



Flint Hills Regional Council Board of Directors

Board Meeting Minutes - October 17, 2014

Woodbine Methodist Church

Woodbine, KS

Present from Board of the Regional Council: **Cecil Aska**, Junction City Commissioner; **Pam Bales**, Alma City Councilwoman; **Ben Bennett**, Geary County Commissioner; **Scott Briggs**, Lyon County Commissioner; **Vic Enns**, Wamego City Mayor; **Jackie Hartman**, Kansas State University; **Vern Hay**, Morris County Commissioner; **Kelly Paskow** (for Tim Livsey), Fort Riley; **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: **John Armbrust**, Governor's Military Council; **Robert Boyd**, Riley County Commissioner; **Jon Geitz**, City of Emporia Mayor; **Honey Grant**, Grandview Plaza Vice-Mayor; **Jenifer Hanneman**, City of Reading; **Stan Hartwich**, Pottawatomie County Commissioner; **Rich Jankovich**, Manhattan City Commissioner; **Keith Kahnt**, White City Mayor; **Joe Kormanik**, City of Alta Vista Commissioner; **Kristie Ogilvie**, Emporia 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: **Jeff Adams**, Regional Planner; **Shelley Carver**, Community Development Manager; **Unique Hiram**, Administrative Manager; and **Gary Stith**, Director.

Guests: **Karen Davis**, City of Manhattan Community Development Director; **Kay Hutchinson**, Greater Morris County Development Executive Director; **Bruce McMillan**, Business Owner/Local Citizen; and **Tom Weigand**, Junction City Chamber President and CEO.

WELCOME:

- David Shover, FHRC President, called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. and invited the board members, staff and meeting guests to introduce themselves.

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- Member and City of Woodbine Mayor MarySue Roller welcomed everyone to the host city. She highlighted the amenities such as the bank, post office, grocery store, high speed internet and playground.

APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING'S MINUTES:

- Member Jimmy Thatcher motioned for the September 19, 2014 meeting minutes to be approved with no corrections. Member Phil Weishaar seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE:

➤ **Finance/Budget Review**

- 1) Gary Stith, FHRC Director, presented board members the bank and budget slides for the finance/budget review.
- 2) The HUD Grant is currently 89% completed as of 10/09/14.
- 3) The bank account has a balance of \$199,354.05, which includes \$104,138.95 in MPO funding, as of 10/09/14.

➤ **Staff Activity and Updates**

- 1) The correspondence for the HUD No-Cost Extension was submitted and we are still awaiting feedback from acting GTR (Grant Technical Rep) Dwayne Marsh.
- 2) Leader's Retreat is scheduled for January 16 & 17, 2015; there is a conflict with the FHRC Monthly Board Meeting.
- 3) Stith will be meeting with KDOT (Kansas Department of Transportation) on Wednesday, October 22, 2014.

PRESENTATIONS:

➤ **KSU Global Food Systems Initiative**

- Member Jackie Hartman, Kansas State University Chief of Staff, and Kent Glasscock, Kansas State University Institute for Commercialization, gave a brief presentation on KSU Global Food Systems Initiative.
- In recent studies it was determined that as the middle class increases globally, there will be a higher demand for foods. It is projected to grow double in size.
- By 2050, it is projected that there will be a global population of 9.6B people which will definitely have a huge impact on food consumption and demand.

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- Three global food system needs are talent, innovation and professional training.
- KSU is a huge catalyst for global food systems research and known as the “Animal Health Corridor.”
- The institution is looking to utilize the North Campus corridor for setting up an area specifically for global food systems research.
- Member and Past President Ben Bennett would like to see this presentation given at the 2015 Leader’s Retreat in January.
- Stith would like to see how the FHRC can play a part in the initiative on a regional level.
- Hartman emphasized that from an infrastructure perspective, the communities will need to think about it and that everyone plays a part in the Global Food Systems Initiative.

➤ **Regional TAGS (Target Advisory Groups)**

- Tom Weigand, Junction City Chamber President/CEO, gave a brief presentation and update on the Regional Target Advisory Groups (TAGs).
- The five TAG groups are as follows: Regional Asset Development, Regional Branding & Marketing, Regional Workforce Development & Target Industries, Regionalism in Practice and Regional Transportation.
- Proposals will be presented at the January 2015 Leader’s Retreat from all five TAGs.
- Additional counties - outside of Geary, Pottawatomie and Riley - will be invited to see how the proposals can be expanded to include them.
- FHRC Staff have been participating in the TAGs.

DISCUSSION TOPICS:

➤ **The Walmart Project**

- Kay Hutchinson, Greater Morris County Economic Development Corporation, gave a brief presentation of the projected effects of Walmart opening a store in or near Council Grove.
- Some of the disadvantages highlighted were as follows: small businesses being negatively impacted such as grocery store, pharmacy, fuel service stations and Dollar General.
- It is projected that 109 employees would be out of a job.
- There are reports of 80 small towns being targeted for possible Walmart locations and the US having lost 56,000 manufacturing facilities since 2001.
- Lindsborg and Baldwin City have managed to keep a Neighborhood Walmart out of their respective communities.

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- Strategic Plan
 - Jeff Adams, FHRC Regional Planner, gave a brief overview of the strategic plan draft and the goals along with recommendations that came out of the “Brown Bag Series.”
 - The Adaptive Regional Development concept is the recommendation strategic plan model for the organization.
 - Member Vern Hay motioned for approval and adoption of the strategic plan as presented. Member Cecil Aska seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

- Other Discussion Topics
 - Member Vern Hay discussed briefly and provided a handout in regards to the Clean Water Act. One of the many concerns is that ditches could become subject to the Corp of Engineers management.
 - Comments about the “Waters of the US” were extended until November 14, 2014 and a draft letter was provided in the handout as an outline guide.

CITY/COUNTY/PARTNER UPDATES:

- Fort Riley
 - Kelly Paskow informed the board that the division is currently in the midst of deploying to Iraq.
 - The Garrison Commander and staff has been relocated to Building 405 due to the construction repairs that will be going on in Building 500. The construction repairs will take 18 months to two years.
 - The Fort is working with KSU in regards to internships and partnerships.

- Governor’s Military Council
 - John Armbrust was not in attendance at the meeting.

- Kansas State University
 - Hartman gave a brief overview of the construction projects currently ongoing at the institution.
 - Some of the projects include: Welcome Center (east side of Memorial Stadium), Purple Mask Theatre (west side), Architecture/Design (Seaton Hall), and New Resident Hall.
 - Two new Vice Presidents were hired on campus – Departments of Human Capital Services and Research.
 - Enrollment has increased and the incorporation of Mentoring Programs in the College of Business is proving to be successful. There

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are additional mentors needed and a database is being built to allow online question and answer interactions with the students.

- Emporia State University
 - Kristie Ogilvie was not in attendance at the meeting; however, At-Large Scott Briggs gave a brief update.
 - There is a new city/county economic development department has been created.
 - The Board of Regents visited the institution and it has been deemed as a "University Community."

- City of Chapman
 - New family restaurant Flo's Place is now open in the community and the Dollar General store will be opening up soon.

- City of Clay Center
 - Community pool construction is still ongoing and the new street shop construction is complete.

- Geary County
 - The county is looking at developing a land bank for industrial and commercial use. Street projects are ongoing and Munson Prime Restaurant is having its grand opening.

- City of Grandview Plaza
 - Member Honey Grant was not in attendance at the meeting.

- City of Junction City
 - Member Cecil Aska had to leave the meeting early; therefore, no updates were given.

- City of Woodbine
 - No additional comments were made since Member MarySue Roller provided opening comments during the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

- Member Jimmy Thatcher motioned for the meeting to be adjourned at 11:58 p.m. Member MarySue Roller seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.