

**Flint Hills Regional Council Board of Directors  
Minutes of July 16, 2010**

**Flint Hills Regional Council Board of Directors  
Meeting Minutes—July 16, 2010  
Held at the Riley Centre, 902 W. Walnut St., Riley, KS**

Present from Board of the Regional Council: **Ben Bennett** Geary County Commissioner; **Stan Hartwich**, Pottawatomie County Commissioner; **Vern Hay**, Morris County Commissioner; **Terry Heldstab**, Junction City Commissioner; **Debi Schwerdtfeger**, Council Grove City Council; **David Shover**, Riley City Council; **Karen McCulloh**, Riley County Commissioner; **Jim Sherow**, Manhattan City Commissioner; **Sharon Brown**, Clay Center City Council; **Vic Enns**, Wamego City Commissioner; **John Armbrust**, Governor's Military Council.

Absent from the Board: **Linda Hoeffner**, Fort Riley; **Ervan Stuewe**, Wabaunsee County Commissioner.

Present from Regional Council Membership:

Present from Staff Support: **Ty Warner**, Executive Director; **Karen Davis**, City of Manhattan; **Kristina Hyland**, Regional Growth Coordinator.

Guests: **Colonel Kevin Brown**, Fort Riley; **Colonel Isenhower**, Fort Riley; **Craig Phillips**, Fort Riley; **Bruce McMillan**, Flint Hills Regional Task Force; **Traci Scott**, Fort Riley; **Brigitte Brechersen**, Riley County; **Joel Wright**, Teamtech Inc./KDOT; **Anne Smith**, Flint Hills ATA Bus/KDOT; **Davonna Moore**, KDOT MPO; **Lisa Koch**, KDOT Rural Transit; **Dave Yearout**, Geary County/Junction City Planning; **Sarah Talley**, Junction City Chamber; **Luke Thompson**, Manhattan Mercury.

**Welcome** – President Brown called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. David Shover welcomed everyone to the Riley Centre.

**Approval of Minutes from June 25** – Member Shover moved to approve the minutes as presented. Member McCulloh seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Fort Riley Housing** – Based on various meetings between Fort Riley and area cities and counties, President Brown asked for a motion from the Board to sign the housing letter as proposed by Fort Riley. Member Sherow asked for response from Members Heldstab and Bennett before bringing the issue to a vote. Member Heldstab recounted the Junction City Council process which brought to vote from a 3-2 in favor to a 5-0 in favor and expressed his appreciation for the Council keeping in mind the impact of such a letter on Junction City. He also indicated that more discussion about other possibilities for off post housing would be welcome. Col. Brown indicated that other options are being explored and can remain on the table and mentioned

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several upcoming venues where concerns of this nature could be expressed to upper levels. Member Bennett expressed the desire to support Junction City in this instance, but also suggested that the body should make use of its regional quality by approaching the congressional delegation on several issues including this one. He also expressed the desire to remain a good neighbor to Fort Riley. Member McCulloh suggested that the Board ask the legislators to attend a Board meeting in December or January.

Members Sherow, McCulloh and Shover then each expressed the full support of their jurisdiction for the decision Junction City and Geary County had made regarding the signing of the Housing Letter and thanked those members and Col Brown for their candor in the discussion. The Executive Director then suggested that the issue was bigger than the letter Col. Brown was requesting. Indicating that the letter specifically says future discussion will occur pursuing the other options enumerated in June.

Member Bennett pointed out that there will still be a need for off post housing options in the future. Prompting explanation of the upcoming deployment cycles (as they are currently known) by Col. Brown. Rough math indicates that approximately 1700 additional units are likely to be needed. Col. Brown also pointed out that there is expected/potential growth in other sectors of the economy which would also indicate a future need for housing in the area.

President Brown asked for the wishes of the Council, Member McCulloh moved that the Housing Letter be signed by the Council. Member Heldstab seconded. Vote was done by roll call: Members Hay, Shover, Enns, Sherow, Schwerdtfeger, Brown, McCulloh, Heldstab, Hartwich and Bennett all voted in the affirmative. Member Stuewe was absent.

As a follow up Member Sherow expressed appreciation for the approach the Council had taken toward this issue and moved that in the future anything needing to be signed by the Board would be signed by those present on a standard signature sheet. Member Shover seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

In addition, President Brown asked if the Board would like to work on a resolution concerning future commercial building on and off post as discussed. In response, it was suggested that the Council form a Task Force to include Linda Hoeffner, Jim Sherow, and John Armbrust to look at the format of such a resolution. Member Armbrust suggested that interested parties from area Economic Development organizations and Chambers also be included on the Task Force. Col. Brown suggested that such a Task Force not look too narrowly at the issue and hand, but approach this issue as the Council had the Housing Letter with a broad regional outlook. Member Sherow suggested perhaps Member Heldstab or Member Bennett should be included. Member Bennett expressed willingness to sit on the Task Force. Sarah Talley with the

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Junction City Chamber suggested that the Task Force use this as an opportunity to lay the groundwork for collaborative work in economic development. Dave Yearout from Junction City/Geary County Planning suggested that Planning professionals also be included especially when dealing with longer term issues such as long term Economic Development. Member Hartwich and Heldstab commented that including community members from Economic Development, the Chambers and Planning would provide more continuity to the Task Force since the elected officials occasionally change. The Executive Director suggested the initial Task Force will meet and include additional members/community members as necessary. The Task Force will report to the Board as it moves forward.

**Discussion on Alternative Representation** – Proxy means cast in absentia. Alternative Representation is more accurate for what is meant here. There was some discussion on the 48 hour time limit suggested as being too short. Member Sherow moved that the language be changed to indicate that each director would select an alternate and would give notice to the Council staff as soon as possible prior to the meeting if that alternate was to attend. The language would continue to include the suggested restrictions on number of times the alternate could be used. Member Heldstab seconded. Motion passed unanimously. A second clause is to be added on alternate selection. Suggested language is to be brought by Council staff.

**Board Strategic Retreat** – Location has not yet be decided. Staff will continue to prepare. Date is August 27 from 10am to 2pm.

**KDOT Breakthrough Team** – Board heard a report from Lisa Koch - KDOT Rural Transit, Anne Smith - Flint Hills Area Transit Authority, and Joel Wright - Team Tech Inc. about the process that brought KDOT to the Breakthrough group. Ms. Smith discussed Flint Hills Area Transit Authority role in the consolidated dispatch for the rural transit in the region along with work they are doing on Manhattan's fixed route system and the upgrade to the transit station at the Riley County shops. Ms. Koch reviewed the process of the Breakthrough team to come to the point where the area will be served by regional shuttles (one to Fort Riley from Manhattan, one to Fort Riley from Junction City, and one demand response in Junction City) and a conversation on workforce transportation is beginning. This was an introductory meeting, the Council has been mentioned for possible future conversations as the dispatch is up and running and regional transit becomes more integrated.

**Informational Updates:** Still working on the OEA grant transfer. Still working on getting into the space on Fort Riley. A new list of Army Community Covenant Signings was provided. You are still encouraged to be there though there is no formal role for Council members except as identified through the Garrison Public Affairs Office for each individual ceremony.

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**Other Business:** Member Armbrust mentioned the ADC conference will be August 11-14 in San Francisco and the Council will be well represented at a panel discussion on its formation. Member McCulloh mentioned that she liked the Executive Dispatch sent by the Executive Director. Member Armbrust then showed a flag for the gold star mothers (those who have lost a child one to combat). The flag is being shown around the country. Monty Wedel from Riley County Planning mentioned the recent passage of the state law concerning encroachment and suggested the Council might be helpful in the implementation of that legislation as the municipalities adjacent to Fort Riley and Fort Riley must comply. Member Armbrust mentioned that there has been a lot of activity at the Department of Defense level in the siting of alternative energy and that it was important to get the DoD involved early in the process. Member Bennett mentioned that Moyer Ranch just dedicated a conservation easement buffer around Fort Riley which was a milestone step. The Executive Director reported that the joint Chamber summer event went well and the presentation on the Council was well received.

**August Meeting** – will be August 27, 2010 in a location TBA from 10am to 2pm.

**Motion to adjourn** – Member Shover moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Member Sherow. Passed unanimously.

Adjourned at 11:54am