



**Flint Hills Regional Council Board of Directors  
Meeting Minutes of June 28, 2013**

**Flint Hills Regional Council Board of Directors  
Board Meeting Minutes – June 28, 2013  
Riley’s Conference Center  
Fort Riley, KS 66441**

Present from Board of the Regional Council: **John Armbrust**, Governor’s Military Council; **Robert Boyd**, Riley County Commissioner; **Ben Bennett**, Geary County Commissioner; **Dan Deiter**, Alma City Councilman; **Vic Enns**, Wamego City Commissioner; **Honey Grant**, Grandview Plaza Vice-Mayor; **Stan Hartwich**, Pottawatomie County Commissioner; **Vern Hay**, Morris County Commissioner; **Linda Hoeffner**, Fort Riley; **Karen McCulloh** (for Rich Jankovich), Manhattan City Commissioner; **Keith Kahnt**, White City Councilman; **Joe Kormanik**, Alta Vista Commissioner; **John Ray**, Abilene City Commissioner; **MarySue Roller**, City of Woodbine Councilwoman; **David Shover II**, Riley City Mayor; and **Phil Weishaar**, City of Chapman Mayor.

Absent from the Board: **Cecil Aska**, Junction City Mayor; **Jackie Hartman**, Kansas State University; **Galen Johnson**, Dwight City Mayor; **Debi Schwerdtfeger**, Council Grove Councilwoman; and **Jimmy Thatcher**, Clay Center Mayor.

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

Present from Staff Support: **Gary Stith AICP**, Interim Executive Director; **Unique Hiram M.S.**, Administrative Manager; **Jeff Adams PhD**, Regional Planner; **Scott Moore**, Community Liaison; and **Stephanie Watts**, Transportation Planner.

Guests: **Abby Amick**, Wabaunsee County EcoDev Director; **Eric Cattell**, City of Manhattan Asst. Director of Planning; **David Dillner**, Abilene City Manager; **Elizabeth Patton**, Congressional Staffer for Senator Moran; **Bruce McMillan**, CEDS Chair; **Lyle Peterson**, Kansas Dept. of Commerce Regional Planning Manager; **Robert Reece**, Pottawatomie County Administrator; **Carlos Reyes**, aTa Bus Dispatch Operator Supervisor; **Monty Wedel**, Riley County Planning & Development Director; and **David Yearout**, Geary County/Junction City Planning & Zoning Director.

**MEETING START TIME:**

- Vern Hay, FHRC President, called the meeting to order at 8:58 a.m.

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**WELCOME:**

- Member and Fort Riley Deputy Garrison Commander Linda Hoeffner welcomed the board members, staff and guests to the installation. She reiterated that the post is always open and encouraged the community members to feel free to visit the fort.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- Member Honey Grant motioned for approval of the minutes from May 24, 2013. Member Keith Kahnt seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

- There were no questions from the board members about the current financial report. It will be filed for audit purposes; no vote is required for approval.

**“BIG RED ONE”:**

- Major General Funk, Commanding General for 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division/Fort Riley, informed the board that there would be a loss of 1500-1700 soldiers due to the sequestration, which equates to about 2.9% of reduction in force at Fort Riley.
- Two main goals for Fort Riley are to be transparent and become a regional training facility.
- Personnel from the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Brigades will be reassigned accordingly; those cuts will be phased in from 2015-2017.
- Other Army installations such as Fort Knox will be losing 3200 slots.
- There is a current hiring freeze; contracts will be cut and phased out into 2017.
- The new hospital is six months behind in construction due the funding constraints.
- In regards to Community Partnership Agreements between the Fort and local communities, there will be implementation guidelines provided for this process. There is also a workshop that will be held about this in Monterey.

**FLINT HILLS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION:**

- Stephanie Watts, FHMPO Transportation Planner, gave a presentation about the Flint Hills Metropolitan Planning Organization.
- Due to the 2010 U.S. Census urban population numbers, the City of Manhattan reached the threshold of over 50,000 to be designated as a MPO by the State of Kansas.
- The Flint Hills Metropolitan Planning Organization (FHMPO) Policy Board consists of six (6) voting members and three (3) non-voting members. The Policy Board is made up of local elected officials and a KDOT representative.

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- The Flint Hills Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee (FHMPO TAC) is comprised of planning and public works staff from the member jurisdictions, federal transportation agency staff, and representatives from Ft. Riley, KSU, and aTa Bus.
- The FHMPO Staff consists of three personnel, which includes the Transportation Planner (100% funded), Executive Director (25% funded) and Administrative Manager (30% funded).
- The core documents utilized by the FHMPO are the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP), Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and Public Participation Plan (PPP).
- Some of the next steps that the FHMPO will be taking are as follows: approval of the TIP (Fall 2013), hiring of a consultant for the Transportation Demand Model (Fall 2013) and implementation of a Metropolitan Transportation Plan (Summer 2014).
- The City of Manhattan and Junction City are both in the process of updating their comprehensive plans.
- Member David Shover asked if it was necessary for the smaller communities to update their community plans; Interim Executive Director Gary Stith explained that it is not necessary at this time for the smaller communities to do so. However, they will be kept aware of the information about the update processes from the larger communities and help can be provided if the updates are needed from those particular areas.
- The next FHMPO TAC will be meeting on August 7, 2013 at 1:00 p.m. in the City of Manhattan Commission Room.
- The FHMPO slide show will be posted to the FHRC/MPO website and can be accessed using this link: <http://flintheillsmmpo.wix.com/fhmpo#!other/c1yql>.

**REGIONAL TRANSIT:**

- Anne Smith, aTa Bus Director, provided a presentation to the board, staff and guests about the regional transit system.
- The regional ridership from 2007-2012 has increased from 20,000-159,000.
- In 2012, there was a total ridership of 157,000; as of May 2013 the ridership is currently at 123,000.
- Some of the types of regional ridership that is offered are as follows: Fixed Route (City of Manhattan), Demand Response (throughout the county), SafeRide (KSU), Route One Jardine (KSU), Flex Route (University Crossing) and Shuttle Service (between City of Manhattan and Junction City).
- aTa has transported over 25,000 regional rides with only three buses from January 2012 – March 2013.
- Public/Private partnerships (i.e. service contract concept) play a significant role for public/regional transportation. For example, KSU is the main reason that there are fixed routes in the City of Manhattan.
- Every \$1 invested = \$4 economic return for public transportation.
- There is an automated scheduling system used to set up ridership; the software will not allow more riders than authorized bus capacity.
- There will be a 5% increase in the 2014 KDOT funding (\$6M to \$11M) because of increased funding for transportation.

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- KDOT is currently looking at I-70 using a feasibility study because there is a future goal of having service along the I-70 corridor.
- Three barriers that aTa faces in regards to expanding their regional routes are perception, challenges with local funding sources and specific community needs being identified.
- Ridership fares: \$2.00/one way within 3 miles, \$4.00/one way over 3 miles, fixed routes \$1.00 (one day)/\$.50 (1/2 day)/\$30.00 (unlimited).
- You can access information about aTa utilizing this link:  
[www.rileycountyks.gov/ATA](http://www.rileycountyks.gov/ATA).
- Gary Stith indicated that as a non-profit, aTa was not eligible to receive FTA 5307 funds for Urbanized Areas. We are working with aTa and attorney Bill Frost to determine if the FHRC could be a direct recipient of these funds to pass through to aTa. He asked the Board if that is something they would wish for staff to pursue. There was a consensus that the Board would see public transit as an appropriate regional service for FHRC to facilitate.

**LEGISLATIVE OVERVIEW:**

- Representative Tom Philips shared some insight on a few of the Kansas legislative items.
- In regards to budget and taxes, there is a 20-year effort to redesign government involvement.
- There will be no concrete budget agreement until the state tax strategy is in place and agreed upon by both parties.
- There were eight tax proposals and it was narrowed down to two which included either no taxes or continuing the 6/10 sales tax set in 2010 that is set to expire this year.
- There is a three-tier tax system that the State of Kansas utilizes which includes state income taxes, sales taxes and property taxes. The future goal is to go to a two-tier tax system that only includes sales and property taxes to generate revenue.
- The short-term fix for the budget constraints has been for the State of Kansas to utilize funding from other agencies such as KDOT (\$3M) to support operating costs.
- Both the Kansas House and Senate have approved the NBAF bond for \$202M.
- Governor Brownback added in funding for the Kansas Department of Corrections; however, the Kansas Board of Regents had their budget cut for the upcoming fiscal year.
- It is important to note that the State of Kansas has been able to carry over cash balances each year.
- Next year the legislators will be looking to vote on changing the timing of the local elections to not coincide with the national elections.
- Representative Phillips encouraged the board to stay in touch with their respective legislator in order to keep everyone positively engaged with each other on the various issues/areas of concern in their communities.

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**FORT RILEY UPDATE:**

- Linda Hoeffner informed the board that furlough letters were sent out to 2700 civilian employees on June 27, 2013. Some will begin furlough on July 14, 2013; however, the bulk of the civilian employees will begin their furloughs on July 19, 2013 – September 30, 2013.
- Some of the civilian employees who will be exempt from this include truck firefighters, wastewater operators, direct childcare providers and the recycling team.
- There is a current hiring freeze and there will be a reduction in forces due to the sequestration.
- Temp/term employees have been released and contractors have been kept thus far; however, some centrally focused contractors are being released.
- The change of command for Garrison Commander, Colonel Clark will be held on July 18, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.

**GOVERNOR'S MILITARY COUNCIL UPDATE:**

- John Armbrust, Governor's Military Council Executive Director, informed the board that there will be another round of reorganizations for the civilian workforce, guard and reserve forces.
- The BRAC process is slow and the amendment to look at bases overseas has been delayed by 1-2 years.
- Armbrust commented on the fact that it was very important and well worth the effort for the local communities who attended the forum which was held at Fort Riley.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

- Frontiers Project – There will be a Flint Hills Frontiers Summer Summit held in Emporia, KS on July 10, 2013 (10 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.). You can send an RSVP for this event at [www.flinthillsfrontiers.org/RSVP](http://www.flinthillsfrontiers.org/RSVP).
- Flint Hills Economic Development District (FHEDD) – There will be work groups dealing with nine focus areas beginning mid-July through the end of August 2013.
- There has been a consultant hired from Kansas State University, Dr. Katherine Nesse, to work on the CEDS document.
- The staff is currently working on the in-kind match documentation for HUD and will be reporting the FHRC Board members' attendance at meetings (estimated value \$22/hour).
- Preferred Sustainability Status (DOT exempt) – There are extra points when applying for grants by participating jurisdictions and organizations; grant applications have to come through the FHRC office to receive these points. The contacts for this are Gary Stith, Jeff Adams and Scott Moore.
- In regards to the August 2013 FHRC Board Retreat, the staff is currently looking for a facilitator. We would appreciate suggestions.

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**OTHER BUSINESS & NEXT MEETING:**

- Vern Hay announced that there would be a brief FHRC Executive Committee meeting to finalize the employment contract for the new Executive Director.
- Member Vic Enns explained how the nominating committee came up with the proposed slate of officers for 2013-14. He suggested that the next time there are two names selected for each position.
- Member Phil Weishaar motioned for approval of the 2013-14 proposed slate of officers. Member Karen McCulloh seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.
- Member Ben Bennett suggested that the Bylaws be amended to reflect that the immediate past president will remain on the executive committee for at least one year.
- Member David Shover motioned for an amendment to add the former president to the 2013-14 slate of officers serving for a one-year period. Member Dan Deiter seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

**MEETING ADJOURNMENT:**

- Member Phil Weishaar motioned for the meeting to adjourn. Member Dan Deiter seconded. Meeting was adjourned unanimously at 12:00 p.m.