



Flint Hills Regional Council Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes – May 26, 2011

Meeting Location: Clay County Hospital, 2nd Floor Education Room, Clay Center, KS

Present from Board of the Regional Council: **Ben Bennett**, Geary County Commissioner; **Dan Deiter**, Alma City Council; **Vic Enns**, Wamego City Commissioner; **Jackie Hartman**, Kansas State University; **Stan Hartwich**, Pottawatomie County Commissioner; **Vern Hay**, Morris County Commissioner; **Linda Hoeffner**, Fort Riley; **Galen Johnson**, Dwight County Mayor; **Joe Kormanik**, Alta Vista Commissioner; **Dave Lewis**, Riley County Commissioner (for Karen McCulloh); **MarySue Roller**, Woodbine County Councilwoman; **Debi Schwerdtfeger**, Council Grove Commissioner; and **David Shover**, Riley City Council.

Absent from the Board: **John Armburst**, Governor's Military Council; **Jim Sherow**, Manhattan City Mayor; and **Ervan Stuewe**, Wabaunsee County Commissioner.

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

Present from Staff Support: **Ty Warner**, Executive Director and **Unique Hiram**, Administrative Manager.

Guests: **Abby Amick**, Wabaunsee County EDC; **Sharon Brown**, Clay Center; **Todd Moore**, Junction City Chamber; **Traci Scott**, Fort Riley; **Vern Swanson**, 64th District Representative; **Jimmy Thatcher**, Clay Center Mayor; **Jeff Tucker** and other representatives of the Advanced Manufacturing Institute; **Monty Wedel**, Riley County; **David Yearout**, Junction City/Geary County; and the **North Central Kansas Regional Planning Commission**.

Call to Order:

President Vern Hay called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Members and staff from both the Flint Hills Regional Council and the North Central Regional Planning Commission, and other guests, all introduced themselves.

Approval of Minutes:

Vice-President David Shover moved to approve the minutes from April 8, 2011 as presented. Member Stan Hartwich seconded. Motion was carried unanimously.

Acceptance of New Member:

Member Ben Bennett moved to accept Grandview Plaza as a new Council member.

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Vice-President David Shover seconded. Motion was carried unanimously. Upon acceptance, President Hay administered the oath of office to Honey Grant, who will be serving as the official representative for Grandview Plaza.

Discussion with North Central KS Regional Planning Commission Members:

1. Unfunded Mandates

- Doug McKinney, Executive Director of the North Central Regional Planning Commission, and Ty Warner, Executive Director of the Flint Hills Regional Council, framed the discussion as one of discovering shared concerns through which collaboration between the bodies could be beneficial.
- President Vern Hay suggested talking with legislators about these concerns as they are uncovered, and there was a consensus with the meeting participants about initiating this dialogue.
- President Hay first raised the issue of FCC requirements for narrow band infrastructure for two-way radio communications. Storm sirens may be affected by these mandates because transmitters have to be reprogrammed. There will be possible fines from the FCC if this equipment does not follow the regulations set forth with these mandates.
- Representative Vern Swanson indicated there were growing concerns about new regulations from the EPA.
- Communities in the respective regions need assistance from other state or Federal sources to meet these mandates.
- Some related funding may be available to those counties that have completed a FEMA approved mitigation plan.
- Changes in street signage requirements were also mentioned as an unfunded mandate.
- President Vern Hay suggested that a committee with members from both the Flint Hills Regional Council and the North Central Regional Planning Commission be formed to strategically address these issues, and there was consensus from both groups to proceed. Executive Directors McKinney and Warner will communicate on setting up this committee.

2. Regional Industry Cluster Analysis

- Representatives of the Advanced Manufacturing Institute presented on "The Presence and Applicability of Clusters in North Central Kansas."
- There were 19 counties and 3 major cities (*Emporia, Manhattan & Salina*) that were included in this pilot study.
- The Cluster Study Report can be accessed at <http://ami.ncrpc.org>
- The Definition of Clusters is "a geographically proximate group of interconnected firms and associated institution in related industries." Clusters can be identified as falling into two types: "local" and "traded."
- Initial study findings range dates were 1990 – 2007 utilizing codes from the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS).

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- The project is “Regional Industry Cluster Analysis and Innovation Networking – Building Connectiveness.”
- The Purpose of the Study is to understanding the region, interdependencies and responsibilities.
- Following a short break, the AMI representatives initiated a discussion on “What types of economic development activities/strategies are being employed within the region to stimulate industrial or ‘traded’ economic growth? Are they individual, local or regional?”
- Three economic development approaches outlined to help Kansas rural regions to be competitive were: recruitment (*incentives*), “grow your own” (*clustering & entrepreneurship*), and ecosystem focus (*relationship focused to include innovative networks as well as increasing co-innovation*).
- The two ways presented of connecting around opportunities were “bridging small worlds” and “building new worlds” as methods for spanning boundaries.
- There is an organization that has been formed called Kansas Opportunity Innovation Network (KOIN), with a website presence at www.innovatekansas.org. There are currently 28 counties in Southwest Kansas and 9 counties in South Central Kansas who are utilizing this networking initiative. There is also a business development project in South East Kansas utilizing the 13,000 acres available from the former Kansas Army Ammunition Plant.
- There was a suggestion from the floor that the regional councils could look into possibly assisting with career placements at some of the Universities to keep local students employed in the region.

Other Business:

Member Vern Hay announced that there will be a series of T-WORKS meetings held by Governor Sam Brownback and Transportation Secretary Deb Miller announcing the approved Kansas Road Projects. Meetings relevant to the Flint Hills region will be held June 1, 2011 in McPherson and June 3, 2011 in Kansas City.

Next Meeting:

This next scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on June 17, 2011 in Pottawatomie County. Location TBA.

Meeting Adjourned:

President Vern Hay moved to adjourn the meeting. Member Dan Dieter seconded. The motion carrying unanimously, the board meeting was adjourned at 4:24 p.m.