development.
- Some of the tax deductions and credits include PEAK (Promoting Employment Across Kansas), HPIP (High Performance Incentive Program), Workforce Development Training and the one-time expense deduction of Machinery and Equipment expense.
- Eligibility requirements:
  1. PEAK – 50% of health benefits provided by company and creation of a minimum of 10 jobs over a two-year period.
  2. HPIP – 16-year carry forward, \$1 million capital investment in Douglas, Johnson, Sedgwick, Shawnee and Wyandotte counties.

**Flint Hills Regional Council Board of Directors  
Meeting Minutes of January 25, 2013**

3. Workforce Development Training – KIT (Kansas Industrial Training) and KIR (Kansas Industrial Restructuring) companies. This includes manufacturing, research and development, distribution, national service and tourism.
- Lyle Peterson’s contact information is as follows:
    1. Telephone: (785) 633-8408
    2. Email Address: [lpeterson@kansascommerce.com](mailto:lpeterson@kansascommerce.com)

**SHARED SERVICES:**

- Ben Van Becelaere, Fort Riley Chief of Plans, Analysis and Integration Office, gave a presentation on the concept of shared services between the Fort and local communities.
- The National Defense Authorization Act was passed and it has placed an emphasis on shared services due to the fiscal environment.
- The steering committee for this initiative includes the Garrison Commander, city/county Commissioner and city managers. The group has been kept small and close knit to Fort Riley.
- Three areas of concentration are bulk purchasing, equipment sharing and collective training.
- Some of the advantages to participation in shared services include: appropriated funds to buy and sell services and sole source purchases.
- The main focuses on this initiative are cost savings and partnership efficiencies, which must benefit both parties.

**LEGISLATIVE ISSUES – COMPILATION, ASSESSMENT & DISCUSSION:**

- Ben Bennett, FHRC Vice-President, informed the board that he and Jeff Adams, Regional Planner, will be organizing and coordinating a causal meet-and-greet between the council and legislators within the next 80 – 90 days.
- There are 42 new representatives in the House and 50 representatives who are relatively new to Topeka.
- Some of the legislative issues that are projected to have a negative effect on local communities are: income tax shrinkage, school funding, mental health, employment and revenue sharing.
- All concerns by Board members should be forwarded to Jeff Adams. His email address is [Jeff@FlintHillsRegion.org](mailto:Jeff@FlintHillsRegion.org).

**MPO DESIGNATION UPDATE:**

- Gary Stith, Interim Executive Director, provided the meeting attendees with a brief background on the Flint Hills MPO.
- The Flint Hills Regional Council will be the fiscal agent and a 20% local match will be required from the five jurisdictions in the MPO.
- A draft of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was provided to the Board for review. The MPO Transportation Policy Board will be meeting on February 20, 2013, which is two days prior to the FHRC Monthly Board Meeting, and they will review the MOU to make sure that it is ready for

**Flint Hills Regional Council Board of Directors  
Meeting Minutes of January 25, 2013**

adoption in March. The Flint Hills Regional Council will need to be prepared to approve the MPO MOU at the February 22, 2013 meeting.

- Additionally, a draft copy of the MPO Budget was also provided to the Board.

**FORT RILEY UPDATE:**

- Linda Hoeffner, Deputy Garrison Commander, informed the meeting attendees that 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade would be back from deployment in February 2013 and Division would be back from deployment by the end of March 2013. Sustainment Brigade will have about 200 – 300 soldiers still deployed overseas.
- Fort Riley will be at “full nest” until Fall 2013; there will be small groups deployed, at that time, for 30 – 40 days to support AFRICOM operations.
- Brigadier General Paul E. Funk II will become the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division Commanding General at a change of command ceremony in May 2013. Colonel (P) Joseph Harrington will become one of the Deputy Commanders at Division Headquarters.
- An Economic Impact Summary update can be shared at the next council meeting. This report gives a detail of how much money the Fort has contributed into the local economy.
- Symphony in the Flint Hills will be held at Fort Riley on June 15, 2013.

**GOVERNOR’S MILITARY COUNCIL UPDATE:**

- John Armbrust, Governor’s Military Council Executive Director, gave a brief overview about Armed Forces Appreciation Day. It was on Wednesday, January 23, 2013 and military commanders from around the State of Kansas travel to Topeka. Governor Brownback signed a proclamation and there were discussions about dealing with downsizing.
- President Obama will submit his FY2014 Budget in April and there is a possibility of BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure) rounds to be requested to occur in either 2015 or 2017.
- Armbrust emphasized the importance of shared services between the military and surrounding communities.
- His update was ended with this statement: “Relax, be vigilant and prepare to set the course.”

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT/FRONTIERS UPDATE:**

- Stith gave a brief overview of the topic discussions at the Governor’s Summit, which included a smoke management plan, invasive plant problems, tourism and agricultural concerns. There was a Flint Hills Frontiers project presentation given and the Governor Brownback is very supportive of economic development and tourism.
- In regards to the 2013 Leaders Retreat, there were 210 people that attended and the Chambers are assembling a summary report that will be given out to the attendees upon completion and production. One of the main things that

**Flint Hills Regional Council Board of Directors  
Meeting Minutes of January 25, 2013**

stood out to Stith was a statement made at the retreat and it is as follows:  
“stop competing with each other, work together regionally and then compete collectively with other regions.”

- The Metropolitan Planning Organization would like to have a website set up and Stith will discuss with the staff about getting this request fulfilled.
- Stith also indicated that staff was preparing an informational note book to be used for orientation of new members to the Council Board.

**OTHER BUSINESS & NEXT MEETING:**

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- Member MarySue Roller announced that the Woodbine Post Office would only be opened for four hours during the week and one hour on Saturdays. She was grateful for the Letter of Support that was provided to challenge this decision before it became final; however, the final outcome was not favorable for the small community. The City of Dwight has weekly post office hours from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Additionally, the City of Randolph and City of Riley are facing the same situation and there will be meetings held on February 5 and March 5 respectively for each community. Member David Shover expressed the need to get the legislators more involved with these types of issues by utilizing the council.
- The next board meeting will be held on February 22, 2013 in Pottawatomie County. Location to be announced.

**MEETING ADJOURNMENT:**

- Member David Shover motioned for the meeting to adjourn. Member Dan Deiter seconded. Meeting was adjourned unanimously at 11:18 a.m.