

FLINT HILLS REGION

FHRC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

January 19, 2024

Due to weather conditions the meeting was held on Zoom.

Present from Board: **Richard Weixelman**, Wamego City Council, Board President; **Terry Cook**, Eskridge Mayor; **Teri Naylor**, Harveyville City Commission; **David Fox**, Morris County Commission; **Angela Schnee**, Ogden, Zoning Administrator; **Jim MacGregor**, Wabaunsee County Commission; **Sharon Haun**, Council Grove City Council; **Bruce Meininger**, Westmoreland City Commission; **Karen McCulloh**, Manhattan City Commission; **Matt Stiles**, City Manager, Hillsboro.

Absent from Board Voting: **Trish Giordano**, Geary County Commissioner; **Ken Smith**, Mayor City of Alma; **Ryan Armbrust**, Alta Vista Mayor; **Alex Miller**, Onaga City Council; **Jimmy Thatcher**, Clay Center Mayor; **Debi Urbanek**, Herington City Commission; **Debby Werth**, St. George City Council; **David Fox**, Morris County Commissioner; **Sarah McKinsey**, City of Onaga; **Dee McKee**, Pottawatomie County Commission **Kelly Paskow**, Fort Riley (ex-officio); **Susan McKenzie**, White City, City Clerk; **Cheryl Grice**, Kansas State University (ex officio).

Absent from Board – Non-voting: **Ben Van Becelaere**, Fort Riley (ex-officio); **Julie Murphy**, Wakefield, City Clerk; **Perry Wiggins**, Governor’s Military Affairs Council (ex-officio).

Guests Present: **Michelle Campbell**, Westmoreland; **Bill Flanery**, City of Chapman; **Stephanie Imthurn**, Wabaunsee County Economic Development Director; **Rhonda Rice**, Planning Commissioner, City of Herington; **Janet Wade**, City of Herington.

Present from Staff: **Janna Williams**, Interim Executive Director/Regional Planner.

1. **Welcome / Roll Call / Establish Quorum**

Board President Richard Weixelman called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.
Roll call showed a quorum did exist.

2. **Approval of November 2023 Meeting Minutes**

Sharon Haun moved and Jim MacGregor seconded to approve the minutes. The board approved the November 2023 Meeting Minutes.

3. **Review and Approval of Financial Reports**

The financials from November 2023 were reviewed and there were no questions. Bruce Meinenger moved to approve the financials and Teri Naylor seconded the motion. The board voted to approve the financials.

4. New Business

- a. Jim MacGregor provided an update on the director search.
- b. 2024 Nominating Committee: Richard Weixelman appointed a nominating committee of Sharon Haun, Jim MacGregor and Trish Giordano to present the nominations for executive board positions at the February 16th board meeting. Elections will be held at the same meeting.
- c. Janna Williams reported that the City of Chapman requested to rejoin the Flint Hills Regional Council. Bill Flanery, City Administrator spoke to the board regarding their request to rejoin. Karen McCulloh made a motion to accept the City of Chapman as a new member, Sharon Haun seconded. Motion carried.
- d. Janna Williams reported that the City of Ogden has applied for a Thriving Communities Grant and is requesting a Letter of Commitment from the FHRC. Angela Schnee, Ogden Zoning, spoke to the board about the grant for technical assistance for Riley Avenue and the LOC request. Karen McCulloh made a motion to provide the Letter of Commitment for the Ogden Thriving Communities Grant, Bruce Meinenger seconded. Motion carried.
- e. Jim MacGregor discussed the National Association of Development Organization benefits and requested approval for the FHRC to join for a fee of \$1000. Jim MacGregor made a motion to become a member and Karen McCulloh seconded. Motion carried.

5. Old Business

- a. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfield Grants
Janna Williams reported that area planning will begin for Eskridge soon.
Office of Local Defense and Community Cooperation (OLDCC)
Janna Williams reported two OLDCC grants will be closed out by January 31st.
- b. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Update
 - CDBG competitive categories were determined and are now on the Kansas Department of Commerce website.
 - FHRC is hosting a CDBG Roadshow event in Junction City on Feb. 2 from 9:30 – 12:30 at the Junction City Municipal Building. Email Holly Boice for the link to register.
 - Kauffman: The next Kauffman Cohort meeting is on Feb. 13-14 in Kansas City
 - JCMS is holding its Community Forum event in Junction City at The Eagles, 203 E 10th Street from 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. March 18.
- c. EDA Disaster Supplemental:
 - Conversations continue for Manhattan Chamber of Commerce project.
 - Kansas State University/Kansas Forest Service project grant application is in final stages. Application will be submitted at the end of January.BIL/HUB Update
 - Remember to use Community Needs website: <https://fhrcneedsassessment.org/>
 - Jennifer Colton is still available to assist in finding and applying to BIL opportunities:

jcolton@wittobriens.com

- Kansas Water Office Grants:
 - Harveyville: FHRC wrote Technical Assistance and Water Project KWO grants for water infrastructure.
 - Milford: Janna Williams wrote a Technical Assistance KWO grant for city water and sewer updates.
 - Morris County: FHRC wrote a Water Project KWO grant to provide water to the properties of a local veterinarian and two farms.
- KDHE Waste Tire Grant
 - Harveyville: FHRC wrote a KDHE Waste Tire Grant for new picnic tables made from recycled tires in City Park.

6. Community Updates

Herington: Janet Wade noted that a clinic will be open by March since the closing of the Herington hospital. There is a new Casey's on Highway 77 which will open by March. Herington applied for a KWO water grant as well.

Westmoreland: Bruce Meinenger reported that there will be middle income housing built in Westmoreland by a developer from Manhattan.

Council Grove: Sharon Haun stated everyone survived the snow with no water breaks!

Harveyville: Teri Naylor thanked Holly for grant writing the KDHE grant for recycled tire picnic tables. Harveyville is busy and has a great community coffee in the mornings. The city crews did a good job of keeping the streets cleared off during the snow.

Eskridge: Terry Cook reported that Eskridge had two employees clearing the streets during the snow. He has met with the Housing Authority board members.

Ogden- Angela Schnee: Ogden has applied for BIL grant application, the Water office grant in December, a park planning grant and working on a housing project with Habitat for Humanity. They are thankful the help from FHRC!

Wabaunsee - Jim Macgregor: The Alma Manor has closed with the Heritage Home opening in its place. This is an intergenerational facility for preschool and twelve senior housing units on the other side of the building. Wabaunsee Count is the recipient of Link Broadband grant. He also wished everyone a happy new year.

Wamego- Richard Weixelman: Wamego currently has a library renovation project and are keeping the street clean of snow.

7. Adjourn

Richard Weixelman, President adjourned the meeting at 9:50 a.m. The next meeting will take place on February 16th, 2024 in Council Grove. The location to be determined.