



Flint Hills Regional Council Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes – June 17, 2011

Meeting Location: Wamego City Hall - Wamego, KS

Present from Board of the Regional Council: **John Armbrust**, Governor's Military Council; **Cecil Aska**, Junction City Commissioner; **Ben Bennett**, Geary County Commissioner; **Dan Deiter**, Alma City Council; **Vic Enns**, Wamego City Commissioner; **Stan Hartwich**, Pottawatomie County Commissioner; **Vern Hay**, Morris County Commissioner; **Linda Hoeffner**, Fort Riley; **Galen Johnson**, Dwight County Mayor; **Joe Kormanik**, Alta Vista Commissioner; **Karen McCulloh**, Riley County Commissioner; **MarySue Roller**, Woodbine County Councilwoman; **Debi Schwerdtfeger**, Council Grove Commissioner; **Jim Sherow**, Manhattan Mayor; **David Shover II**, Riley City Mayor; and **Ervan Stuewe**, Wabaunsee County Commissioner.

Absent from the Board: **Honey Grant**, Grandview Plaza Vice-Mayor; **Jackie Hartman**, Kansas State University; and **Jimmy Thatcher**, Clay Center Mayor.

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

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

Guests: **Bill Brown**, KS Dept. of Agriculture; **Colonel Kevin P. Brown**, Fort Riley; **Karen Davis**, City of Manhattan; **Rosalind Jennings**, Kansas Gas Service; **Bruce McMillian**, **Robert Reece**, Pottawatomie County; **Brett Regan**, KJCK Radio; **Traci Scott**, Fort Riley; **Monty Wedel**, Riley County; **David Yearout**, Junction City/Geary County.

Call to Order:

President Vern Hay called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. Members, staff and guests all introduced themselves. Ty Warner, Executive Director, officially introduced new employee Jeff Adams, Regional Planner, to all meeting attendees.

Welcome:

Host Member Vic Enns welcomed everyone to Wamego and gave a little background on the city as well as its current highlights. Some of the places highlighted were the water tower and the main street recreation center. Also, he shared that the 4th of July Fireworks were ranked in the top 5 by the Topeka Journal.

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Approval of Minutes:

Member Karen McCulloh motioned to approve the May 26, 2011 minutes. Vice President David Stover II seconded. The board carried the motion unanimously.

NBAF Presentation:

Bill Brown, Kansas Department of Agriculture Livestock Commissioner, gave a presentation on NBAF (National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility).

- Speaker Background Information:
 1. Graduated from the US Army War College
 2. Worked 40 years in the Army Veterinarian Corp
 3. Worked 17 years in Corporate America
 4. Email Address: wlbrownb@gmail.com

Highlights from Presentation:

- On July 1, 2011, the Kansas Department of Agriculture will be merging with the Kansas Animal Health Department.
- Livestock accounted for \$10.8 billion in revenue (2009) and the employment of 18,700 people.
- The Kansas Department of Agriculture is divided into three divisions: Brands, Animal Facilities Inspection and Animal Disease Control (largest division), which is further broken down into two divisions. Those two divisions are health planning and disease traceability.
- Two introductions to disease are accidental (live animals/animal products) and intentional.
- Foot/Mouth Disease is the #1 disease pathogens out of the eight known pathogens and it only takes one virus particle to spread – there was a 2010 outbreak in Japan and a 03/29/11 outbreak in South Korea.
- Simulated Terrorist Attack (foot/mouth disease) was done and 40 states were infected by Day 30.
- By the order of the Kansas Livestock Commission (in case of a foot/mouth disease outbreak), some of the following will occur: state borders closed, all livestock movement stopped, cleaning/disinfecting and activated quarantine areas (10 km)/restricted zones implemented.
- There is a web-based animal health system program that can be accessed by going to www.usaherds.org. (Safeguard the National/State Herd Program)
- There is a 50-mile radius in Manhattan, KS that is currently being used to try and understand animal disease traceability.
- The responsibility of community leaders will need to be to put emergency response plans, including animal disease threats, into place so that the response times and efforts are effective/efficient if an outbreak were to ever occur in that specific area.

Among discussion with the FHRC, it was acknowledged that while some communities such as Pottawatomie County have good emergency response plans in place, such plans throughout the region, if they exist at all, are lacking in their interconnectedness and synchronization with neighboring plans. It was suggested

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that the Flint Hills Regional Council might be in a prime position to help facilitate bridging these connections between response planning efforts across the entire region, as events do not limit themselves neatly within individual community borders.

Discussion on Community Partnership Conferences:

- Ty Warner and Linda Hoeffner lead a discussion on the level of involvement with the Flint Hills Regional Council in regards to hosting the Community Partnership Conferences. Fort Riley wants the meetings to be more community focused; yet some communities want to ensure that the focus on receiving information from the Fort is not lost. Complicating the issue is that not all communities attending the CPC meetings are members of the FHRC, but all agree that duplication should be avoided. Colonel Kevin P. Brown, Garrison Commander, stated that he would like the Fort to be a player but not the primary driver; as an example, the CPC on Housing brought in many communities to give an overview on their respective housing activities, which was facilitated by the FHRC. The CPCs have traditionally focused on the core topics of Education, Employment, Healthcare, Housing and Recreation.
- The BRAC Phase will be done September 15, 2011; therefore, it was suggested that a phasing of more FHRC ownership of the CPCs might begin with that timeline. Member Ben Bennett would like to have Tricare added a CPC health topic discussion and Member Karen McCulloh suggested that an agenda item entitled "Fort Riley Update" is added to the FHRC monthly agenda.

Housing Update:

- Ty Warner gave a brief recap of the creation of the housing database and the utilization of the American Community Survey data from the US Census Bureau; this data is regularly updated every 3-5 years and is more easily obtainable than the method of data collection previously being employed. This information has been given to the Garrison to utilize with the Department of the Army
- Col Brown looked at these figures as a percentage of the total units in the region, and pointed to the potential shortfall of units for single soldiers seeking rental living accommodations. He appreciated the FHRC's support of retaining 300+ homes from demolition last year, and indicated he was coming back to the FHRC for support for additional single living accommodations on post. While the Garrison Command cannot predict what troop assignments will be in the future, an anticipated 14,000–16,000 troops will be located at the home base when no rapid deployment is in effect; the Fort will be proposing to build between 200–300 housing units on the Fort to accommodate geographical bachelors from the ranks of Senior Enlisted to Major whose families haven't relocated with them to this duty station. There will be more discussion on this topic.
- Member Jim Sherow suggested that the housing database information gets posted to the FHRC website as one of the accomplishments of the FHRC.

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Legislative Update:

- President Vern Hay presented information on KOMA/KORA Regional Training that is being held by Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt and the Kansas Sunshine Coalition. Link: <http://www.ksag.org/page/koma-kora-regional-training>.
- President Hay also relayed that the study for the proposed Flint Hills Weclome Center has been narrowed down to two locations at K-18 & K-177.
- President Hay also drew the Board's attention to the state adoption of the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control, which would incur unfunded costs for compliance. He suggested that there might be economies of scale if communities within the FHRC are able to pool together to address these mandatory changes to signage and other impacts from this adoption.
- President Hay also indicated that the Regional Council staff's work in communicating the benefits of T-Works projects in our region such as K-177 was instrumental in securing funding in the recent project announcements.

Other Business/Next Meeting:

- Warner reiterated that the Reimbursements for Corridor Studies that were included with the OEA grant was removed at the OEA's request due to the Federal budget situation and the desired focus in these current Federal budget circumstances on operational funding only. Those corridor study reimbursements may be applied for as a supplement to the current grant this coming Fall.
- The Executive Committee will discuss the process of new officer appointments following this meeting, in order to have a slate to bring before the FHRC Board of Directors in July.
- President Hay moved to have a financial report included with the monthly agenda. Member Jim Sherow seconded; all in favor, the motion carried.

The next scheduled meeting will be held July 15, 2011 on Fort Riley. Warner relayed that the meeting is being planned to follow Colonel Brown's Change of Command Ceremony taking place that morning.

Meeting Adjourned:

Member Ervan Stuewe moved to adjourn the meeting. Member Jim Sherow seconded. The motion carrying unanimously, the board meeting was adjourned at 11:53 a.m.