



Flint Hills Regional Council Board of Directors
Board Meeting Minutes – May 24, 2013
Woodbine Methodist Church Fellowship Hall
Woodbine, KS 67492

Present from Board of the Regional Council: **Cecil Aska**, Junction City Mayor; **Ben Bennett**, Geary County Commissioner; **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; **Galen Johnson**, Dwight City Mayor; **Ronald Kabat** (for Phil Weishaar), City of Chapman Councilman; **Keith Kahnt**, White City Councilman; **Joe Kormanik**, Alta Vista Commissioner; **John Ray**, Abilene City Commissioner; **MarySue Roller**, City of Woodbine Councilwoman; **Debi Schwerdtfeger**, Council Grove Councilwoman; **David Shover II**, Riley City Mayor; and **Jimmy Thatcher**, Clay Center Mayor.

Absent from the Board: **John Armbrust**, Governor's Military Council; **Robert Boyd**, Riley County Commissioner; **Dan Deiter**, Alma City Councilman; **Jackie Hartman**, Kansas State University; and **Rich Jankovich**, Manhattan City Commissioner.

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; and **Jeff Adams PhD**, Regional Planner.

Guests: **Stephanie Berry**, The Herington Times; **Eric Cattell**, City of Manhattan Asst. Director of Planning; **Janet Conner**, City of Woodbine Councilwoman; **David Dillner**, Abilene City Manager; **Bart Hettenbach**, City of Woodbine Mayor; **Bruce McMillan**, CEDS Chair; **Robert Reece**, Pottawatomie County Administrator; **Angie Schwerdtfeger**, TCT Public Relations Director; **Jerry Volkman**, City of Woodbine Councilman; **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 9:00 a.m.

WELCOME:

- Member MarySue Roller welcomed the Board, Staff and meeting guests to Woodbine. The City of Woodbine Mayor, Bart Hettenbach, gave an extended welcome and talked about a few of the things happening in their city.

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- A new grocery store opened in the City of Woodbine and there were several street repairs completed. According to the 2010 Census, the city has a population of 170 people.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Member Cecil Aska motioned for approval of the minutes from April 26, 2013. Member Vic Enns 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.

NBAF:

- Ron Trewyn, Kansas State University Vice President for Research, gave a presentation on the National Bio & Agro-defense Facility (NBAF), which is currently under construction.
- The facility has plans to work on cures for eight specific diseases whereas the current facility at Plum Island is only equipped to work on just one specific disease cure. There will be five animal rooms and those rooms can be reconfigured to work on different species. The gross square footage is 580,200 feet and the net square footage is 176,000 feet.
- The Kansas Department of Agriculture will be moving to Manhattan right next to NBAF.
- On December 28, 2012, there was a register of deeds transfer at 4:25 p.m. The land transfer was from the State of Kansas to the Department of Homeland Security. The land consists of 46,828 acres.
- Some of the 5-year construction plan goals that have been completed or planned are as follows:
 1. \$80M CUP (Central Utility Plant) contract signed – 02/21/13
 2. Removal of the old feed mill – 09/2013
 3. Construction of the Main Lab – 05/2014
- The State of Kansas Senate has approved \$202M bond for NBAF with a 32-8 vote. The FY13 Presidential Budget did not include proposed funding for this project; however, his FY14 Budget has proposed \$714M in funding.
- There was a handout of the PowerPoint presentation provided to the meeting attendees.

FHEDD:

- Erik Pages, Entrenworks LLC, facilitated the discussion about the Flint Hills Economic Development District.
- Two goals of the CEDS (Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy) is complete paperwork in order to qualify for federal funding and developing a strategy in order to attract investors into the community.

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- The purpose of the Flint Hills Frontiers Project CEDS is to make an impact from 3-5 years.
- Jeff Adams, Regional Planner & Frontiers Project Manager, informed the group that they are currently working on site selection and targeting clusters with the assistance of KARDO (Kansas Association of Regional Development Organizations). This organization has a tool that can assist in gathering data and helps to decompress rural cluster areas.
- The Economic Development District functions include managing the CEDS process and gathering pertinent data such as land information, wages, degrees and etc.
- There were three issues areas that came out of the preliminary research data which are as follows:
 1. Workforce – What are the big problems and how do we fix them? For example, the understanding of potential opportunities, shortages on technical skill sets and work ready high school students (soft skills).
 2. Entrepreneurship – How do we teach children to do this within their communities?
 3. Tourism – How can we promote this?
 4. Other listed issues included affordable housing and growth of infrastructure.
- Member Debi Schwerdtfeger talked about the concerns of education between the local communities. A suggestion solution to this issue was the possibility of each community annually hosting the Flint Hills Sampler.
- Member Vic Enns suggested that an FHRC booth is set up during the 2014/15 Kansas Sampler, which will be hosted by Pottawatomie County/Wamego. This would serve as a way to promote the various member communities.
- Guest Angie Schwerdtfeger talked about business succession and how it would help the tradesmen population if this information were shared on a broader basis especially when you have someone retire or leave the area. Guest and Flint Hills Frontiers CEDS Chair Bruce McMillan talked about some of the issues of work ethics in regards to business successions.
- Guest Stephanie Berry talked briefly about the advertisements for adopt-a-business programs and organizations that list opening for tradesmen especially for military members that she has viewed previously. This may be a concept that could be adopted for the local area.
- Member Joe Kormanik suggested that the group think about possibly forming a committee to address these issues collectively.
- One idea that was suggested out to the group was a youth entrepreneurship program. The facilitator Erik Pages told the group that if they wanted to pursue this idea then the following steps would need to be taken: milestones set, an agenda created and the formation of a committee. He went on to advise that this type of program could be approved by the FEDs in the fall and it would require a regional application. There is currently \$50K available in Innovative Strategies Grants as well as national models that would be available for review as an application and program guide.
- The contact information for Erik Pages is as follows: Email epages@entnetworks.com and Telephone (703) 237-2506.

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BRANDING – FROM THE LAND OF KANSAS:

- Annarose Hart, Kansas Department of Agriculture Business Development, gave a brief presentation about branding in the State of Kansas.
- The KDA has a trademarking program that's been around for 25 years named "From the Land of Kansas."
- The program is made up of two groups – members and partners. Members include small, medium and large agricultural groups such as producers, manufacturers, agritourism businesses, Kansas owned /based restaurants or Kansas restaurants serving at least one primary Kansas food product. Partners include retailers and farmers markets. The directory for these groups can be found here: www.fromthelandofkansas.com.
- There are currently 123 farmers markets in the state of Kansas.
- Some of the upcoming events for this program are as follows: buy and sell portal will be launched in the summer of 2013, tradeshow will be held August 28 & 29 in Topeka and a phone locator app will be developed in the winter of 2013.
- Some of the future implementations for this program will include "farm to table" events, recipe contest, Kansas cookbook and increased State Fair presence in 2013 and 2014.
- The membership levels for this program is tiered-based and ranges from FREE to \$5000.00.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:

- Member Ben Bennett, FHRC Vice-President, gave a brief legislative update to the meeting attendees.
- The State of Kansas House of Representatives and Senate are officially back in session and there are current proposal to changes in the sales and income taxes.
- It was encouraged that members get a hold of their representatives in regards to their community concerns because the current legislators such as Representative Vern Swanson, Representative Tom Moxley, Senator Jeff Longbine and Senator Tom Hawk are all actively engaged in what is going on with their respective jurisdictions and the State of Kansas.
- Due to the current federal sequestration, Geary County will have 28 furlough days that will cost an estimated \$45,000 / day.

FORT RILEY UPDATE:

- Linda Hoeffner, Fort Riley Deputy Garrison Commander, gave a brief overview about the things occurring at Fort Riley.
- The letters to federal employees about the furloughed days were sent out May 28-June 05, 2013. The actual furlough days will be July 8-September 30, 2013. This does not include the childcare or MWR employees.
- Major General Funk will be attending and speaking at next month's FHRC meeting to be held at the Riley's Conference Center.
- The Combat Aviation Brigade will be deploying during the June/July 2013 timeframe.

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- The Engineering Brigade is beginning to come home and this will be approximately about 2700 soldiers returning home.
- The 2nd Brigade and certain groups will be deploying from 6 weeks to 9 months depending on the assigned mission.
- On June 15, 2013, Major General Funk will host a Symphony in the Flint Hills Social at 5:00 p.m. in the Garrison Headquarters.
- On July 18, 2013, at 10:00 a.m., Colonel Clark will have his change of command ceremony.

GOVERNOR'S MILITARY COUNCIL UPDATE:

- John Armbrust, Governor's Military Council Executive Director, was not in attendance at the meeting.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- Flint Hills MPO - Stith informed the board the Stephanie Watts was hired as the Transportation Planner and would begin work on May 29, 2013. He also informed them that the state was currently working on the transportation modeling project for the MPO Area, which they hired a Kansas University Intern to assist with this at no additional cost to the MPO Budget.
- Frontiers Project – Stith handed out a monthly report to the board members and meeting attendees that a snapshot of what the staff has been working on which included visioning summits as well as the FHEDD process. There will be an upcoming Summer Stakeholder's Summit held on July 10, 2013 in Emporia, KS (Chase County).
- Jeff Adams and Scott Moore have both been CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) certified through the State of Kansas. This service can be provided to member jurisdictions.
- There has been a KARDO membership purchased for the Flint Hills Regional Council. One of the advantages will be the accessibility of a group purchase for a CEDS database system.
- aTa Bus –Due to an impending shift in FTA funding sources, Stith informed the board members that aTa Bus is seeking a letter of support from the FHRC. This letter would be asking FTA to reconsider the the restriction on 501 (c) 3 non-profits from being recipients of Section 5307 funds for Urbanized Area.
- Member Joe Kormanik made an amended motion to draft a letter of support for the language change & regulations for FTA Circular 5307 upon the approval of the Riley County & City of Manhattan board members who were not present at the meeting. Member Stan Hartwich seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.
- Member Cecil Aska informed the board members and meeting attendees that the opening game for the Junction City Brigades was going to be June 1, 2013. The team will be playing the Rossville Rattlers; Major General Funk and MLB Hall of Famer Dennis Lennard would throw the first pitch. Additionally, the national anthem would be sung by FHRC Administrative Manager Unique Hiram and fireworks would be displayed after game completion. Member Ben Bennett also added that there would be horse rides and transports along with byplane displays..

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OTHER BUSINESS & NEXT MEETING:

- There was discussion of a FHRC Nominating Committee to be formed for the upcoming Executive Committee elections that are coming up in June. The three volunteers for this are Vic Enns, Debi Schwedtfeger and David Shover.
- The next board meeting will be held on June 28, 2013 at Fort Riley in the Riley's Conference Center. Major General Funk will be speaking for about 15-20 minutes at the beginning of the meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT:

- Member David Shover motioned for the meeting to adjourn. Member Honey Grant seconded. Meeting was adjourned unanimously at 11:52 a.m.