



## Flint Hills Regional Council Board of Directors

Board Minutes – September 28, 2012

Dwight Community Center

Dwight, KS 66849

Present from Board of the Regional Council: **Cecil Aska**, Junction City Commissioner; **Dan Deiter**, Alma City Council; **Vic Enns**, Wamego City Commissioner; **Vern Hay**, Morris County Commissioner; **Galen Johnson**, Dwight City Mayor; **Keith Kahnt**, White City Councilman; **Joe Kormanik**, Alta Vista Commissioner; **Karen McCulloh**, Riley County Commissioner; **Jim Sherow**, Manhattan City Commissioner; **Ben Van Becelaere** (for Linda Hoeffner), Fort Riley; and **Phil Weishaar**, Chapman Mayor.

Absent from the Board: **John Armbrust**, Governor's Military Council; **Ben Bennett**, Geary County Commissioner; **Honey Grant**, Grandview Plaza Vice-Mayor; **Jackie Hartman**, Kansas State University; **Stan Hartwich**, Pottawatomie County Commissioner; **Lynn Peterson**, Abilene Commissioner; **MarySue Roller**, City of Woodbine Councilwoman; **Debi Schwerdtfeger**, Council Grove Councilwoman; **Ervan Stuewe**, Wabaunsee County Commissioner; **Jimmy Thatcher**, Clay Center Mayor; and **David Shover II**, Riley City Mayor.

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; **Jeff Adams PhD**, Regional Planner; and **Scott Moore**, Community Liaison.

Guests: **Debbie Adcock**, CG/MC Chamber Director; **Abby Amick**, Wabaunsee County EcoDevo Director; **Karen Davis**, City of Manhattan; **Buck Driggs**, SMH Consultants Project Manager; **Melissa Ellis**, Dwight City Councilwoman; **Lisa Lee**, Dwight City Clerk; **Bruce McMillan**, Strategy Committee Chair; **State Representative Tom Moxley**, Kansas House of Representatives; **Joe Palic**, KDOT Area Engineer; **Monty Wedel**, City of Manhattan; and **David Yearout**, Junction City/Geary County Planning Director.

### CALL TO ORDER:

- Jim Sherow, FHRC Vice President, called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

### WELCOME (HOST COMMUNITY):

- Member Galen Johnson welcomed all meeting attendees to the City of Dwight.
- The FHRC assisted Dwight with an application for FEMA Grants funds to build a storm shelter and make enhancements to the City Office and Library.

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**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- FHRC President Vern Hay made a motion to approve the minutes. Member Phil Weishaar seconded. Motion was carried unanimously.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

- A copy of the financial report was given to all board members for their review.
- Member Karen McCulloh, FHRC Treasurer, stated that the report would be filed so that it is available for any future audits.

**K-177 MODERNIZATION PROJECT PRESENTATION:**

- Chuck Barlett, Consulting Engineer for Alfred Benesch & Co., and Joe Palic, KDOT Area Engineer, gave a presentation about the K-177 modernization project.
- Four of the main reasons that this highway project was chosen for the T-Works \$25M funding were due to safety issues, strong regional support, importance to the local economy and tourism expansion.
- The actual project extends from Council Grove to I-70 and is scheduled to begin in fiscal year 2017.
- It will take a grand total of \$67M to reconstruct the entire corridor; therefore, there were a variety of options created and reviewed to figure out what particular improvements would fit into the \$25M approved budget.
- MII Global in Kansas City gathered crash history data (2005-2009) to assist in figuring out which part of the highway had the most safety and operational issues. Some of the items viewed were crash rates (animal-related, fixed object and intersection) and passing zones.
- There was a public meeting held on March 29, 2012 in Alta Vista where residents voiced their concerns about safety, detours and safe passing. Additionally, there were three meetings with the advisory committee, which included Abby Amick, Vern Hay and Ty Warner.
- On October 2, 2012, there will be another public meeting held at the Methodist Church in Council Grove. Officials will meet at 5:00 p.m. and the public will be invited in from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- Representative Tom Moxley informed the board that last year \$20M came out of the KDOT budget in order to balance the state budget. He stressed that it is important for the communities to fight for the KDOT projects to stay funded.
- President Vern Hay also gave a summary of the current KDOT local consult meetings being across Kansas, including the meeting held in Salina, which he attended. He stressed the importance of communicating the region's road priorities at these meetings, as this input from Regional Council members was important to eventual project funding such as K-177.

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**MPO DESIGNATION UPDATE:**

- Karen Davis, City of Manhattan Community Development Director, gave a brief overview on the current status of the MPO Designation.
- Due to the 2012 Census Bureau data that designated an urbanized area crossing the 50,000-population threshold, the Metro Planning Area map needs to be identified to determine the extent of the MPO.
- There will be a Policy Board established and implemented which will include local elected officials, KDOT and representatives from other entities, depending on the scope of this map.
- Three important elements that will need to be created by the MPO and kept updated are the Travel Demand Model (reviewed every five years), Metropolitan Transportation Plan (reviewed every five years) and Transportation Improvement Program (reviewed every four years).
- There was a proposed MPO Budget passed out to the board and meeting attendees that differed according to whether the Metro Planning Area would be represented by “Map 2” or “Map 4a.”
- On October 2, 2012, there will be a meeting held at 7:00 p.m. by the Manhattan City Commission to determine their preferred MPO Boundary Map. (KDOT has vested decision with the City of Manhattan as the principle city comprised the urbanized area.) After that, an Interim Policy Board will be formed based on the chosen map boundaries, which will determine the details of the MPO designation agreement, including where the MPO will be hosted. The MPO Designation Agreement must be completed such that the MPO can be established no later than March 2013 according to Federal law.
- The MPO Policy Board will work to establish the appointment of a technical committee, the adoption of a budget, and begins staff recruitment process for a Transportation Planner and MPO planning responsibilities.
- There were questions about the relationship of the Flint Hills Regional Council Board to the MPO Policy Board. Ty Warner, FHRC Executive Director, relayed that the Policy Board will be a separate entity from the FHRC Board, though FHRC Board representatives from affected communities may also be appointed to the Policy Board. The new transportation employee for the MPO would be housed under the host agency (anticipated as the FHRC), but they would be responsible to the MPO. If the MPO is housed within the FHRC, a portion of the planning administration dollars for the functioning of the MPO would also support Administration and Director positions in the FHRC as they assist in coordinating MPO activities. Once the MPO is established, the Policy Board can revise the MPO boundaries.
- Davis stressed that the budgets she distributed are not final, but were done to be illustrative of what costs might be incurred. The MPO Policy Board will determine the final budget. She also stressed the importance and critical nature of having great land use data provided by the communities.

**FORT RILEY UPDATE:**

- Ben Van Becelaere, from the Fort Riley Planning, Analysis, and Integration Office, attended the meeting as a representative of Linda Hoeffner, Deputy Garrison Commander, who was not able to be in attendance.

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- There are currently 15,000 soldiers with boots on the ground at Fort Riley and the numbers will rise in April 2013 because the 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade will be returning from Afghanistan. The estimated number of soldiers at that time will range between 16,500 – 17,000.
- The Combat Aviation Group will be leaving between September/October.
- Germaine to the day's meeting location, there are approximately 40 soldiers and 20 civilian personnel currently residing in the City of Dwight.
- A number of Fort Riley VIP visits have occurred within the past few weeks, including the Inspector General of the Army, Sergeant Major of the Army and Under Secretary of the Army.
- On October 1, 2012, General Martin E. Dempsey, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, will be speaking in the McCain Auditorium at Kansas State University for the Landon Lecture.
- There will be a Kansas Economic Development Conference held in Junction City on October 24, 2012 and 50 attendees from the conference will be at a command brief and tour on Fort Riley.

**GOVERNOR'S MILITARY COUNCIL UPDATE:**

- John Armbrust, Governor's Military Council, was unable to be in attendance at the meeting.

**LEGISLATIVE ISSUES (INPUT & DISCUSSION):**

- Member Ben Bennett, At-Large, was unable to be in attendance at the meeting; however, State Representative Tom Moxley shared in some brief discussions about current legislative issues.
- The proposed budget cuts by the state will have a huge impact on rural Kansas; the governor sets 90% of the budget and 34% of the budget is funded by property taxes.
- The Main Street project has been cut and there will be further federal budget cuts occurring in the near future which will have a huge impact on the state budget.
- Member Karen McCulloh is concerned about the community corrections facility cuts as well as the lowering of the juvenile age from 23 to 19 and mental health facilities' funding. Additionally, there are concerns about the machinery and equipment tax abatement.
- Member Jim Sherow is concerned about how the budget cuts will further affect the number of students attending Kansas State University (e.g. higher tuition rates) along with the employment rate (e.g. 2.5% pay rate increase has held stationery over the past five years). Additionally, there is \$50M in deferred maintenance and only \$10M has been received in funding for the work completion.

**FLINT HILLS FRONTIERS PROJECT UPDATE:**

- Jeff Adams, Regional Planner, and Scott Moore, Community Liaison, gave a brief update on the Flint Hills Frontiers Project.

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- Jeff shared a project theme of “Three Frontiers, One Ecosystem and Endless Stories”.
- There are approximately 442,867 people residing in the Flint Hills Region and the goal is to get at least 4,287 of those individuals actively involved in the project.
- The three roles that these individuals can fill include being identified as **issue experts** (rural and urban subject matter experts from various communities), **activators** (energize people to get involved and spread the word about the project) and **fire starters** (passionate leader who will spearhead committees about issue areas).
- A public engagement calendar has been generated and some of the upcoming events are as follows:
  1. October or November 2012 – Issue experts identification and tech meeting
  2. November 2012 – Web Portal launch, Public Square conversations, and Consortium gathering event.
  3. December 2012 –Kick-Off event as the Governor’s Third Flint Hills summit.
  4. January/February 2013 – Community Visioning (5 or 6 meetings throughout the 19 counties)

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT:**

- Warner informed the board that there was an upcoming dignitaries visit to Fort Riley and the FHRC planned by Patrick O’Brien, Director of the Office of Economic Adjustment, and Paul Osvarek, OEA Project Manager, on October 9, 2012. *[Note: this visit was subsequently cancelled due to unanticipated scheduling conflicts.]*
- The board was also informed that General MacWillie, Fort Riley Senior Commander, would be attending the next scheduled meeting to be held at Fort Riley.

**OTHER BUSINESS & NEXT MEETING:**

- Member Vic Enns informed the board that there was a recent meeting with KDOT about possible improvements to K-99 due to the size of equipment being manufactured in Wamego at the Caterpillar Plant.
- The next board meeting will be held at Fort Riley on October 26, 2012.

**MEETING ADJOURNMENT:**

- Member Jimmy Thatcher motioned for the meeting to be adjourned at 11:52 p.m. Member Phil Weishaar seconded. Motion was carried unanimously.