



Flint Hills Regional Council Board of Directors
Board Meeting Minutes – January 9, 2015
Life's Moments
Clay Center, KS

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 Commissioner; **Scott Briggs**, Lyon County Commissioner; **Vic Enns**, Wamego City Mayor; **Honey Grant**, Grandview Plaza Vice-Mayor; **Vern Hay**, Morris County Commissioner; **Rich Jankovich**, Manhattan City Commissioner; **Joe Kormanik**, City of Alta Vista Commissioner; **Tim Livsey**, Fort Riley; **MarySue Roller**, City of Woodbine Mayor; **Debi Schwerdtfeger**, Council Grove Councilwoman; **David Shover II**, City of Riley Mayor; **Jimmy Thatcher**, City of Clay Center Mayor; and **Phil Weishaar**, City of Chapman Mayor.

Absent from the Board: **Pam Bales**, Alma City Councilwoman; **Jon Geitz**, City of Emporia Mayor; **Jenifer Hanneman**, City of Reading; **Jackie Hartman**, Kansas State University; **Stan Hartwich**, Pottawatomie County Commissioner; **Kristie Ogilvie**, Emporia State University; and **Brande Studer**, Chase County Clerk

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

Present from Staff Support: **Jeff Adams**, Regional Planner; **Shelley Carver**, Community Development Manager; **Unique Hiram**, Administrative Manager; and **Gary Stith**, Director.

Guests: **Karen Davis**, City of Manhattan Community Development Director; **Allen Dinkel**, Junction City Manager; **Kay Hutchinson**, Greater Morris County Development Executive Director; **Kelly Paskow**, Fort Riley Plan Chief; **Lyle Peterson**, Kansas Department of Commerce Regional Manager; **Mike Ryan**, Junction City Mayor; **Gary Sacher**, Grandview Plaza Councilman; **Traci Scott**, Fort Riley; **Susie Swanson**, Kansas State Representative; **Monty Wedel**, Riley County Planning Director; and **David Yearout**, Junction City/Geary County/Milford Planning & Zoning Director.

WELCOME:

- David Shover, FHRC President, called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. and invited the board members, staff and meeting guests to introduce themselves.
- Member and Clay Center Mayor Jimmy Thatcher welcomed everyone to the host city. He highlighted the \$2M in improvements throughout the area.
- Member Cecil Aska introduced the new City Manager of Junction City Allen Dinkel who gave a brief overview of his background leading up to his current appointment.

APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING'S MINUTES:

- Vice President Rich Jankovich motioned for the November 21, 2014 meeting minutes to be approved with no corrections. Member Debi Schwerdtfeger seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

UPDATES:

➤ **Finance/Budget Review**

- 1) Gary Stith, Director, presented board members the bank and budget slides for the finance/budget review.
- 2) The HUD Grant is currently 90% completed as of 01/06/15.
- 3) Recommended adjustment to the HUD Budget will be presented at the next board meeting in February.
- 4) The bank account has a balance of \$153,264.12, which includes \$65,140.37 in MPO funding, as of 01/06/15.

➤ **Staff Activity and Updates**

- 1) Received HUD Grant No-Cost Extension until June 1, 2015.
- 2) Fair Housing Study Activities (included collection/review of 400 responses, conducted four focus groups, continuing stakeholder interviews and collection of historical records and information relating to Fair Housing Mapping Data).
- 3) Flint Hills Frontiers Fall Retreat Strategic Doing (included regional data clearinghouse, Flint Hills Job Fair, rural broadband working group and linking career paths to workforce).
- 4) Development of FHEDD Beta Site (includes site selection tool and dashboard).
- 5) Flint Hills Leaders Retreat will be held in Overland Park, KS on January 16–17, 2015.
- 6) Fort Riley PEA Community Meeting will be held on February 9, 2015 starting at 3:30 p.m. The event will be held at the Junction City Conference Center.
- 7) FHRC Main Office will be closed on January 19th (Martin Luther King Jr. Day) and February 16th (President's Day).

PRESENTATIONS:

➤ **Frontiers Project Regional Fair Housing Study**

- Jeff Adams, Regional Planner, gave a brief overview of the Frontiers Project Fair Housing Study.
- The housing surveys were comprised of public opinion and demographic data. Focus groups included lenders and area students.
- Preliminary data included some of the following data:

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1. People with hard time finding rental housing – 28.2% (people with lower income), 24.9% (students) and 15.3% (families with children).
 2. People having a hard time finding home to purchase – 30.7% (people with lower incomes), 17.9% (students) and 16.8% (families with children).
 3. Kinds of housing your communities most need – 30.6% (apartment buildings), 26.4% (single family homes) and 25.8% (duplexes and townhomes).
- Opportunity mapping will be placed online so that it is accessible for the communities.
 - The Flint Hills Frontiers website information is as follows:
www.flinthillsfrontiers.org.

➤ **Community Needs Survey and MOU for Contractual Services**

- Shelley Carver, Community Development Manager, gave a brief overview of the community needs survey and the draft MOU for contractual services.
- The intent of the MOU is not legally binding and is an understanding of the relationship with respect to services.
- Proposed services include but are not limited to: community planning and development; grant procurement and administration; transportation planning; data collection and analysis; economic development planning; and GIS services.
- Jurisdiction will not be obligated to accept the proposal from the FHRC in regards to that particular community's request for service.
- Fees for Services set by the FHRC Executive Committee are included in the draft MOU distributed to the board members.
- The target date for the signed MOU is April 2015.

DISCUSSION TOPICS:

➤ **PEA Listening Session**

- John Armbrust, Governor's Military Council Executive Director, gave a brief overview of the schedule for the PEA Listening Session that will be held on February 9th in Junction City at 3:30 p.m.
- The U.S. Army team will be arriving in the area on Sunday, February 8th and there is a schedule outlined for them pre and post the event.
- The tentative schedule for the PEA Listening Session is as follows: Welcome (BG Wesley), Army Briefing (Army Team), Community Briefing (Governor Brownback, MG Tafanelli, Community Presentation), Open Comment Period and Closing Remarks (BG Cloutier).

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- Consistency is important in regards to the Fort Riley talking points – Mission Readiness (training capability and capacity); Ready & Resilient (community support of social and family along with medical care, education and recreation); Sustainability (transportation and stewardship); Community (education, intergovernmental partnerships and municipal services/social services).
 - Future Community Meetings: Wednesday, January 21st (3:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m.) and Thursday, February 5th (1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.).
- TAGs (Target Advisory Groups) and Economic Development
- Stith gave a brief overview of the TAGs and Regional Economic Development Partnership.
 - The Target Advisory Groups (TAGs) were established by Junction City, Manhattan, Wamego Chambers of Commerce and the Pottawatomie County Economic Development Corporation.
 - FHRC Staff participated in the five TAGs, which included the following: Regionalism in Practice, Marketing and Branding, Regional Asset Development, Regional Transportation and Regional Workforce Development.
 - The Regional Economic Development Partnership model, presented at the 2015 Leader's Retreat, is based on the Cedar Valley Regional Partnership in Iowa. This entity would have a Board of Directors comprised of the funding organizations and businesses.
 - Initially, the founders of the TAGs will make up the Flint Hills Regional Economic Development Partnership with the opportunity extended through the seven-county region for entities that would pay to participate in the organization.
 - The difference between this proposed entity and the FHEDD is that the Flint Hills Regional Economic Development Partnership is controlled by the private sector whereas the Flint Hills Economic Development District is dominated by the public sector.
 - The partnership between these two entities would be the following: FHEDD could access funding through the EDA and the FHREDP could provide a 50% match from the private sector.

CITY/COUNTY/PARTNER UPDATES:

- Fort Riley
 - Kelley Paskow, Plans Chief, stressed the importance of the communities' attendance at that PEA Listening Session which is scheduled on February 9th.
- Governor's Military Council
 - Armbrust reiterated the importance of attendance at the PEA Listening Session.
- Kansas State University

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- Jackie Hartman was not in attendance at the meeting.
- Emporia State University
 - Kristie Ogilvie was not in attendance at the meeting.
- City of Alma
 - Member Pam Bales was not in attendance at the meeting.
- Chase County
 - Member Brande Studer was not in attendance at the meeting.
- City of Council Grove / Morris County
 - Member Vern Hay informed the board about the newly elected commissioner and the progress of the COMP Plan development process.
- City of Emporia
 - Member Jon Geitz was not in attendance at the meeting.
- Lyon County
 - Member Scott Briggs informed the board that the main focus in Lyon County and the City of Emporia is economic development.

ADJOURNMENT:

- The FHRC Executive Committee is scheduled to meet February 16, 2015.
- Next month's board meeting (February 20, 2015) will be held at the Kansas National Guard Armory, 1018 Old U.S. Highway 56, Council Grove, KS 66846.
- Vice President Rich Jankovich motioned for the meeting to be adjourned at 11:45 a.m. Member Phil Weishaar seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.