



## Flint Hills Regional Council Board of Directors

Board Meeting Minutes – May 20, 2016

Wamego, KS

Present from Board of the Regional Council: **Pam Bales**, Alma City Councilwoman; **Ben Bennett**, Geary County Commissioner; **Robert Boyd**, Riley County Commissioner; **Vic Enns**, Wamego Commissioner; **Honey Grant**, Grandview Plaza Vice-Mayor; **Jackie Hartman**, Kansas State University; **Stan Hartwich**, Pottawatomie County Commissioner; **Sharon Haun**, Council Grove Councilwoman; **Vern Hay**, Morris County Commissioner; **Tim Livsey**, Fort Riley Deputy Garrison Commander; **Karen McCulloh**, City of Manhattan Mayor; **Susan McKenzie**, City of White City - City Clerk; and **James E. Williams**, Emporia State University.

Absent from the Board: **John Armbrust**, Governor's Military Council; **Scott Briggs**, Lyon County Commissioner; **Steve Harmon**, City of Emporia Commissioner; **Galen Johnson**, City of Dwight Mayor; **Joe Kormanik**, City of Alta Vista Commissioner; **Jennifer Laird**, Chase County; **Dale Renfro**, City of Onaga Councilman; **MarySue Roller**, City of Woodbine Mayor; **Jeff Rosell**, City of Westmoreland Councilman; **Mike Ryan**, City of Junction City Commissioner; **Kevin Sorenson**, City of Reading Mayor; **Jimmy Thatcher**, City of Clay Center Mayor; and **Lee Wolf**, City of Chapman Councilman.

Present from Staff Support: **Sondra Clark**, Transit Administrator/Mobility Manager; **Unique Hiram**, Administrative Manager; **Jennifer Jordan**, Regional Planning Manager; and **Gary Stith**, Director.

Guests: **Herb Abel**, Fort Riley Director of Environmental Program; **Brian Denton**, Emporia State University Legislative Liaison; **Gary Fees**, City of Manhattan – City Clerk; **Criss Mayfield**, Human Resource Management Network Government Affairs Liaison; **Trent McCown**, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism; **Kay Hutchinson**, Greater Morris County Development Corporation Executive Director; **Bruce McMillan**, CEDS Chair; **Lyle Peterson**, Kansas Department of Commerce Regional Planning Manager; **Traci Scott**, Fort Riley Regional Liaison Officer; **Kara Titus**, District Representative for Senator Jerry Moran; and **Jessica Venneberg**, Pottawatomie County Economic Development Executive Assistant.

### WELCOME:

- Robert Boyd, FHRC Board President, called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. and invited the board members, staff, and meeting guests to introduce themselves.
- Member Vic Enns, City of Wamego Mayor, welcomed the board, staff and guests. He highlighted the new power plant generator, new businesses on Lincoln Avenue and talked about some of the celebrations that will be happening for the 150-year celebration of the city.

## **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:**

- Member Karen McCulloh motioned for the March 18, 2016 meeting minutes to be approved as presented. Member Honey Grant seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

## **DIRECTOR'S UPDATES:**

### Staff Activities & Updates

- Gary Stith, Director, gave an update about what the staff is currently working on.

### Finance/Budget Review

- The bank balance, as of May 16, 2016, is \$96,941.30 with \$74,098.86 belonging to the FHMPO.
- FHRTA expenses currently total \$120,028.67 with KDOT having reimbursed \$52,346.17 to date. The new FTA system has gone online; however, request for reimbursements have not been authorized at this time.
- Outstanding Reimbursements include: OEA Impact Analysis \$64,985.00, OEA JLUS \$1,986.00 and FHMPO \$38,820.27. The Administrative Manager has submitted reimbursement requests, currently awaiting grantor approval and payment.

## **PRESENTATIONS:**

- **Flint Hills Nature Trail Project**
  - Trent McCown, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, gave a presentation on the planning and current progress of the Flint Hills Nature Trail Project.
- **Update on EDA Planning Partnership Grant and Other Funding**
  - Gary Stith, Director, gave an update on the EDA Planning Partnership Grant.
  - Jennifer Jordan, Regional Planning Manager, gave an update on the two Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA) Grants – JLUS (Joint Land Use Study) and Economic Impact Analysis.
- **Environmental Program at Fort Riley**
  - Herb Abel, Director of Environmental Program, gave an overview of the environmental program at Fort Riley.

## **CITY/COUNCIL/PARTNER UPDATES:**

- Fort Riley - Tim Livsey, Deputy Garrison Commander, reported the following:
  - There will be a number of activities going on at the installation due to Victory Week.
- Kansas State University - Jackie Hartman, Office of the President, reported on the following:
  - The campus is quiet as a result of another successful graduation and the students going home for the summer.

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- A number of construction projects are underway around the campus. There will be a section that will be closed to drivers moving forward, Mid-Campus and Claflin streets.
  - Parking availability on campus will be able to be viewed online.
  - Renovations are underway at the Student Union on the east side of Memorial Stadium.
- Governor's Military Council – John Armbrust, was not in attendance at the meeting.
- Emporia State University - John E. Williams, Vice President of Student Affairs, reported the following:
- Graduation commencement ceremony was completed last week.
  - Allison D. Garrett is the new president and she has an extensive professional background in the legal and corporate fields.
  - June 4<sup>th</sup> – Evening on Commercial Street
- City of Leonardville – Board President & Member Robert Boyd reported on the following:
- New Fire Station
  - Dealing with bond issue challenges for facility development
- City of Manhattan – Member Karen McCulloh, City Mayor, reported on the following:
- Manhattan Day is designated as the first weekend in June.
  - The Flint Hills Discovery Center currently has a Dinosaur Exhibit.
  - Roadwork will be underway throughout the summer months.
  - Commissioner Usha Reddi will become the city mayor in mid June.
- City of Onaga – Member Dale Renfro, City Councilman, was not in attendance at the meeting; however, FHRC Director Gary Stith gave a brief update:
- The contract for the city's Comprehensive Plan has been signed and there will be a June 1<sup>st</sup> meeting held with the steering committee.
- Pottawatomie County – Board Treasurer & Member Stan Hartwich, County Commissioner, reported on the following:
- Road construction projects include: Excel Road (turning lanes), Flush Road intersection and St. Marys.
  - New Fire Stations.
- City of Riley – Member & Board President Robert Boyd, County Commissioner, reported on the following:
- There is a new Health Department Director that was hired.
  - Partnerships have been formed for the following: Riley County Police Department/City of Manhattan for courthouse security; City of Manhattan/Kansas State University for Emergency Management System; and Riley County/Fort Riley for Range Facilities.

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- Riley County – Board President & Member Robert Boyd, County Commissioner, reported on the following:
  - New City Offices.
  
- City of Westmoreland - Board Treasurer & Member Stan Harwich, County Commissioner, reported on the following:
  - Work is being completed on the city sidewalks.
  - Major improvements have been made to the Justice Center.
  
- City of Wamego – Member Vic Enns, City Mayor, reported on the following:
  - The Fallen Soldier Memorial has been completed.
  - World War I Memorial – would like to get this historic memorial moved closer to the Fallen Soldier Memorial.
  
- City of White City – Member Susan McKenzie, City Clerk, reported on the following:
  - Road construction is underway in the city.
  - Chip & Seal Project.
  - July 2<sup>nd</sup> – Independence Day Celebration that will feature a 5K, two-day softball tournament and fireworks.
  - New Fire Truck.

**ADDITIONAL ITEMS:**

- Proposed Seventh Amendment to the Bylaws – “6.4 (d) Notice of Meetings to the Public. It is the policy of the Council to be transparent and accountable to the public. All meetings of the Council, with the exception of the Annual Retreat, are open to the public. Agendas for the meetings will be posted on the Council’s website and distributed to the media throughout the region. At least twice a year the agenda will be published in a newspaper within the region.”
- Member Pam Bales motioned for the acceptance and inclusion of the proposed seventh amendment to the FHRC Bylaws. Member Karen McCulloh seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

- The June 17, 2016 meeting will be held in Manhattan/Riley County. The location is to be determined.
- FHRC Board President Robert Boyd adjourned the meeting at 11:59 a.m.