

**OHIO VALLEY REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**  
**Executive Committee Meeting**

**Minutes**

June 19, 2008

Pike Government Center

Waverly, Ohio

Chairman: Bob Proud

Vice-Chairman: Dale Reynolds

Treasurer: Doug Corcoran

**1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER**

Doug Corcoran, OVRDC Treasurer, called the meeting to order at 1:45 pm in the excused absence of Bob Proud, Chairman and Dale Reynolds, Vice Chairman. Mr. Corcoran stated that a quorum was present and welcomed everyone to the Pike Government Center in Pike County. Mr. Corcoran then asked David Smith, Gallia County Commissioner, to lead the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Those in attendance were as follows:

**Executive Committee Members:**

*Ray Becraft, Brown County Chamber of Commerce*

*Lonnie Best, Proxy for Doug Malone, Lawrence County Commissioner*

*Eugene Collins, Scioto County Minority Caucus Chairman*

*Doug Corcoran, Ross County Commissioner*

*Katy Farber, Highland County Chamber of Commerce*

*Gary Heaton, Highland County Commissioner*

*Marvin Jones, Executive Director, Ross County Chamber of Commerce*

*Roger Rhonemus, Adams County Commissioner*

*Harry Rider, Pike County Commissioner*

*Tim Ross, Innerwood & Company, Clermont County*

*David Smith, Gallia County Commissioner*

**Staff:**

*Jeffrey Spencer, OVRDC Executive Director*

*John Hemmings, OVRDC Assistant Director*

*Rebecca Banchy-McIlwain, OVRDC Finance Director*

*Sharon Clark, OVRDC Administrative Assistant*

**Guests:**

*Fred Deel, Director, Governor's Office of Appalachia*

*Lou Gentile, Assistant Director Governor's Office of Appalachia*

*Robert Hickey, Representative Economic Development Administration*

*Ashley Kelly, USDA Rural Development*

*Della Rucker, Jacobs, Edwards & Kelcey*

*Ted West, Pike County Commissioner*

*LuAnne Winkle, Executive Director, Turning Point Applied Learning Center, Highland*

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Corcoran stated that the draft of the May 22, 2008 Executive Committee meeting minutes was mailed to members, along with the meeting notice. He asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes. Mr. Corcoran then asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

**IT WAS MOVED BY GARY HEATON, SECONDED BY DAVID SMITH AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES, OF THE MAY 22, 2008 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING. THE MOTION PASSED.**

3. **FINANCE REPORT**

Doug Corcoran, OVRDC Treasurer presented the Financial Report. Mr. Corcoran referred to Tab #3 and the April 30, 2008 Balance Sheet which reflected the total assets of \$998,061.89; total liabilities of \$221,781.24 and total equities of \$776,280.65 and a balance of \$0.00.

Mr. Corcoran asked for a motion to adopt the Finance Report as presented.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY DAVID SMITH AND SECONDED BY EUGENE COLLINS TO ADOPT THE FINANCE REPORT AS PRESENTED AND THE MOTION CARRIED.**

4. **DIRECTORS REPORT**

Mr. Spencer referred to Tab #4 and highlighted the various sections. He advised the OVRDC staff conducted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Round County Caucus meetings. The purpose of the meetings was to rank potential Appalachian Regional Commission and Economic Development Administration projects in each county.

Mr. Spencer advised he attended a meeting organized by U.S. Rail and CSX to discuss the availability of rail services in Jackson and contiguous counties and about the possible growth in new natural resource based industries in the area.

Mr. Spencer advised he and Dan Yarmesch worked on developing a preliminary survey for the Hardwood Kiln Feasibility Study.

Mr. Spencer advised Jason Gillow and John Hemmings held the third HUD RHED Adams County Advisory Committee meeting and made a presentation related to the work completed on the project since the last meeting.

Rebecca Banchy-McIlwain attended an EDA RLF mandatory meeting called by the USDOC Economic Development Administration. The event was part of a joint economic development conference held in Cleveland.

Michele Throckmorton and Kim Reynolds met with the new City Manager of the City of Greenfield. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss CDBG contracts and other technical assistance programs provided by OVRDC.

**5. LEGISLATIVE REPORT, STATE AND FEDERAL DEVELOPMENTS**

Mr. Spencer referred to Tab #5 and highlighted the sections which included “Statement of Purpose and Need and Section-by-Section Analysis of the Economic Development Administration Reauthorization Act of 2008. Mr. Spencer included a summary of Ohio H.B. 554, which implements the economic stimulus package and has been passed by the Ohio House and Senate.

**6. OLD BUSINESS**

a. ARC/EDA Project Status

John Hemmings referred to Tab #6a. He stated the changes since the last Executive Committee meeting were highlighted in bold type. They included SOMC Cardiac Surgery Center (Scioto), pending approval at ARC, Pike County Sewer Project (Pike) pending approval at ARC, Ponetown Road Waterline Extension (Vinton), pending approval at ARC, Adena Health System Educational Human Patient Simulators (Ross), pending approval at ARC and Haverhill Industrial Park Rail Improvements (Lawrence), approved.

b. Executive Director Acceptance

Mr. Spencer advised at the May Executive Committee meeting a motion passed to offer the OVRDC Executive Director position to John W. Hemmings III effective August 1, 2008 and a confirmation letter was sent to Mr. Hemmings. Mr. Spencer advised Mr. Hemmings subsequently sent a letter accepting the offer.

Mrs. Banchy-McIlwain, Finance Director advised we need to process the appropriate paperwork with all of our bank accounts and need to have Board authorization to change the authorized members to sign checks from Jeffrey A. Spencer, Executive Director; Robert Proud, Chairman and/or Doug Corcoran, Treasurer to John W. Hemmings, III Executive Director; Robert Proud, Chairman; and/or Doug Corcoran, Treasurer, effective August 1, 2008.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY DAVID SMITH AND SECONDED BY GARY HEATON TO AUTHORIZE JOHN W. HEMMINGS, III TO REPLACE JEFFREY A. SPENCER ON ALL OF THE OVRDC BANK ACCOUNTS EFFECTIVE 08-01-08. THE MOTION CARRIED.**

c. Economic Impact of ADHS

Mr. Spencer referred to Tab #6c which included pages from the study “Economic Impact of Completing the Appalachian Development Highway System”. According to this study, completion of the Appalachian Development Highway System (ADHS) would yield significant economic benefits for both the Appalachian Region and the nation, by facilitating national freight flows, reducing travel times, improving safety, and enhancing access to markets, completion of the ADHS would create new jobs and greater value-added activity, returning \$3 in economic benefits to the nation for every \$1 spent to complete the system.

d. Local Government Services and Regional Collaboration Grant

Mr. Hemmings advised as a reminder, since this topic was discussed at last month’s meeting. The Ohio Department of Development (ODOD) expects to award approximately \$900,000 of Local Government Services and Regional Collaboration Grant Program funds to eligible applicants through a competitive application process. The application submission deadline is July 29, 2008 at 5pm. The program is designed to provide grants to local governments interested in investigating the possibility of combining and/or collaborating on the provision of local government services with those of other governments.

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

a. **Personnel Committee Report**

Mr. Spencer advised the Personnel Committee met on June 19 to discuss several items. Mr. Hemmings' letter accepting the Executive Director position effective August 1, 2008 was discussed. Mr. Spencer then asked Mr. Hemmings to continue the report.

Mr. Hemmings advised that the Personnel Committee voted to recommend to the Executive Committee that OVRDC begin advertising for a Development Director. The salary will be \$37,500 to \$47,500 and the deadline for applications will be July 11, 2008 with the applicant to start in September 2008.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY MARVIN JONES AND SECONDED BY ROGER RHONEMUS TO AUTHORIZE OVRDC TO POST THE DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR POSITION AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION CARRIED.**

Mr. Corcoran also advised the Personnel Committee recommended a final merit increase in the amount of \$2,500 for Jeff Spencer effective June 16, 2008, bringing his annual salary to \$71,924, and asked for a motion from the committee:

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY GARY HEATON AND SECONDED BY RAY BECRAFT TO APPROVE A MERIT INCREASE OF \$2,500 FOR JEFFREY SPENCER EFFECTIVE JUNE 16, 2008. THE MOTION CARRIED.**

b. **Revise Project Package/CEDS**

Mr. Spencer asked to revise the ARC project package/CEDS to include the Southern Ohio Rail Expansion Feasibility Study. This study will be done to determine the cost to reestablish (construct) former DT&I (Detroit Toledo & Ironton) rail line from current end of track (Fire Brick) to Ironton, a distance of approximately 40 miles. The potential economic impact of the project was discussed.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY DAVID SMITH AND SECONDED BY HARRY RIDER TO REVISE THE CURRENT CEDS AND ARC PROJECT PACKAGE TO INCLUDE THE SOUTHERN OHIO RAIL EXPANSION FEASIBILITY STUDY. THE MOTION CARRIED.**

David Smith asked if Lynne Crow of the Gallia County CIC could be contacted regarding the above study. Mr. Spencer responded that OVRDC would be in contact with the county.

c. **EDA Economic Adjustment Grant**

Mr. Spencer advised he and John Hemmings will be meeting with Bob Hickey, representative of the Economic Development Administration to discuss the recent plant closings and layoffs in Southern Ohio and the possibility of applying for an economic adjustment grant to hire a coordinator to assist the affected counties.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY GARY HEATON AND SECONDED BY DAVID SMITH TO AUTHORIZE THE OVRDC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO APPLY FOR AN ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENT GRANT THROUGH THE EDA TO HIRE A COORDINATOR TO ASSIST AFFECTED COUNTIES WITH PLANT CLOSINGS. THE MOTION CARRIED.**

d. Environmental Review Data Base

Mr. Hemmings advised he will be talking with counties regarding the interest in OVRDC establishing a clearinghouse for environmental studies that have been done so they may be used in the future for communities planning new projects. He indicated the studies might be used for 7 years and would be cost and time effective.

e. Regional Marketing Association

Mr. Hemmings advised that he and Mr. Spencer attended a meeting at the Governor's Office of Appalachia in March at which Mark Barbash, Chief Economic Development Officer in the Ohio Department of Development discussed the State of Ohio's interest in regional marketing efforts. Mr. Hemmings discussed OVRDC taking the lead in forming a Regional Marketing Association among the OVRDC member counties to market the region. Mr. Corcoran advised that OVRDC may wish to discuss this idea with the Ohio Valley Resource and Conservation District, which has approached this topic itself. Mr. Hemmings advised that initial discussion about a possible Regional Marketing Association may take place on June 27, 2008 at the State Route 32 Corridor Economic Development Subcommittee meeting.

**8. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Corcoran referred to the June Announcement section and referred to Mr. Spencer's retirement reception on July 17 from 2-4:00 pm at The Pump House Center for the Arts in Chillicothe, Ohio.

**9. OVRDC MEETINGS**

Mr. Corcoran advised the next Executive Committee meeting would be held July 17, 2008, Thursday, from 1:30 pm to 2:00 pm at the Pump House Center for the Arts in Chillicothe, Ohio with Mr. Spencer's retirement reception to follow.

**10. ADJOURN AND INKIND**

There being no other business, Mr. Corcoran asked for a motion to adjourn.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY GARY HEATON; SECONDED BY ROGER RHONEMUS TO ADJOURN THE JUNE 19, 2008 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING. MOTION CARRIED.**

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Jeffrey Spencer, Executive Director & Commission Secretary

APPROVED:

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Doug Corcoran, Treasurer