



## Flint Hills Regional Council Board of Directors

Board Minutes – June 22, 2012  
Eisenhower Presidential Library Courtyard  
Abilene, KS 67410

Present from Board of the Regional Council: **Cecil Aska**, Junction City Commissioner; **Ben Bennett**, Geary County Commissioner; **Vic Enns**, Wamego City Commissioner; **Stan Hartwich**, Pottawatomie County Commissioner; **Vern Hay**, Morris County Commissioner; **Linda Hoeffner**, Fort Riley; **Galen Johnson**, Dwight City Mayor; **Keith Kahnt**, White City Councilman; **Joe Kormanik**, Alta Vista Commissioner; **Karen McCulloh**, Riley County Commissioner; **Lynn Peterson**, Abilene Mayor; **MarySue Roller**, City of Woodbine Councilwoman; **Debi Schwerdtfeger**, Council Grove Councilwoman; **Jim Sherow**, Manhattan City Commissioner; and **David Shover II**, Riley City Mayor.

Absent from the Board: **John Armbrust**, Governor's Military Council; **Dan Deiter**, Alma City Council; **Honey Grant**, Grandview Plaza Vice-Mayor; **Jackie Hartman**, Kansas State University; **Ervan Stuewe**, Wabaunsee County Commissioner; **Jimmy Thatcher**, Clay Center Mayor; and **Phil Weishaar**, Chapman Mayor.

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; **Abby Amick**, Wabaunsee County Economic Development Director; **Chuck Bartlett**, Benesch Sr. Project Manager; **Gerry Bieker**, City of Chapman Administrator; **Sheila Biggs**, Dickinson County Commissioner; **Karen Davis**, City of Manhattan Community Development Director; **Brian Deal**, LEAMgroup Chair; **David Dillner**, City of Abilene (City Manager); **Ron Fehr**, City of Manhattan (City Manager); **Doug McKinney**, North Central Regional Planning Commission Executive Director; **Bruce McMillian**, Flint Hills Task Force Chair; **Elizabeth Patton**, District Representative (Senator Moran); **Lyle Peterson**, Kansas Department of Commerce; **Angie Schwerdtfeger**, Tri-County Telephone; **Traci Scott**, Fort Riley Regional Liaison Officer; **Gerry Vernon**, City of Junction City (City Manager); and **David Yearout**, Junction City/Geary County Planning Director.

### CALL TO ORDER:

- Vern Hay, FHRC President, called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.

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**WELCOME:**

- Member Lynn Peterson welcomed the board, staff and guests to the City of Abilene.
- There was a brief historical background given of the Eisenhower Presidential Library along with information given on the current “Elvis at 21” display which will run until July 1, 2012.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- Member Jim Sherow asked that the minute’s attendance section reflect a change from City of Manhattan Mayor to Manhattan City Commissioner.
- Member Jim Sherow made a motion to approve the minutes. Member Vic Enns 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.

**2011 YEAR-END COMPILATION REPORT**

- Carol E. McCullough, CPA from Reese & Novelly presented the information to the Board from the 2011 Year-End Compilation Report.
- It was noted that expenses increased from 2010 to 2011 due to added personnel and equipment; however, there were savings in the personnel/fringe categories due the following reasons: 42% of estimated fringe costs was based on the City of Manhattan which caused the over budgeted amount due to the size of our organization; the hiring timeline for each employee was later than anticipated; and hiring salaries were different than originally projected.

**NORTH CENTRAL REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

- Doug McKinney, NCRPC Executive Director, gave an overview on the program areas that his organization is engaged in that overlap with the Flint Hills Regional Council area, and which pre-date the formation of the FHRC.
  1. Homeland Security Regions
    - (a) There has been fire training at Kansas State for the Northeast Fire Department.
  2. Weatherization Programming
    - (a) Energy Efficiency Improvements throughout the region.
  3. Rural Business Development Tax Program
    - (a) There have been more community based business loans being administered.

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- (b) There are some outlay funds available; however, there is no legislative renewal for additional funding.
- Warner relayed that the cross-regional dialogue has been good with NCRPC, and both organizations understand that various issues do not fit neatly into a specific organizational boundary. The organizations have worked together directly and also through the Kansas Association of Regional Development Organizations.

**REGIONAL MOBILITY BENCHMARKING:**

- Jeff Adams, FHRC Regional Planner, presented information from his slide presentation entitled “Benchmarking Mobility: Access & Opportunity 2012.”
  - (a) Potential Functions of a Regional Entity include but are not limited to: Economic Development, Transportation, Eco-Tourism & Recreation, Military Relations, Housing and Rural Development.
  - (b) Performance metrics are in a process of change, from direct raw data inputs, such as Gross Products to more subjective and ‘well-being’ or holistic measures: Soul of the Community findings, for instance, show people are attached to their communities due to the following four factors: educational opportunities, aesthetics, social offerings and openness.
  - (c) When we examine transportation needs for people they reach far beyond the daily commute, and can be broken-down into three ‘places’: 1<sup>st</sup> place, the home; 2<sup>nd</sup> place, work; and 3<sup>rd</sup> place social (e.g. grocery store, church and school).
  - (d) When determining the Metropolitan Planning Area Boundary line, the Federal Highway Administration recommends considering a 20-year growth area, beyond the Urbanized Areas, up to the Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) Boundary.
  - (e) When we compare our regional commuting patterns with other state and regional MSA areas, we have considerably longer commutes and a more mobile region.
  - (f) As we re-tool the Community Partnership Conferences (CPCs), we can convene the region around regional mobility as a wide stakeholder meeting topic. Future CPCs (or their successors) can be structured around all of the Frontiers guiding issue areas (mobility, opportunity, built environment, social systems, natural systems and cultural systems).

**MPO DESIGNATION:**

- Ty Warner, FHRC Executive Director, presented a brief overview on the MPO Designation and provided the council with two handouts: Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Designation Intention in the Regional Planning Organization (RPO) Project Final Report, launching the Flint Hills Regional Council (FHRC) and a copy of a letter from Fred Abousleman, National Association of Regional Communities (NARC)

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Executive Director, addressed to legislators (Senate & House) in Washington, DC.

- Warner indicated the MPO designation is facing two fronts: (1) the regional discussion regarding the designation, and (2) the National discussion regarding the new transportation bill being developed that could change the rules for which MPOs previously were designated.
- Warner walked the FHRC Board through the timeline of coming to this point in the MPO designation process. The first handout is a compilation of the excerpts taken from the RPO Project Final Report indicating the FHRC was planned to house the MPO when this time came. No circumstances have changed since the creation of the report, and the release of the urbanized area figures are as anticipated in the RPO report.
- The second handout, NARC's position letter to legislators arguing for continuing the metropolitan planning provisions of the previous transportation bill, specifically called out the Flint Hills Regional Council as an example of a smaller MPO that would be affected by changing the transportation bill to raise the MPO threshold. It drew attention to the negative affects this would have on the Regional Council's ability to carry out its mission.
- The 2010 U.S. Census numbers designating Urbanized Areas were released in March 2012 - the Urbanized Areas and Urbanized Cluster areas are highlighted on the back of the RPO Project handout.
- The urbanized area population threshold that triggers an MPO Designation is 50,000.
- According to Federal Law, the designation must be made by March 2013 in order to receive Federal funds for surface transportation projects.
- Ron Fehr, Manhattan City Manager, stated that the upcoming "MPO 101" June 28, 2012 meeting with KDOT, FHA and FTA would consist of an environment of presentation from those entities and interaction from the attendees.
- The House & Senate committees both announced that morning that they are in agreement but the final bill will indicate whether the 50,000 population threshold remains intact. FHRC has advocated for maintaining this threshold with congressional representatives.

**REGIONAL MODELING:**

- Dr. Brian Deal, cofounder, chairman, and principal scientist of LEAMgroup and Professor of Urban & Regional Planning at the University of Illinois, r, presented information to the council on regional modeling utilizing information.
- Presentations Highlights/Major Points:
  - (a) Benefits of local action: relevancy and political advantages.
  - (b) New ways to think about "planning": regionalism and new tools/technologies.
  - (c) Limitations when not thinking regionally: gaps in future vision, difference in local policies and gaps/overlaps in jurisdictional boundaries.

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- (d) Communities tend to compete when they are not thinking on a regional scale, which often leads to doing a disservice to accomplishing bigger goals.
- (e) Less heated discussions of the distribution of tax revenues from development located on jurisdictional borders occurs when regionalism is at the core of making clear objectives.
- (f) Critical Connections: Land Use and Transportation.
- (g) Two factors that have to be taken into consideration when figuring out how to improve transportation systems are: posted speeds and commute time along with the difference between congested vs. uncongested areas.
- (h) Modeling Analysis – integrated planning process and focused on informed decision-making.
- (i) In regards to military bases, it is important to understand what happens outside the gates of bases – affects BRAC & surrounding communities.
- (j) “Plan regionally, act locally.”

**FORT RILEY UPDATE:**

- Linda Hoeffner, Deputy Garrison Commander, informed the council that there is a full scale emergency management exercise occurring on the Fort during the week of June 25, which will include simulations for an aircraft crash, fire and tornado.
- The Kansas State University McCain Auditorium will play host to the Fort Riley Solider Show on July 13, 2012 at 7 p.m. Door will open 6 p.m. and the admission is free; however, limited reserved tickets will only be from July 11 – 13, 2012. See Link: <http://rileymwr.com/main/?p=32546>.
- Lt Dan Band will be performing on July 28, 2012 at Fort Riley outside of the Riley’s Conference Center. See Link: <http://rileymwr.com/main/?p=32543>.
- Headquarters and the 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade are reported as doing fine at their current overseas location.
- The Estes gate was opened on June 11, 2012 and the Henry gate (Exit #301) has been widened.

**GOVERNOR’S MILITARY COUNCIL:**

- John Armbrust, Governor’s Military Council, was not able to attend the meeting.

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:**

- Member Ben Bennett, At-Large, stressed that it is vitally important to get an immediate working relationship with the newly elected officials in order to address issues such as redistricting.
- It was also discussed about the necessity to have Fort Riley involved on many of the legislative conversations because there are many decisions that will have an impact on them as well.

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- Member Jim Sherow suggested that the Council members should communicate regional support to KDOT about the many concerns of the MPO designation at the upcoming meeting. He reiterated that he stood by the his comments in the bullet from the May 25, 2012 meeting minutes, which states the “it was always intended in the creation of the FHRC that it would house the MPO in a truly regional approach to the designation. There is no reason to change it now.”

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT:**

- Warner informed the Board that the new Executive Committee members are slated to be seated in July; therefore, the current Executive Committee will need to meet and address how this process will be handled.
- The currently seated Executive Committee meeting has decided to meet on June 28, 2012 after the “MPO 101” meeting which will be held at the City of Manhattan Commission Room at 4 p.m.

**OTHER BUSINESS & NEXT MEETING:**

- There was no other business to be discussed.
- The next board meeting will be held on July 27, 2012. Location and further information will be forthcoming.

**MEETING ADJOURNED:**

- Member Karen McCulloh motioned for the meeting to be adjourned at 12:11 p.m. Member Stan Hartwich seconded. Motion was carried unanimously.