

**Flint Hills Regional Council Board of Directors
Minutes of May 21, 2010**

**Flint Hills Regional Council Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes—May 21, 2010
Held at The Bowers Building, 325 W. Main St, Council Grove, 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 Schwerdfeger**, 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; **Linda Hoeffner**, Fort Riley; **John Armbrust**, Gov's Military Council; **Garry Gontz**, Office of Economic Adjustment.

Absent from Board of the Regional Council: **Vic Enns**, City of Wamego.

Present from Regional Council Membership:

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

Guests: **Mary & Bryn Warner**; **Bruce McMillan**, Flint Hills Regional Task Force; **Traci Scott**, Fort Riley; **David Yearout**, Junction City/Geary County Planning; **Monty Wedel**, Riley County; **Brigitte Brechersen**, Riley County; **Lyle Peterson**, Kansas Dept. of Commerce; **Merl Page**, City of Wamego; **Todd Moore**, Junction City Chamber; **Sarah Talley**, Junction City Chamber; **Cheryl Beatty**, Clay Center; **Genevieve Nichols**, Council Grove/Morris County Chamber; **Luke Thompson**, Manhattan Mercury.

Welcome – President Brown called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Vern Hay welcomed everyone to Council Grove. Highlighted several historic aspects of the area. Garry Gontz spoke on behalf of the OEA. Discussed the progression of the legal memo required to receive OEA funding stating that the FHRC is a local government/regional organization as defined by state law.

Introduce the Executive Director – Ty Warner, Flint Hills Regional Council Executive Director thanked everyone for the welcome and for making the hiring process so inclusive. Introduced his wife Mary and daughter Bryn.

Approval of Minutes from Apr. 23 – Member McCulloh moved to approve the minutes as presented. Member Heldstab seconded. Motion carried 9 yeas, one absent.

Tabled Items –

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EDCs Funding Proposal Board would like to see case studies of similar situations. Also interested in the details of the legislation required. Would like to assist or facilitate this activity. The Executive Committee and Executive Director are asked to pursue more information. There are several advantages to this proposal. It would allow economic development at the regional level. It would also increase collaboration as the presentation to the legislature would have to be with one unified voice. It keeps all options open.

Army Community Covenant Many of the dates have been set for the re-signings and the new signing in Abilene. The Master Covenant and all the County Covenants will be signed in February at Armed Forces Day by those in attendance there. It was suggested that any attendees from the FHRC present at the signings be acknowledged where appropriate.

Rotating Board Meetings – Each meeting will be assigned to a County and those participants in that County will select a location to hold the meeting. The intent is to visit each County twice a year.

Informational Updates –

Office Setup Working on getting cell phone setup for Ty and computers ordered. The Riley County Cell Phone Policy was suggested as a possible resource. Registered with HUD for upcoming grant opportunities. Have setup a PO Box so mail can be received in a timely fashion. The new mailing address is Flint Hills Regional Council, PO Box 298, Ogden, KS 66517.

Workman's Compensation Policy was setup on Monday as this was Ty's first day of employment. There is only one group which will cover us as a new non-profit. The Policy cost is based on salaries paid for the year and audited each Dec. The final cost for the FHRC is \$793. Member McCulloh moved that the Workman's Compensation Policy be approved as explained. Member Shover seconded. Motion carried 9 yeas and one absent.

Accounting Setup – Discussion: All expenses relating to the FHRC's employees (currently, only the Executive Director) will be invoiced to the City of Manhattan. The City will continue to pay costs associated with the Growth Coordinator and the Equipment setup for the office. All purchases for the FHRC by the City of Manhattan will be charged tax as the FHRC is not a tax exempt organization.

Discussion on Allowing Voting by Proxy – Discussion: Since each Board member is already keeping their council or commission informed of the activities and discussions of the FHRC, passing a selected Board member's vote on to one of his or her council or commission's other members should be allowed. Staff is to suggest appropriate changes to the Bylaws allowing a board member to select a proxy in the manner by which the board member was appointed to the FHRC Board for one meeting. Such a proxy will be identified to FHRC staff by

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email, letter or fax. In the case of Board members representing more than one elected body the proxy vote may come from any of those elected body represented by the Board member. Member Sherow moved that proxy voting be allowed generally with the specifics based on staff recommended language. Member Heldstab seconded. Motion carried. 9 yeas and one absent.

Discussion on Top 5/Top 10 Priorities – Discussion: FHRC is setup to do operational setup items in year one, capacity building activities in year two and larger projects in year three. Late August or early September appear to be the best time to have a Board Retreat to discuss possible projects. Each Board member is asked to bring a list of possible projects to the next Board meeting. It is suggested that the members consult with their respective staffs on what projects the FHRC might be able to help with. It was also suggested that the FHRC look through the counties' various strategic plans for overlap. Several other project options were discussed. Executive Director to come with possible dates.

Other Business – Wabaunsee County May vote to join the FHRC next week. Member Hay moved to seat a Board member from Wabaunsee County should the Commission decide vote to join the FHRC. Member McCulloh seconded. Motion carried. 9 yeas and one absent.

Joint Chamber Meeting Ty will speak at the meeting on July 14 in Manhattan at the Clarion. Other topics will include NBAF, Housing and Fort Riley and Social Networking in Business.

Executive Director Moving Expenses quotes from companies came back higher than expected. Lowest quote was for \$11,244.90. There is flexibility in the budget to cover this increase. Member Heldstab moved to increase moving expense limit to \$11,244.90 as recommended by the Executive Committee. Member Shover seconded. Motion carried. 9 yeas and one absent.

Schools on Fort Riley Member Hoeffner gave a short run through on the recent visit of the Secretary of Defense to Fort Riley and ongoing efforts to fund a new schools and several renovations to accommodate the increased population in USD 475.

Housing Database Continuing to update especially important in relation to schools are where the soliders live determine which district the children attend. The Board would like to see more information on the income levels of the soldiers. It was suggested that modeling housing numbers with land use information would be helpful.

NARC Conference The Executive Director and Growth Coordinator will be attending the National Association of Regional Council's annual meeting in Cleveland the week of June 14. The regularly scheduled Board meeting would be June 18 but will need to be moved; June 25 is the suggested alternative.

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COBRA Coverage for the Executive Director The Cost for this will be approximately \$1824.34. Payments will be mailed directly to the COBRA provider.

KDOT's Transportation Break Through Team would like to make a short presentation at the June meeting.

Consent Agenda and Accounting Section The Board would like to see these items added to the future agendas to limit the number of purely informational items on the agenda.

June Meeting – will be June 25, 2010 in Clay Center location TBA.

Motion to adjourn – Member McCulloh moved to adjourn the meeting.
Seconded by Member Schwerdtfeger. Passed 9 yeas and one absent.

Adjourned at 12:05pm