



Flint Hills Regional Council Board of Directors
Board Minutes – July 27, 2012
Flint Hills Discovery Center
Manhattan, KS 66505

Present from Board of the Regional Council: **John Armbrust**, Governor's Military Council; **Ben Bennett**, Geary County Commissioner; **Vic Enns**, Wamego City Commissioner; **Jackie Hartman**, Kansas State University; **Vern Hay**, Morris County Commissioner; **Galen Johnson**, Dwight City Mayor; **Keith Kahnt**, White City Councilman; **Joe Kormanik**, Alta Vista Commissioner; **Karen McCulloh**, Riley County Commissioner; **MarySue Roller**, City of Woodbine Councilwoman; **Ervan Stuewe**, Wabaunsee County Commissioner; **Jimmy Thatcher**, Clay Center Mayor; **Gary Sacher** (for Honey Grant), Grandview Plaza Commissioner; **David Shover II**, Riley City Mayor and **Phil Weishaar**, Chapman Mayor.

Absent from the Board: **Cecil Aska**, Junction City Commissioner; **Dan Deiter**, Alma City Council; **Stan Hartwich**, Pottawatomie County Commissioner; **Linda Hoeffner**, Fort Riley; **Lynn Peterson**, Abilene Mayor; **Debi Schwerdtfeger**, Council Grove Councilwoman; and **Jim Sherow**, Manhattan City Commissioner.

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

Present from Staff Support: **Ty Warner AICP**, Executive Director; **Unique Hiram M.S.**, Administrative Manager; and **Jeff Adams PhD**, Regional Planner;

Guests: **Debbie Adcock**, CG/MC Chamber Director; **Cheryl Beatty**, Junction City Asst. Manager of Finance; **Sheila Biggs**, Dickinson County Commissioner; **Lyle Butler**, Manhattan Chamber of Commerce President; **Buck Driggs**, SMH Consultants Project Manager; **Ron Fehr**, City of Manhattan (City Manager); **Wally Meyer**, Kansas University Director of Entrepreneurship Programs; **Lyle Peterson**, Kansas Department of Commerce; **State Representative Tom Phillips**, Kansas House of Representatives; **Robert Reece**, Pottawatomie County Administrator; **Andy Rogers**, Kansas State University Student; **Ron Wilson**, Kansas State University Huck Boyd Institute Director; and **David Yearout**, Junction City/Geary County Planning Director.

CALL TO ORDER:

- Vern Hay, FHRC President, called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

WELCOME:

- Melissa Kirkwood, Development Officer, of the Flint Hills Discovery Center welcomed everyone in attendance to the meeting venue.

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- On Wednesday, July 18, 2012, the Flint Hills Discovery Center hit a milestone of 30,000 visitors. This venue is a regional project that wants to educate and encourage its visitors to go out and explore the Flint Hills.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Member Vic Enns made a motion to approve the minutes. Member Karen McCulloh seconded. Motion was carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

- A copy of the financial report was given to all board members for their review.
- Member Karen McCulloh, FHRC Treasurer, stated that the report would be filed so that it is available for any future audits.

ELECTION OF 2012-2013 FHRC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS

- Member Vic Enns made a motion to keep the current slate of officers in their respective elected positions. Member Phil Weishaar seconded. Motion was carried unanimously.
- It was also noted by FHRC Board President Vern Hay that two of the elected officers (Member Karen McCulloh and Member Jim Sherow) would not be running for re-election at the end of their terms in 2013; therefore, there will need to be interim Executive Committee Officers appointed at those times.

REDTIRE PROGRAM

- Wallace W. Meyer, Jr., Director of Entrepreneurship Programs, from Kansas University gave an overview about the RedTire Program via an eight-slide PowerPoint presentation.
- The acronym **RedTire** stands for **R**edefine your **R**etirement and the website is www.redtire.org.
- This program is a new venture from Kansas University Entrepreneurship Works; it operates as a matchmaker between business owners, highly qualified graduates and alumni from any Kansas Regents University.
- The five functions that it oversees are the following: screening businesses, screening and evaluating replacement management, matching replacement management teams, assists in navigating ownership and provides ongoing mentorship for new business owners.
- RedTire is currently operating utilizing grant funding from the U.S. Department of Commerce; there is no charge for participation in the program.
- The program is most interested in businesses that are critical to the community either due to the service provided or due to the number of

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employees. Preference is not for smaller retail business (under \$500K in annual sales) at this time but may be considered later.

- The current goal of the program is to enter into at least two or three deals within the next year; this may seem small, but would help ensure the program functions well before expanding to capacity of 2-3 deals per month when fully operational.

The Regional Council membership took a break from the meeting at this point in order to take in some of the Flint Hills Discovery Center exhibits, and viewed the immersive film experience on the importance of the Flint Hills.

MARLATT/JUNIETTA ROAD EXTENSION:

- Buck Driggs, P.E., SMH Consultants Project Manager, gave a brief overview of the current Marlatt/Junietta Road Extension Project.
- Phase 1 – Conceptual Route Study, which includes the following layouts: two routes/Lake Elbo, two routes/Hopkins Creek and one route/Flush Road.
- Purpose of the Study is to establish a planning process for future growth, adding the project to KDOT's radar and improve future traffic conditions.
- Public involvement of the study includes steering committee initiation, stakeholder interviews (13/16 have been completed), elected officials' workshops/presentations and public open house meetings.
- The project Schedule flow includes project management, public involvement, traffic engineering, route selection and report.

MPO DESIGNATION:

- Ty Warner, FHRC Executive Director, reminded the Board that this designation has to be in place by March 26, 2013; however, the goal is to have everything designated by November 2012 so that KDOT is set up to disburse funds to our region beginning with the 2013 calendar year.
- There have been two joint Manhattan – Riley County – Pottawatomie County meetings and also one or two smaller, more technical meetings. He thanked the FHRC membership for a strong showing of regional support at these meetings, even those that are not directly affected by the MPO.
- The meetings thus far have largely centered on the boundaries of the MPO planning area, but the issue of where the MPO is housed also must be decided.
- Ron Fehr, City Manager for Manhattan, also relayed the process Manhattan is taking in order to work through the designation.

FORT RILEY UPDATE:

- Linda Hoeffner, Deputy Garrison Commander, was not able to attend the meeting.

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GOVERNOR'S MILITARY COUNCIL:

- John Armbrust, Governor's Military Council, informed the Board that Fort Riley hosted Leadership Kansas on July 26, 2012, which brought a number of dignitaries onto the base.
- There is still no concrete designated timeframe for BRAC to commence; however, there are a number of bases preparing for downsizing.
- The 2012 Association of Defense Communities Annual Conference will be held from August 5 – 8, 2012 in Monterey, CA. U.S. Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta will be addressing the conference attendees on Monday, August 6, 2012 and it will be live streamed at 9:00 a.m. PT (11:00 a.m. CT).
- Partnerships between local communities and installations are being highly encouraged and they have begun in small areas then will expand in the future. The legislation for this will be tied to the Defense Authorization Bill, which will give installation commanders the latitude he/she will need in order to enter into these partnerships.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:

- Member Ben Bennett, At-Large, stated that he is paying attention to the upcoming elections due to the redistricting.
- It was discussed about the necessity to start planning a legislative meeting with the newly elected officials in order to establish a relationship with them and discuss legislative concerns. Member Karen McCulloh suggested that information should go out in October along with Ty and another Board Member getting out to make personal visits to these individuals.
- The deadline for presenting legislative concerns to the Kansas Association of Counties is August 31, 2012.
- During the August 2012 Board Retreat, it was suggested that this legislative information also be collected and a sub-committee is appointed in order to move forward in devising a plan to deal with getting the legislative concerns heard by the prospective legislators.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- Warner gave the Board a snapshot summary in regards to the following items:

Frontiers Grant:

- Scott Moore, Community Liaison, has relocated to the Flint Hills and will be working part-time until January 2013.
- Data Collection and baseline reporting has been occurring between the staff and key partners, and fulfilling various reporting requirements from HUD.
- A large-scale launch of the project and planned public engagement activity is being planned as the next sequence of the Governor's Flint Hills symposiums, with the next meeting hopefully occurring in October 2012.

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- Frontiers Project Summaries will be posted online for public viewing.
- The Executive Committee for the Frontiers Project will call for one or two representatives from the Flint Hills Regional Council. This Committee will need to be responsive and active in the process. Warner intends to tap prospective members from the Council; if any FHRC member is particularly interested, they should make it known to him.

OEA Grant:

- Corridor Reimbursements have been deposited into the FHRC bank account and will be disbursed accordingly as dates for attendances at respective commissions are arranged with the recipients. All recipients on the Regional Council have been contacted about these reimbursements.
- Warner will be attending the 2012 Annual Association of Defense Communities Conference scheduled from August 5 – 8 in Monterey, CA as well as Armbrust.

Economic Development District:

- Bruce McMillan has been appointed to head up the Economic Development District Strategy Committee, of which over half must be made up of private sector representatives.
- HUD has indicated this process can proceed as part of the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant, and the Flint Hills Region would be the first grant Sustainable Communities grant recipient to break this ground in conjunction with HUD's grant program.
- Lyon and Chase Counties are also being approached about participating in this project, as the Economic Development District does not currently serve them.
- The proposed timeline for completion of this designation project is one year from now. As with the MPO, the EDD is another piece of the planned funding scenario for the Regional Council and its operations.

OTHER BUSINESS & NEXT MEETING:

- Guest David Yearout, Junction City/Geary County Planning Director, announced that there will be a Planning/Zoning Workshop held on August 18, 2012 in Wichita. The location is the Hotel at Old Town (830 East First Street) and the cost of the workshop is \$95.00.
- The 2012 Annual Board Retreat will be held on August 24, 2012 at Kansas State University in the Alumni Center. Advisory member Jackie Hartman gave some introductory information on logistics and more information will be forthcoming.

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MEETING ADJOURNED:

- Member Jimmy Thatcher motioned for the meeting to be adjourned at 11:52 p.m. Member Phil Weishaar seconded. Motion was carried unanimously.