



Flint Hills Regional Council Board of Directors
Board Meeting Minutes – October 21, 2016
Chapman, KS

Present from Board of the Regional Council: **Pam Bales**, Alma City Councilwoman; **Ben Bennett**, Geary County Commissioner; **Robert Boyd**, Riley County Commissioner; **Scott Briggs**, Lyon County Commissioner; **Vic Enns**, Wamego Commissioner; **Honey Grant**, Grandview Plaza Vice-Mayor; **Stan Hartwich**, Pottawatomie County Commissioner; **Galen Johnson**, City of Dwight Mayor; **Tim Livsey**, Fort Riley Deputy Garrison Commander; **Karen McCulloh**, City of Manhattan Commissioner; **MarySue Roller**, City of Woodbine Mayor; **Mike Ryan**, City of Junction City Commissioner; **Perry Wiggins**, Governor's Military Council; **James E. Williams**, Emporia State University; and **Lee Wolf**, City of Chapman Councilman.

Absent from the Board: **Steve Harmon**, City of Emporia Commissioner; **Jackie Hartman**, Kansas State University; **Sharon Haun**, Council Grove Councilwoman; **Vern Hay**, Morris County Commissioner; **Jennifer Laird**, Chase County; **Susan McKenzie**, City of White City - City Clerk; **Darci Pottroff**, City of Riley Councilwoman; **Dale Renfro**, City of Onaga Councilman; **Jeff Rosell**, City of Westmoreland Councilman; **Kevin Sorenson**, City of Reading Mayor; and **Jimmy Thatcher**, City of Clay Center Mayor.

Present from Staff Support: **Unique Hiram**, Administrative Manager; **Austin Masters**, Community Development Manager; and **Gary Stith**, Director.

Guests: **Jeff Blixt**, City of Chapman Mayor; **Tracy Henry**, Wabaunsee County Economic Development Director; **Scott Kohl**, Highland Community College V&E Program Director; **Judd Liebau**, City of Chapman Resident; **Bruce McMillan**, Past CEDS Chair; **Bob Morando**, Dickinson County Economic Development Corporation Executive Director; **Linda Morse**, City of Manhattan Commissioner; **Traci Scott**, Fort Riley Regional Liaison Officer; **Angela Schwerdtfeger**, TCT Public Relations Director; **David Tegtmeier**, Liquid Art Winery Owner; **Dewey Terrill**, KJCK News Reporter; **Lance Tilton**, Astra Bank Lender; and **David Yearout**, Junction City/Geary County/Milford Planning & Zoning Director.

WELCOME:

- Robert Boyd, FHRC Board President, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and invited the board members, staff, and meeting guests to introduce themselves.
- Mayor Jeff Blixt and Member Lee Wolf welcomed everyone to host city. Highlights: \$200K Grant received from the Department of Commerce for sidewalk project, street project has been completed, and sewer/lagoon project.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

- Member Karen McCulloh motioned for the September 16, 2016 meeting minutes to be approved as presented. Member Pam Bales 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 throughout the region.

Finance/Budget Review

- The bank balance, as of October 18, 2016, is \$117,161.65 with \$43,711.57 belonging to the FHMPO.
- Outstanding Reimbursement Requests – OEA Impact Analysis \$2,124.00, OEA JLUS \$921.00 and FHMPO \$13,043.37.

PRESENTATIONS:

- **Viticulture & Viniculture – Economic Development Opportunities in the Flint Hills Region**
 - Scott Kohl, Highland Community College V&E Program Director, and David Tegtmeier, Liquid Art Winery and Estate, gave a presentation about the economic development opportunities of Viticulture & Viniculture in the Flint Hills Region:
 1. There are Associate Degree and Certificate educational programs offered at Highland Community College in Viticulture and Enology. The average age of students is 45 with a class size of 4-12 people.
 2. HiberVine is a company based in Manhattan, Kansas offering vineyard development and management for its clients. The ideal property is SE facing grass hillside with a gradual slope allowing a minimum of 500 feet vineyard rows. The contact is David Tegtmeier and his information is as follows: Email david@HiberVine.com or Telephone (785) 370-5526.
- **Economic Development Administration (EDA) Programs**
 - Mark Werthmann, United States Department of Commerce Economic Development Representative, gave a brief overview of the current EDA Programs for Local and Regional Economic Development. His coverage area includes Kansas, Nebraska and Western Missouri.
 - The EDA Investment Programs currently available include the following: Economic Adjustment (EA), Planning, Public Works (PW), Local Technical Assistance, University Centers, Trade Adjustment Assistance for Firms and Research & National Technical Assistance.
 - Contact information is as follows: Email mwerthmann@eda.gov and Telephone (913) 894-1586.

CITY/COUNCIL/PARTNER UPDATES:

- Fort Riley – Tim Livsey, Deputy Garrison Commander, reported the following:
 - Major General (MG) Martin is currently transitioning into his position as the Commanding General.
 - 1st Brigade & CAV are both deployed.
 - Retiree Appreciation is going on today.
 - Riley Conference Center will be host to a hiring event on November 17th.
 - Kansas Secretary of Commerce met with Brigadier General (BG) Frank.

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

- Governor's Military Council – Perry Wiggins, Executive Director, reported on the following:
 - First Official Board Meeting - introduced himself to the board / retired after 34 years of military service.

- Emporia State University – James E. Williams, VP of Student Affairs, reported on the following:
 - 14th President Alicia Garrett is fully onboard at the university.
 - The university is dependent on tuition vs. state aid due to the current budget constraints for school funding.

- City of Alta Vista – Board representative was not in attendance at the meeting.

- City of Alma – Member Pam Bales, City Councilwoman, reported on the following:
 - Dollar General will be opening up in the community soon.
 - CDBG grant was obtained for the community playground.
 - Sidewalk projects currently underway and ongoing.

- City of Dwight – Member Galen Johnson, City Mayor, reported on the following:
 - New street signs have been put up.
 - New Lawnmower has been acquired.
 - Rewiring for Park Shelter House.
 - Mil levy was raised to 3%.

- City of White City – Member Susan McKenzie was not in attendance at the meeting.

- Morris County – Member Vern Hay was not in attendance at the meeting.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS:

- None at this time.

ADJOURNMENT:

- The upcoming board meeting will be held on November 18, 2016 in Alta Vista, KS. Confirmed location will be posted to the FHRC website.
- Member Karen McCulloh motion for the meeting to be adjourned at 12:07 p.m. Member Ben Bennett seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.