



Flint Hills Regional Council Board of Directors

Board Minutes – November 30, 2012

C. L. Hoover Opera House
Junction City, KS 66441

Present from Board of the Regional Council: **John Armbrust**, Governor's Military Council; **Cecil Aska**, Junction City Commissioner; **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; **Keith Kahnt**, White City Councilman; **Joe Kormanik**, Alta Vista Commissioner; **Dave Lewis**, Riley County Commissioner; **MarySue Roller**, City of Woodbine Councilwoman; **Debi Schwerdtfeger**, Council Grove Councilwoman; **Jim Sherow**, Manhattan City Commissioner; **David Shover II**, Riley City Mayor; **Jimmy Thatcher**, Clay Center Mayor and **Phil Weishaar**, Chapman Mayor.

Absent from the Board: **Dan Deiter**, Alma City Council; **Jackie Hartman**, Kansas State University; **Galen Johnson**, Dwight City Mayor; **Lynn Peterson**, Abilene Commissioner; and **Ervan Stuewe**, Wabaunsee County Commissioner.

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

Guests: **Cheryl Beatty**, Junction City Asst. Manager/CFO; **Karen Davis**, Manhattan Community Development Director; **David Dillner**, City of Abilene Manager; **Ron Fehr**, City of Manhattan Manager; **Rod Harms**, Private Citizen; **R J Harms**, Milford Operations Manager; **Kay Hutchinson**, Morris County Development Corp Executive Director; **Rosalind Jennings**, Kansas Gas Service Community Relations; **Frank Pierce**, Realty Specialist (Army Corp of Engineers); **Traci Scott**, Fort Riley Regional Liaison Officer; **Steve Spaulding**, Water Management (Army Corp of Engineers); **Gerry Vernon**, Junction City Manager; **Monty Wedel**, City of Manhattan; **Tom Weideman**, Daily Union Reporter; **David White**, Natural Resource Management (Army Corp of Engineers); and **David Yearout**, Junction City/Geary County Planning Director.

CALL TO ORDER:

- Vern Hay, FHRC President, called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

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WELCOME (HOST COMMUNITY):

- Cecil Aska, Junction City Commissioner, welcomed the FHRC Board, Staff and meeting guests to the city and newly remodeled facility (C. L. Hoover Opera House). There was also a special presentation and tour of the armored tactical vehicle utilized by the Junction City Police Department.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Member Ben Bennett made a motion to have the minutes from October 26, 2012 approved. Member Jim Sherow seconded. Motion was carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

- A copy of the financial report and current bank statement was given to all board members for their review and it will be filed so that it is available for future audits.

ARMY CORP OF ENGINEERS:

- David White, Natural Resource Management, introduced the participants who were scheduled to participate in this presentation and gave a brief overview of the role that the Army Corp of Engineers plays throughout the state.
- Milford, Perry and Tuttle Creek lakes can provide enough water for five years. Milford Lake was built with a 50-year life span and Tuttle Creek was built with a 100-year life span.
- Although this is the second year of droughts, the multi-purpose pool can release 600 cubic feet per second.
- Tuttle Creek can be drawn 11.5 feet down from the normal pool level; Milford Lake can only be drawn 6.3 feet down from the normal pool level.
- There will be no more navigation releases to the Mississippi River; however, there can be congressional authorization for this to change.
- Currently 2/3 of the boat ramps are open around Milford Lake.
- There was a policy that came out about blue/green algae approximately two years ago; testing is normally completed on Mondays and results are released by Wednesday. KDHE works very closely with ACE in regards to this issue.
- Title XXXVI contains policies that prevent homesteading especially in the campground areas. The season camping program extends from March through November of each year with a three-month winter period (December – February). Leaseholders have been notified about this program.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES (COMPILATION, ASSESSMENT & DISCUSSION):

- Ben Bennett, FHRC At-Large, informed the board that there are legislators who are willing to come and talk with the council about legislative concerns.

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- February 2013 is the target month in which the council would like to address legislative concerns with the elected officials.
- Some of the issues and concerns that were brought up by a number of the board members include fracking, fresh water, property tax raises and fixture exemption.
- Member Jim Sherow encouraged the legislative committee that was identified at October's meeting to convene and develop a plan to address the series of issues, which are important to the entire region.
- Guest Ron Fehr informed the board that there is a current list of all the legislators (House & Senate) in the region as a result of the redistricting that has taken place throughout the state.

MPO DESIGNATION UPDATE:

- Ty Warner, FHRC Executive Director, informed the board that the Interim Policy Board met on 11/01/12.
- The next scheduled meetings will be as follows: 12/05/12, 12/12/12 and 12/19/12 at the Manhattan City Commission building. All meetings will be held at 3:30 p.m.
- Melanie Tuttle, Reese & Novelly, will be working on a budget flow chart to show the validity of the MPO being housed with the Flint Hills Regional Council.

FLINT HILLS FRONTIERS UPDATE:

- Jeff Adams, Regional Planner, shared that the Flint Hills Frontiers Stakeholders Kickoff Meeting, which was held at the Sunset Zoo on November 27, 2012 in Manhattan, KS, was very successful and productive.
- There was an Economic Development District meeting held in Council Grove and there are future meetings scheduled throughout January and February 2013.
- Public Square Communities meetings have been held throughout the region with a successful number of attendees showing up to hear about the work that is being done and they can assist with the community engagement efforts.
- Updates about the project, upcoming meetings and additional information about the Flint Hills Frontiers project can viewed at www.flinthillsfrontiers.org.

FORT RILEY UPDATE:

- Linda Hoeffner, Deputy Garrison Commander, informed the meeting attendees that Fort Riley's ½ holiday schedule is from December 17, 2012 – January 02, 2013.
- Major General Mayville, Commanding General 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley, was on leave and visited the base.

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- 4th Brigade will be start returning from the first part of February 2013 and there will be a video conference held with them about the reintegration process prior to them coming back to the Fort.
- Dwell time will be getting longer and deployment will only be nine months; therefore, it is expected that more families will be living in the area because of the reduced separation time.
- Fort Riley soldiers will be supporting AFRICOM and those TDYs will be from two weeks to 30 days.

GOVERNOR'S MILITARY COUNCIL UPDATE:

- John Armbrust, Governor's Military Council, informed the board that the two Kansas Senators (Roberts and Moran) have filed an amendment to the language in the Defense Authorization Bill about shared services which allow communities to work more closely with the base if approved.
- There will be discussions about BRAC and the budget next week in Washington, D.C., which Armbrust will be attending.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TRANSITION UPDATE:

- The Executive Committee has approximately seven to eight names for the Interim Executive Director position and will meet after the full board meeting to narrow the applicant list down to two to three names. After the applicants have been narrowed down then there will be scheduled interviews and a hiring before Ty Warner vacates his position on 12/28/12 in order for a turnover of duties to occur.
- Member Cecil Aska has requested that the entire board be informed of the names of the two to three top applicants selected by the Executive Committee.
- Member Cecil Aska made a motion for the Executive Committee to move forward with the selection and hiring process of an Interim Executive Director. Member Honey Grant seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- For Warner's final Executive Director's report, he relayed an experience when he first arrived in the Flint Hills of an airplane conversation between a returning Fort Riley veteran and an arriving military spouse, wherein the veteran was excitedly pointing out the amenities and special nature of the Flint Hills region in which Fort Riley is situated. Warner indicated the enthusiasm of this veteran is exactly how he will feel upon a return to the Flint Hills, as the FHRC Board has allowed him and his family to develop a strong connection to the region. Warner said he will remain a champion for the Flint Hills.
- Warner relayed that from his perspective the tone of interaction between communities has changed considerably over three years: the larger cities are talking with the smaller towns, smaller towns separated by considerable

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distance are talking with each other on a regular basis, and the DNA of collaboration has been well set into the region.

- Warner said this was not the result of any one individual but the communities themselves committed to making this regional project work, and it is the reason he is confident that regional collaboration will continue long into the future.
- Finally, Warner thanked the Regional Council for the warm welcome that was given to him and his family, and for the members' commitment of their time and energy into making the Regional Council a success.

OTHER BUSINESS & NEXT MEETING:

- The Executive Committee will be meeting due to the upcoming transition in order to select and hire an Interim Executive Director.
- Members Karen McCulloh and Jim Sherow will identify a location for a meeting / Warner farewell on Thursday, December 13, 2012 to occur at 4:30 p.m.
- Member Cecil Aska has been instrumental in bringing back collegiate baseball to Junction City beginning in Summer 2013.
- The next board meeting will be held in Clay County on January 25, 2013.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT:

- Member Vern Hay motioned for the meeting to be adjourned at 11:45 a.m. Member Phil Weishaar seconded. Motion was carried unanimously.