



Flint Hills Regional Council Board of Directors
Board Minutes – May 25, 2012
Alma Community Center
Alma, KS 66401

Present from Board of the Regional Council: **John Armbrust**, Governor's Military Council; **Cecil Aska**, Junction City Commissioner; **Dan Deiter**, Alma City Council; **Vic Enns**, Wamego City Commissioner; **Vern Hay**, Morris County Commissioner; **Linda Hoeffner**, Fort Riley; **Galen Johnson**, Dwight City Mayor; **Karen McCulloh**, Riley County Commissioner; **MarySue Roller**, City of Woodbine Councilwoman; **Gary Sacher** for (Honey Grant), Grandview Plaza; **Debi Schwerdtfeger**, Council Grove Councilwoman; **Jim Sherow**, Manhattan City Commissioner; **David Shover II**, Riley City Mayor; **Ervan Stuewe**, Wabaunsee County Commissioner; **Jimmy Thatcher**, Clay Center Mayor and **Phil Weishaar**, Chapman Mayor.

Absent from the Board: **Ben Bennett**, Geary County Commissioner; **Jackie Hartman**, Kansas State University; **Stan Hartwich**, Pottawatomie County Commissioner; **Linda Hoeffner**, Fort Riley; **Joe Kormanik**, Alta Vista Commissioner; and **Lynn Peterson**, Abilene 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; **Jeff Adams PhD**, Regional Planner; and **Scott Moore**, Community Liaison.

Guests: **Abby Amick**, Wabaunsee County Economic Development Director; **Andy Badeker**, Guest Speaker; **Amy Denker**, Flint Hills Frontiers Intern; **Bruce McMillian**, Flint Hills Task Force Chair; **Robert Reece**, Pottawatomie County Administrator; **Julie Roller**, Pottawatomie County EcoDevo; **Angie Schwerdtfeger**, Tri-County Telephone; **Tom Weigand**, Junction City Chamber CEO/President; and **David Yearout**, Junction City/Geary County Planning Director.

CALL TO ORDER:

- Vern Hay, FHRC President, called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

WELCOME:

- Member Ervan Stuewe welcomed the board, staff and guests to the City of Alma and Wabaunsee County.
- Abby Amick, Wabaunsee County Economic Development Director, passed out information (e.g. brochures and flyers) on various sites throughout the host city and county.

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**INTRODUCTION OF THE FLINT HILLS FRONTIERS COMMUNITY LIASION,
SCOTT MOORE**

- Ty Warner, FHRC Executive Director, introduced Scott Moore who was hired as the Community Liaison for the Flint Hills Frontiers project.
- Scott Moore has extensive ties to the Flint Hills; he is a fourth generation Dwight area family member.
- He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Architecture from Kansas University; worked in both Germany and New Mexico.
- Currently, Moore is working on the Pine Ridge, South Dakota project which is very similar to the Flint Hills Frontiers project except on a smaller scale; however, his vast knowledge and experience will bring essential skill sets needed to successfully build enhanced community cooperation throughout this HUD grant project.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Warner relayed that the Symphony in the Flint Hills Executive Director requested that an amendment be made in the Fort Riley section of the April 2012 minutes due to everything not quite being finalized – “will be held” should actually be “in the planning process to be held on Fort Riley in 2013.”
- Member David Shover made a motion to amend the minutes to reflect the corrected statement. Member Karen McCulloh seconded. Motion was carried unanimously.
- Member Karen McCulloh made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Member Jim Sherow 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 will be filed so that it is available for any future audits.

WHITE CITY MEMBERSHIP

- Member David Shover motioned for White City to be accepted into membership. Member Jim Sherow seconded. Motion was carried unanimously.
- President Hay swore in Keith Kahnt as the White City representative.
- Warner indicated that according to membership by-laws, White City and Dwight would need to share a vote on the Regional Council Board, as Council Grove is also a member in Morris County.

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RURAL BRAINSTORM

- Member MarySue Roller attended “The Big Rural Brainstorm” hosted by the Kansas Sampler Foundation. It was held on February 3-4, 2012 at the Meridian Center in Newton, KS.
- There was brainstorming with other small towns that occurred resulting in multiple ideas being posted during the event.
- Woodbine brought back some very helpful ideas they implemented, including a City of Woodbine Facebook page a restart of the monthly newsletter, and a “Yard of the Month” contest, which allows the winner to get their water bill paid for one month.
- Woodbine’s post office will stay open; however, the hours may change. It was extremely helpful that the FHRC Board sent a support letter and Senator Moran’s office sent a letter as well.
- The City of Woodbine is connected through the Kansa Rural Communities Foundation.
- It was also suggested that FHRC make contact with Marci Penner, Kansas Sampler Foundation Executive Director, in order to see what future partnerships could possibly be established in order to further enhance and empower the smaller communities throughout the Flint Hills region.
- Julie Roller, Pottawatomie County Economic Development Office, informed the meeting attendees that the Kansas Sampler Festival rotates every two years; therefore, Pottawatomie County has applied to host the 2014 festival. The final application is due on August 1, 2012 and the announcement will be made in mid-August about who will be hosting this future event. It costs approximately \$10K for the right to host and the City of Wamego Park is the proposed event location.
- The 2012 Kansas Sampler Festival was held at Light Park in Liberal, KS and there were 5,500 attendees. Pottawatomie County had 18 volunteers contribute their free time to working this event and won for most creative tent. Website Link: <http://kansassampler.org/festival/>
- An individual membership fee to join the Kansas Sampler Foundation is \$18.61.

POWER-UPS:

- PowerUps is a network for 21-39 year old individuals who have chosen to come back to or stay in Kansas and work in their respective hometowns. This is a 501(c)3 non-profit that falls under the Kansas Sampler Foundation and it is based on five principles: empower, connect, engage, sustain and enjoy.
- Website Link: <http://www.ruralbychoice.com>
- The organization is two years old and the current liaisons are: Erika Nelson (Lucas, KS) and Liz Sosa (Garden City, KS).

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WABAUNSEE COUNTY COURTHOUSE RESTORATION

- Guest Andy Badeker came to give a brief presentation on the Wabaunsee County Courthouse restoration project.
- The Kansas Heritage Trust Fund is providing funding this project and there were four \$90K grants given out for the current year.
- In spring 2013, the masonry on the northeast corner of the building along with windows will begin to be repaired.
- Local communities are able to apply for tax credits on buildings listed on the national register of historic places.

FORT RILEY UPDATE:

- Linda Hoeffner, Deputy Garrison Commander, was not able to attend the meeting.

GOVERNOR'S MILITARY COUNCIL:

- John Armbrust, Governor's Military Council, reminded the Board about the draft authorization bill in D.C. concerning installation commanders being able to go into a "business agreement" with local governments, which would prove beneficial for both parties.
- BRAC will not occur in 2013; however, it will potentially be brought back up in either 2015 or 2017.
- The Department of Defense and each Service has been reviewing energy use and efficiency to include that at each installation. This review will look at possible energy projects to reduce the cost of energy such as the use of microgrids.
- Current deployments consist of 1st Division Headquarters and 4th Brigade, which are approximately 4,000 soldiers.
- Funding for schools on post will require matching dollars. There is a middle school and elementary school both in the plans to be built on the installation.

FLINT HILLS FRONTIERS UPDATE:

- Jeff Adams, Regional Planner, presented the Board with a May 2012 printed report which highlighted the following items:
 1. Flint Hills Frontiers project is currently in the mobilization phase. Adams and Warner met with various federal government agencies and travelled to Kansas City, to BNIM's offices, to finalize the Work Plan and discuss the timeline for the Frontiers Project.
 2. The focus over the next few months will be making connections and creating networks of trust.
 3. Community Liaison Scott Moore officially began work on May 15, 2012 and the process has begun to hire at least two paid interns who will assist with data collection, outreach as well as planning support for the mobilization & discovery phases.

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4. The Mobilization Task Force will meet within the next month to review and finalize both the Consortium Agreement and Organization Structure. These documents will be available on the FHRC website in June. Also, the logo and brand should be finalized during this timeframe as well.
5. The internal web portal is up and running for staff – this will assist in uploading daily tasks, reports and plans.
6. There will be upcoming discussion about the next Flint Hills summit and its integration into the Frontiers project, possibly in fall of this year.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:

- Member Ben Bennett, At-Large, was not in attendance at the meeting.
- Member Karen McCulloh informed the Board of the following legislative items:
 1. \$2.5B cuts over the next 5 years and concern for cuts to the LEEP program.
 2. The House regrettably passed House Resolution 6032 regarding U.N. “Agenda 21” and its supposed links to sustainable development etc.
 3. Counties are now able to accept credit cards and add 2.5% in sales tax for payments on items such as utility bills and fishing licenses.

MPO DESIGNATION:

- Warner provided the following information in the form of a PowerPoint presentation to the Board:
 1. MPO Designation must be in place by March 26, 2013 and it must be agreed upon by 75% of the affected population, then signed off by the governor.
 2. The MPO boundary may include a 20-year growth area.
 3. Senate Bill 1813 as proposed with bipartisan support would increase the MPO threshold size from 50K to 200K. Congress will be taking up the Transportation Authorization Bill in the very near future thus it is important to get the designation to ensure the region has a possibility of being grandfathered into any changes in MPO threshold level with the new transportation bill.
 4. The MPO designation affects future funding and operations for the FHRC. The RPO Project identified the MPO being housed at the FHRC as part of its strategy for future sustainability. The City of Manhattan’s administration now appears to be reconsidering what the region had previously identified as part of the Regional Council’s strategic plan. This would eliminate a significant source of anticipated future revenues intended to help sustain the Regional Council going forward.
 5. An “MPO 101” has been scheduled for June 28, 2012 at 4 p.m. in the City of Manhattan Commission Room. KDOT, FHA and FTA will be in attendance for the public meeting.

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6. Member Jim Sherow indicated 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 this now.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- Warner informed the Board that the staff has officially moved to their new office space, which is located at 500 Huebner Road, Room 108, Fort Riley, KS 66442.
- The Kansas Leadership Center will be offering leadership training in Topeka on the following dates: Session I (June 21, 2012) and Session II (June 28 & 29, 2012).
- There are approximately 100 tickets that have been made available for Symphony in the Flint Hills at the box office.
- Doug McKinney, Executive Director, for the North Central Regional Planning Commission is scheduled to be at the June 2012 Board Meeting to further cross-regional dialogue.

OTHER BUSINESS & NEXT MEETING:

- The next board meeting will be held in Dickinson County on June 22, 2012 in Abilene.
- Member Jimmy Thatcher informed the Board about the economical way that Clay Center was able to work on their roadways by using concrete struts instead of asphalt overlays. They were able to pour the struts utilizing in-house methods.
- Member Karen McCulloh talked about the fact that a consolidated regional facility would be needed for mental health patients in order to isolate costs.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

- Member Jimmy Thatcher motioned for the meeting to be adjourned at 11:45 a.m. Member Gary Sacher seconded. Motion was carried unanimously.