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FHRC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

May 19, 2023

*Wabaunsee County Fire Station District #5*

*Eskridge, KS*

*and via Zoom*

Present from Board: **Matthew Bea**, Junction City Commission, Board Vice President; **Pam Bales,** Alma City Council; **Terry Cook,** Eskridge Mayor; **David Fox,** Morris County Commission; **Trish Giordano,** Geary County Commission, Board Treasurer; **Sharon Haun,** Council Grove City Council; **Jim MacGregor**, Wabaunsee County Commission; **Bruce Meininger**, Westmoreland City Commission; **Kelly Paskow,** Fort Riley (ex-officio).

Absent from Board Voting: **Ryan Armbrust,** Alta Vista Mayor; **Dee McKee** Pottawatomie County Commission; **Linda Morse,** Manhattan City Commission, Board Secretary; **Teri Naylor**, Harveyville City Commission; **Jimmy Thatcher**, Clay Center Mayor; **Debi Urbanek**, Herington City Commission; **Ben Van Becelaere,** Fort Riley (ex-officio); **Deb Werth**, St. George City Council; **Richard Weixelman,** Wamego City Council, Board President.

Absent from Board – Non-voting: **Julie Murphy**, Wakefield, City Clerk;); **Susan McKenzie**, White City, City Clerk; **Justin Rush**, Eskridge; **Angela Schnee**, Ogden, Zoning Administrator; **Perry Wiggins,** Governor’s Military Affairs Council (ex-officio).

Guests Present: **Jack Allston**, Pottawatomie County Economic Development Corporation; **Michelle Campbell**, Westmoreland; **Grant Hill,** Kansas State University; **Stephanie Imthurn**, Wabaunsee County Economic Development; **Michaela Joyce**, Junction City Main Street; **Bruce McMillan,** AIA Architects; **Janet Wade**, Planning Commission Member, Herington.

Present from Staff: **Holly Boice**, Grant Specialist; **Jerry Lonergan**, Exec. Director; **Janna Williams**,Regional Planner.

1. **Welcome / Roll Call / Establish Quorum** Matthew Bea, Vice President

Board Vice President Matthew Bea called the meeting to order at 9:03.

Roll call showed a quorum did exist.

1. **Approval of April Meeting Minutes** Matthew Bea, Vice President

Pam Bales moved to approve the April minutes, and Terry Cook seconded. The board approved the April Meeting Minutes.

1. **Review and Approval of Financial Reports** Trish Giordano, Treasurer

Jerry Lonergan and Trish Giordano presented the financials. Trish Giordano moved to approve the financials, and David Fox seconded the motion. The board voted to approve the financials.

1. **New Business**  Jerry Lonergan, Director

Five-Year Strategic Sustainability Plan

Jerry Lonergan explained that the final sustainability plan includes more about global impactors to the Flint Hills area and more on K-State. The board agreed that the report looks good and is ready to approve. Trish Giordano moved to approve the Five-Year Strategic Sustainability Plan. Sharon Haun seconded the motion, and the board unanimously approved the plan.

EDA Disaster Supplemental Grant

Jerry Lonergan presented on the EDA Disaster Supplemental Funding recently announced by EDA. $57 Million is available for areas that declared disasters in 2021 and 2022 across the EDA Denver Region, which includes ten states. There are 53 eligible counties in Kansas. Kansas is most impacted in the Denver Region. Geary, Morris, Riley, Wabaunsee counties area included. FHRC counties’ population = 25% of the 53 counties total population. $5 million maximum ask with a 20% match required. Meetings are being scheduled with the goal of having multiple one-page summaries of projects to bring to EDA in June to determine eligibility for the funding. The goal is to have multiple proposals submitted by the end of July. FHRC staff role: convene, consult, conduit between EDA, write and revise proposals as capacity and staff time allows.

Other grant Possibilities

Jerry Lonergan presented other possible grant opportunities, including EDA Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance, EDA Planning and Local Assistance, and the KS Dept. of Commerce Request for Proposals for funding to Regional Development Organizations. Janna Williams mentioned that the staff is getting ready to apply for the next non-competitive OLDCC grant. The technical committee will look over projects.

Board Retreat in August

There were 11 responses to the survey regarding the board retreat. Answers lead to inviting board members and alternates, having the retreat in place of the regular meeting that month, holding it in Manhattan in the morning with pastries, and having a facilitator run it, prioritizing implementation of the sustainability plan.

1. **Old Business** Matthew Bea, Vice President

EPA

Janna Williams presented on the EPA Brownfield Assessments.

* Ogden – Area Planning $39,000/50,000 (August completion). 5 Phase I ESA sites. Downtown Planning continues. 2 new businesses joined.
* Junction City – Area Planning $56,000/70,000 (August completion). 6+ Phase I ESA sites, Downtown Planning continues.
* Eskridge – $28,000. Phase I ESA’s complete for downtown corridor. Begin review with property owners. Market Study (ongoing) Area Planning- KSU TAB. Structural Study applications to begin.
* MHK/Riley County – Airport Business Park Phase I completed $6,000. MHK Area Planning started $70,000/value (December).

CDBG Update

Holly Boice gave an update on CDBG efforts. The Alta Vista CDBG application for the park project has been submitted to KDC for review. Reward announcement is expected in June. She is attending Eskridge City Meeting on Monday to present on CDBG opportunities. She is shifting her focus on CDBG year-round application opportunities.

Planner Position Search

Jerry Lonergan updated the board on the search for the planner posted position. There are three or four applications for consideration.

1. **Community Updates**  Matthew Bea, Vice President

**Alma** – Pam Bales

The mayor of Alma resigned which placed Pam as mayor until the end of her term in seven months. The sports area in the city has some need. The tennis courts and pickle ball courts are needing replaced, so there will be a fundraising event to replace them. The city and school district will match fundraised dollars.

**Council Grove** – Sharon Haun

There is new flat surfacing downtown, and the city is planning for upcoming weekend events.

**Eskridge** – Terry Cook

Construction is finished for repairing the lake beach. The wall there will prevent erosion. City projects for the summer have not started yet but should soon.

**Fort Riley –** Kelley Paskow

Fort Riley is getting ready for the “summer surge” and the training that takes place in the next many months. The fort is continuing recruiting efforts. There are two infrastructure projects that have received letters from the commander to go for funding under DCIP.

**Geary County** – Trish Giordano

The county moved recording of the accounts payable to the finance director to improve recordkeeping of funds.

**Herington** – Janet Wade

Herington has a new city manager. Kansas Association of Trail Towns is working toward extending the Flint Hills Trail. There will be a cemetery preservation workshop in Herington in June or July.

**Junction City** – Matthew Bea

The Balloon Festival at Freedom Field went well and served as a fundraiser for Freedom Fest in July. The next fundraiser will involve monster trucks. Brigade Baseball will start in June. The team is a six-time cup winner. The city is trying to get moving on work to prepare for the new interchange. Michaela Joyce, JC Main Street Director, mentioned that their Saturday markets are successful thus far. The city also has a new mural now that many from the community helped to paint.

**Manhattan** – Bruce McMillan

There are lots of detours in the city of Manhattan while road construction occurs. The Opera House’s building in JC is under major renovation to add a program space for children’s programs.

**Morris County –** David Fox

The addition and remodel for the Sheriff’s Office is moving along nicely. The bridge south of Dunlap is finished but not open yet. Demo of the old bridge is delayed because of the endangered fish located in the river. The bridge was a $2.23 million project, with the county footing the total amount.

**Wabaunsee County** – Jim MacGregor

The county adopted a five-year moratorium for solar. The elementary school in Maple Hill is closing, leading to many discussions in the county. The county needs roads and bridges fixed. Symphony of the Flint Hills is coming to Eskridge in June. Stephanie Imthurm, Wabaunsee EDD, said there is a new contract for the old manor to make it a childcare center that will hopefully open in the fall. There is a housing shortage in the area.

**Westmoreland** – Bruce Meininger

The pool is now filled. The fire department is in need of equipment. Michelle Campbell stated that the chamber of commerce is putting up signage to highlight historical attractions in the area. The city is preparing for Memorial Day weekend with 100+ flags on poles at the cemetery.

1. **Adjourn**  Matthew Bea, Vice President

Board Vice President Matthew Bea adjourned the meeting at 10:30. The next meeting will take place in Saint George on June 16.