

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

***Minutes***

*April 30, 2009*  
*Pike Government Center*  
*Waverly, Ohio*

*Chairman: Bob Proud*  
*Vice-Chairman: Roger Rhonemus*  
*Treasurer: Doug Corcoran*

**1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER**

Bob Proud, OVRDC Chairman, called the meeting to order. Mr. Proud stated that a quorum was present and welcomed everyone to the Pike Government Center in Waverly, Ohio. Mr. Proud asked Ken Morrison, from the Grant Career Center to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Those in attendance were as follows:

**Executive Committee Members:**

*Patrick Ball, Proxy for Rick McNelly, Jackson County Private Sector*  
*Lonnie Best, Proxy for Les Boggs, Lawrence County Commissioner*  
*Russ Brewer, Adams County COC*  
*Eugene Collins, Scioto County Minority Caucus Chairman*  
*Doug Corcoran, Ross County Commissioner*  
*Mike Crabtree, Scioto County Commissioner*  
*Jack DeWeese, Fayette County Commissioner*  
*Richard Duncan, Proxy for Jim Kalb, Mayor of Portsmouth, Ohio*  
*Justin Fallon, Gallia County Commissioner*  
*Paul Harrison, Gallia County Member-at-large*  
*Gary Heaton, Highland County Commissioner*  
*Ken Morrison, Clermont County Member-at-large*  
*Margery Paeltz, Brown County Commissioner*  
*Bob Proud, Clermont County Commissioner*  
*Roger Rhonemus, Adams County Commissioner*  
*Harry Rider, Pike County Commissioner*  
*Charles Stevens, Highland County Private Sector*  
*Tom White, Ross County Private Sector*

**Staff:**

*John Hemmings, III, OVRDC Executive Director*  
*Rebecca Banchy-McIlwain, OVRDC Finance Director*  
*Sherrie Lanier, OVRDC Development Director*  
*Michele Throckmorton, OVRDC Economic Development Coordinator*  
*Sharon Clark, OVRDC Administrative Assistant*

**Guests:**

*Blaine Beekman, Pike County Commissioner*  
*Tom Walton, Jackson County Commissioner*  
*Tommy Arnold, ODOT-District 8*  
*Cindy Cunningham, Field Representative, Congressman Zack Space's Office*  
*Benjamin Keller, ODOT District 6*  
*Fred River, ODOT District 9*  
*Lynn Stevens, USDA Rural Development*  
*Ted West, Pike County Commissioner*

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Proud stated that the draft of the March 26, 2009 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. Proud then asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

**IT WAS MOVED BY GARY HEATON, SECONDED BY HARRY RIDER AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 26, 2009 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING. THE MOTION PASSED.**

3. **FINANCE REPORT**

Mr. Proud introduced Doug Corcoran, OVRDC Treasurer who presented the Financial Report. Mr. Corcoran referred to Tab #3 and the February 28, 2009 Balance Sheet which reflected the total assets of \$957,098.01; total liabilities of \$154,505.92 and total equities of \$802,592.09 and a balance of \$0.00.

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

**MOTION WAS MADE BY TOM WHITE AND SECONDED BY KEN MORRISON TO ADOPT THE FINANCE REPORT AS PRESENTED AND THE MOTION CARRIED.**

Mr. Proud advised the Finance Audit Committee Meeting will be held May 5, 2009 at 1:30 pm at the OVRDC Office in Waverly, Ohio. Members of the Finance Audit Committee are the officers.

Mr. Proud advised the group since this was the first meeting of the newly elected members, he requested that everyone introduce themselves. Mr. Proud welcomed the new members and said their act of participation is very much appreciated and necessary for the success of OVRDC.

4. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Hemmings referred to Tab #4 and highlighted the underlined sections. Mr. Hemmings advised he and Michele Throckmorton attended a meeting with the other three Ohio Local Development Districts (LDDs) at the Governor's Office of Appalachia office in Columbus, Ohio on March 12. The meeting was held to discuss adding more projects to the State of Ohio priority list of projects.

Mr. Hemmings advised on March 12, he attended a meeting at Governor Strickland's Office with John Haseley, the Governor's Chief of Staff. The meeting was for the purpose of getting the Governor's support for the "Connecting Appalachia" Broadband Initiative.

Mr. Hemmings advised Sherri Lanier attended the Appalachian Studies Conference at Shawnee State University in Portsmouth. This was the first time the conference had been held in Ohio. He said there were over 700 people in attendance. Various aspects of Appalachia culture were presented.

Regarding the EDA-Economic Recovery Project, Mr. Hemmings advised that Rafeal Underwood, the Economic Recovery Coordinator continues to do a good job and has completed the Clinton County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) document.

On March 31, 2009, Mr. Hemmings, Rebecca Banchy-McIlwain, Sherrie Lanier and Cheryl Andrews from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, Columbus Office met at the OVRDC Office to conduct a monitoring of the HUD RHED grant. Mr. Hemmings advised he and Rebecca Banchy-McIlwain, OVRDC Finance Director talked with Ms. Andrews by phone today and there were no findings from the monitoring.

Mr. Hemmings and Dan Yarmesch met with representatives of the Ohio Department of Transportation District 9 on March 17, 2009 in Chillicothe, Ohio. Various ways to fund the follow-up transportation study to complement the ongoing economic development study were discussed.

Included in the packet following the Director's Report was a news release from the Daily Sentinel in Gallia County reviewing the Full Commission Banquet held at the University of Rio Grande on March 26, 2009.

As requested at last month's meeting on behalf of OVRDC Mr. Hemmings sent a letter to Governor Strickland opposing the proposed elimination of the TANF/Title XX funding. In response, included in the packet were letters from Governor Strickland and State Representative Clyde Evans acknowledging Mr. Hemmings' letter.

##### **5. LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

Mr. Hemmings referred to Tab #5 in the packet. Included was a news release from NADO which stated Congress is beginning to deal with the 2010 budget. Mr. Hemmings advised he would forward any new information to members via the OVRDC E-Newsletter.

Included in the packet was a copy of a letter from Ted Strickland to the ranking members of the US Senate Committee on Appropriations requesting their support for the Appalachian Regional Commission's (ARC) FY 2010 authorized funding level of \$105 million. Also, included was a letter from various US Senators to the ranking members of the US Senate Committee on Appropriations requesting their support for the ARC FY 2010 authorized funding level of \$105 million. Lastly, included was a letter from various US House of Representative members to the ranking members of the House Committee on Appropriations, Energy and Water Development Subcommittee requesting \$105 million for the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) in the Fiscal Year 2010 Energy and Water Development appropriations bill.

Also included in the packet was information from the Ohio EPA listing proposed projects in the State of Ohio to be considered for funding through additional funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act in the Water Supply Revolving Loan Account

and the Water Pollution Loan Control Fund programs in 2010. Mr. Hemmings identified projects on these two lists from the OVRDC region.

For information, Mr. Hemmings included an article from the “American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Journal which stated by 2015, governments at all levels will need to more than double their spending on highways and bridges to keep up with increased traffic, freight congestion, the demands of aging highways and bridges and the growth of the nation’s population.

## 6. OLD BUSINESS

### a. ARC/EDA FY 09 Project Status

Michele Throckmorton, OVRDC Economic Development Coordinator referred to Tab #6a and advised that under Distressed County Projects, Kelly Road Waterline Extension (Vinton County) and Beaver Water System Improvements (Pike County) have been approved and all information for the Mifflin Township Waterline Extension (Pike County) has been received and has been forwarded to GOA. Under Access Road Projects: Gallia S.R. 850 Access Road (Gallia County) has been forwarded to GOA.

### b. 2008 CEDS Revision

Mr. Hemmings advised that the CEDS Committee met on April 2 and recommended the addition of three projects to OVRDC 2008 CEDS document as EDA priorities:

- Mr. Hemmings first discussed the four-part Connecting Appalachia broadband project. He reminded the Executive Committee of the “Connecting Appalachia Broadband Project” presentation by Tom Reid, President of Reid Consulting Group at the January 2009 Executive Committee Meeting. It was determined during that meeting to refer the project to the CEDS Committee. Now with the recommendation of the CEDS Committee in place, Mr. Hemmings advised it is the decision of the Executive Committee to accept the recommendation. Mr. Hemmings briefly discussed the four parts of the Connecting Appalachia project.
- Mr. Hemmings then discussed the Ohio University Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs project, which will provide technical assistance to communities in Appalachian Ohio to help them develop locally-based, data-driven economic growth strategies that are aligned with and complement existing federal, state and regional economic development plans. In efforts to meet the unique needs of each of the targeted communities, the Voinovich School will tailor its services to encourage the development of customized strategies that are focused on industries that demonstrate promise towards economic stability and future growth.

- Mr. Hemmings then discussed The Point Industrial Park Intermodal Improvements Project. The purpose of the project is to finance necessary intermodal equipment at The Point Industrial Park in South Point, Ohio. Lawrence County is receiving funds through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for the road and rail infrastructure at the Intermodal facility.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY GARY HEATON AND SECONDED BY TOM WHITE TO AMEND THE OVRDC 2008 COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (CEDs) PERFORMANCE REPORT TO INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS (1) CONNECTING APPALACHIA BROADBAND PROJECT, (2) OHIO UNIVERSITY VOINOVICH SCHOOL OF LEADERSHIP AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROJECT, (3) THE POINT INDUSTRIAL PARK INTERMODAL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CEDS COMMITTEE. THE MOTION CARRIED.**

c. Discussion on Rail Regulation

Mr. Hemmings referred to Tab #6-c which included information regarding the Go21 effort and a draft letter of support for rail legislation that Go21 is supporting. He advised a discussion was held at the March 26<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee meeting regarding this topic but was tabled. He indicated he recently met with Michael Gaynor who requested OVRDC go on record to support continuing the Staggers Act which was passed in 1980 to deregulate rail, and to support two tax credit programs that support railroads investing in their infrastructure. A discussion was held and a motion was requested to approve OVRDC sending a letter of support to our two US senators and our five US House of Representative members serving the OVRDC region.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY KEN MORRISON AND SECONDED BY TOM WHITE TO APPROVE OVRDC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SEND A LETTER TO OUR TWO US SENATORS AND OUR FIVE US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE MEMBERS IN SUPPORT OF CONTINUATION OF THE STAGGERS ACT OF 1980, THE FREIGHT RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE CAPACITY EXPANSION ACT (H.R. 272), AND H.R. (1132) BOTH OF WHICH WOULD EXTEND IMPORTANT TAX CREDITS TO HELP RAILROADS MAINTAIN THEIR INFRASTRUCTURE. THE MOTION CARRIED.**

d. Grant /Writing Board Development Workshop

Mrs. Rebecca Banchy-McIlwain provided an update on the Grant Writing and Board Development Workshops. She reminded members in September 2008 and January 2009 the Executive Committee approved our office to serve as fiscal agent and apply for ARC grant funds totaling \$52,000 (\$27,000 ARC flexe-grant funds and a \$25,000 ARC area development grant funds) through the Governor's

Office of Appalachia (GOA) for the Grant Writing (2 day training for local governments and non-profits) and Board Development (a 1 day training for not-profits) Workshops to be held in June 2009. Mrs. Banchy-McIlwain advised several changes have been made recently and OVRDC will not be applying for the full amount of the grant. She also reported that the workshop dates have been changed. The Workshops are to be held at Salt Fork State Park & Lodge, near Cambridge, on August 18, 19 and 20th and at Burr Oak State Park and Lodge, near Athens, on August 24, 25 and 26, 2009.

Mr. Hemmings asked members how they would rather receive the meeting correspondence from OVRDC, by e-mail or traditional mail. This was discussed at a prior meeting and it was suggested discussion be held when the new board begins in April 2009. He asked those present to write their email on their in-kind form if that is their preference for receiving the notice in the future; if no email address was included on their in-kind form then we will continue to mail it to them.

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

a. HUD RHED Application-Draft Resolution #2009-04-02

Mr. Hemmings referred to Tab #7-a, draft Resolution #2009/04-12 authorizing OVRDC to apply for additional funds to when they become available for HUD RHED.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY PATRICK BALL AND SECONDED BY KEN MORRISON TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT FOR THEIR RURAL HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM IN THE AMOUNT OF UP TO \$150,000 TO BE MATCHED BY \$60,000 IN CASH AND IN-KIND MATCH OVER 36 MONTHS AND THAT THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ACCEPT AND AFFIRM ANY REASONABLE GRANT OFFER THAT MAY RESULT FROM SAID APPLICATION. THE MOTION CARRIED.**

b. OVRDC Code of Ethics/Conflict of Interest/Sexual Harassment Forms

Mr. Hemmings advised each year it is required that our Executive Board Members sign the Code of Ethics/Conflict of Interest/Sexual Harassment Compliance Form. Mrs. Banchy-McIlwain distributed forms to Executive Committee Members present at the meeting and asked them to complete them and advised members a signed copy of the forms would be available as requested.

c. Recommendations for Reauthorization of Federal Surface Transportation Programs

Mr. Hemmings referred Tab #7-c which included a draft of recommendations for the reauthorization of Federal Surface Transportation Programs from The Ohio Department of Transportation, Transportation MATTERS, and the Ohio Association of Regional Councils. He advised no action is needed today, since there is already an updated version with the National Association of Development Organization's (NADO) position on transportation added. The updated version will be included in the mailing of next month's meeting packet to members. Mr. Hemmings wanted to share with everyone for their review.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Proud referred to Tab #8 and the April Announcement section

9. OVRDC MEETINGS

Mr. Proud advised the next Executive Committee meeting will be May 28, 2009 at 1:30 pm at the Pike Government Center, Waverly, Ohio.

10. ADJOURN AND INKIND

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

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY MIKE CRABTREE AND SECONDED BY KEN MORRISON TO ADJOURN THE APRIL 30<sup>TH</sup>, 2009 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AND THE MEETING STOOD ADJOURNED.**

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John W. Hemmings III, Executive Director & Commission Secretary

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Bob Proud, Chairman