



**Flint Hills Regional Council Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes of May 16, 2014**

**Flint Hills Regional Council Board of Directors
Board Meeting Minutes – May 16, 2014
Wamego City Hall
Wamego, KS**

Present from Board of the Regional Council: **John Armbrust**, Governor's Military Council; **Cecil Aska**, Junction City Commissioner; **Rebecca Bossemeyer** (*for Ben Bennett*), Geary County Clerk; **Robert Boyd**, Riley County Commissioner; **Scott Briggs**, Lyon County Commissioner; **Dan Deiter**, Alma City Councilman; **Vic Enns**, Wamego City Mayor; **Jon Geitz**, City of Emporia Mayor; **Honey Grant**, Grandview Plaza Vice-Mayor; **Stan Hartwich**, Pottawatomie County Commissioner; **Vern Hay**, Morris County Commissioner; **Kelley Paskow** (*for Linda Hoeffner*), Fort Riley; **Rich Jankovich**, Manhattan City Commissioner; **Keith Kahnt**, White City Councilman; **Joe Kormanik**, City of Alta Vista Commissioner; **MarySue Roller**, City of Woodbine Mayor; **David Shover II**, City of Riley Mayor; **Jimmy Thatcher**, City of Clay Center Mayor; and **Phil Weishaar**, City of Chapman Mayor.

Absent from the Board: **Jackie Hartman**, Kansas State University; **John Ray**, City of Abilene Commissioner; **Debi Schwerdtfeger**, Council Grove Councilwoman; and **Brande Studer**, Chase County Clerk.

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

Present from Staff Support: **Shelley Carver**, Community Development Manager; **William J. Clark**, Director; **Unique Hiram**, Administrative Manager; and **Gary Stith**, Deputy Director.

Guests: **Kevin Griffith**, KJCK 1420 AM News Reporter; **Kay Hutchinson**, Greater Morris County Development Corporation Executive Director; **Bruce McMillan**, CEDS Chair; **Merl Page**, Wamego City Manager; **Lyle Peterson**, Kansas Department of Commerce Regional Manager; **Michael Ryan**, City of Junction City Mayor; and **Traci Scott**, Fort Riley Regional Liaison Officer.

WELCOME:

- David Shover, FHRC Vice President, called the meeting at 9:01 a.m.
- City of Wamego Mayor Vic Enns welcomed the board, staff and meeting guests to the local area and meeting venue.
- The Kansas Sampler broke attendance and vendor records this year so it was a successful event.
- The city's power plant will be online in August 2014; the project is currently 80% complete.

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- Wamego has partnered with Pottawatomie County on the sidewalk project and an intern will be utilized to complete the project inventory.

APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING'S MINUTES:

- Member Rich Jankovich motioned for the April 18, 2014 meeting minutes to be approved with no corrections. Member Phil Weishaar seconded. The vote was carried unanimously.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE:

➤ **TOP 10**

- 1) FHRC Sustainability – The organization is currently being sustained by two funding sources.
- 2) Flint Hills Frontiers – The Spring meetings have been completed and the next Frontiers project to focus on will be the Housing Survey.
- 3) FHEDD (Flint Hills Economic Development District) – The complete designation application package has been submitted to the federal level.
- 4) Expansion of Membership – No responses have been received Clay and Marshall Counties along with the City of Marysville. A letter was resent on May 13th to Clay County who informed staff that the original correspondence was never received.
- 5) FHMPO MTP (Metropolitan Transportation Plan) – The long-range transportation plan is being drafted and it will take approximately one year for completion.
- 6) FHMPO TDM (Travel Demand Model) – The model is currently on time and will be available Fall 2014.
- 7) FHTRA (5307 Funds) – There were amendments that needed to be made to the Interlocal Agreement. Four of the six jurisdictions have signed off on the requested revisions. There is currently \$1.8M of funding available for over two years.
- 8) Strategic Plan – Jeff Adams has held two meetings and there will be an update given at next month's board meeting.
- 9) Strategic Communications – Outreach is being completed by staff through their travels within the region.
- 10) 2015 FHRC Budget – The 2015 FHRC Budget is currently being developed and there will be four options to review. The approval process is scheduled during the Annual Retreat in August.

➤ **NOTES**

- 1) Dickinson and Washington Counties have officially responded via letter that they are not interested in joining the Flint Hills Regional Council. There have been meetings scheduled with the City of Marysville (May 27th) and Marshall County (June 2nd).
- 2) BNIM submitted a proposal for \$220K to complete the Housing Survey; however, the staff declined to accept this offer. There will be different options looked at to complete this project. For example, interns may be utilized to work on gathering and organizing the data for the survey.

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- 3) In regards to the HUD realignment of funds, we will need to ensure that \$200k is available for the no cost extension request.
- 4) The City of Abilene will not be renewing their membership in 2015.
- 5) The Fort Riley Mission & Installation Contracting Command will hold a meeting on May 22nd at Building 1792. The event time is 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

➤ **FINANCE & BUDGET REVIEW**

- 1) Currently, 75% of the HUD Grant is spent to date and there is 9 ½ months left on the grant.
- 2) \$308K is underspent on the grant and the HUD Budget adjustments will include reducing the following categories: Fringe \$56.7K, Supplies \$21.7K & Other \$101.6K. Those monies will be moved to the two following categories – Personnel \$160K and Travel \$20K.

DISCUSSION TOPICS:

- Nominating Committee – There is a proposed three-member committee consisting of Member Vern Hay (Chair) along with Members Rich Jankovich and Vic Enns. Member Keith Kahnt motioned for the nominating committee stand and operate as proposed. Member Phil Weishaar seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.
- Proposed Membership Assessment Increase – Gary Stith lead this discussion with the board members. He encouraged to the membership to make a decision and take a hard vote at the June 20th meeting. Member Keith Kahnt shared that he felt it was unfair to raise the membership assessments fees for the newest members – Chase County, City of Emporia & Lyon County. An amended motion was made by Honey Grant to grant no increase waivers to the newest memberships for the first year of their affiliation. Member Jimmy Thatcher seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.
- August Board Retreat Meeting Date – The board members had a discussion about changing the Board Retreat date from August 15th to August 22nd at the request of Emporia State University due to the student population returning back to school. Member Rich Jankovich motioned for the board retreat date to be officially changed to August 22nd. Member Vern Hay seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.
- Bylaws Committee – After brief discussions, it was decided that Vice President David Shover would chair the bylaws committee. Rebecca Bossemeyer and Bruce McMillan volunteered to assist on this particular committee. Stith will provide staff support. Member Honey Grant suggested that the suggested revisions/updates are made available to the board by August 2014.
- Programmatic Environmental Assessment – There will be a public forum entitled “How Can We Assist Fort Riley?” Armbrust advised the board to articulate by quantification because this shows the value of the partnerships. Both a lesson learned (information/last year’s presentation from Armbrust) and after action report (from Traci Scott) will be sent to staff. This data will be forwarded to the board members. Clark will begin building a narrative that includes value information and hard facts. Additionally, Member Rich Jankovich is drafting a list for input to staff for the narrative that will be provided by June 2014.

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATES:

- Kansas Senator Jeff Longbine
 - The legislative session was completed on May 2, 2014; it lasted approximately 79 days. This was the shortest session since 1974.
 - There were a few adjustments in the Governor's Budget, which resulted in additional money for mental health and higher education (1/2 of the funding given back to this source).
 - In the school finance case, the \$450M ruling was split into two categories – equity and adequacy. In the equity ruling, \$129M in additional funding to state schools was granted. The adequacy portion of the ruling was sent back to a three judge panel; therefore, leaving a little over \$300M outstanding.
 - There are projected state budgetary challenges. In 2016, there is a projected deficit of \$81M and in 2019, a projected deficit of \$1B – if state revenues do not increase.
 - Some of the state congressional bills that were passed included: SB 231, HB 2430, HB 2643 & HB 2744.

- Kansas House of Representatives Tom Phillips
 - State Budget – spent down carryover balances. There will be a need to either raise revenues or cut budgets. It was reported that the state bond rating was lowered.
 - In regards to the Mortgage Registration Legislation, the House was not able to debate the Senate Bill.
 - “The Prairie Chicken” debate was started by the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency).
 - Depending upon the results of the elections in the House, this will determine if some of these bills will be revisited.

COUNTY/CITY/PARTNER UPDATES:

- John Armbrust, Governor's Military Council Executive Director, gave a brief update.
 1. Currently assisting with the BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure) language as an ADC (Association of Defense Communities) member.
 2. Demand Use Fee – looking at cost effective ways to negotiate lower rates.

- Jackie Hartman, Kansas State University, was not in attendance at the meeting.

- Kelly Paskow, Fort Riley, gave a brief update about the installation.
 1. There are currently 17,000 soldiers boots on ground at this time.

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- City of Leonardville – Current priorities include addressing aging and substandard housing. The challenges/FHRC assistance required include grant writing.
- City of Manhattan – Current priorities include update to COMP Plan, complete south end redevelopment, airport improvements and street improvements. The challenges/FHRC assistance required include one regional voice, adequate funding for transportation/utility infrastructure with targeted projects, transit coordination/funding/FHRTA and regional economic development (FHEDD).
- Pottawatomie County – Current priorities include Junietta connection, infrastructure improve, Belvue Bridge project and COMP Plan. The challenges/FHRC assistance required written regional support (Junietta project) and regional economic development growth plan.
- City of Randolph – Current priorities include addressing aging water/sewer infrastructure, maintenance of water tower & sewer pond and transition of 1% tax. The challenges/FHRC assistance required include assistance with grant writing.
- City of Riley – Current priorities include roads, city hall office space/staff and completion of KANSTEP library and food basket. The challenges/FHRC assistance required includes cost of electricity.
- Riley County – Current priorities include emergency medical facility, court facilities, county offices and strategic planning. The challenges/FHRC assistance required includes grant writing.
- City of Wamego – No input provided.
- The next FHRC Board Meeting will be held on June 20, 2014 at Riley's Conference Center, 446 Seitz Drive, Fort Riley, KS 66442.

REVIEW (DUE OUTS):

- Nominating Committee Formed
- No Fee Increase for New Membership Cities/Counties (Chase County, City of Emporia & Lyon County)
- Membership Fee Increase Discussion at June 20 Board Meeting
- Date Change for FHRC Board Retreat from August 15th to August 22nd at Emporia State University
- Bylaws Committee Formed
- Programmatic Environment Assessment (Brief & AAR) will be sent to membership by Director Clark
- This will be Member Dan Deiter's last official meeting and the new board representative for the City of Alma will be Pam Bell
- The Junction City Brigades will have their opening game on June 6, 2014
- Governor Sam Brownback will be in Junction City on June 7, 2014 sponsoring the third annual Freedom Rally at Heritage Park.

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ADJOURNMENT:

- Member Cecil Aska motioned for the meeting to be officially adjourned at 12:03 p.m. Member Rich Jankovich seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.