

OHIO VALLEY REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
Executive Committee Meeting

Minutes

August 27, 2009
Pike County Government Center
Waverly, Ohio

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

1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Due to the excused absence of OVRDC Chairman, Bob Proud, Roger Rhonemus, OVRDC Vice-Chairman, called the meeting to order and stated that a quorum was present and welcomed everyone to the Pike County Government Center in Waverly, Ohio. Mr. Rhonemus then asked, Ted West, Pike County Commissioner, to lead the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Those in attendance were as follows:

Executive Committee Members:

Lonnie Best, Proxy for Les Boggs, Lawrence County Commissioner
Eugene Collins, Scioto County Minority Representative
Doug Corcoran, Ross County Commissioner
Jack DeWeese, Fayette County Commissioner
Justin Fallon, Gallia County Commissioner
Gary Heaton, Highland County Commissioner
Rick McNelly, Jackson County Private Sector Representative
Tom Morgan, Vinton County Commissioner
Ken Morrison, Clermont County Member at Large
Margery Paeltz, Brown County Commissioner
Roger Rhonemus, Adams County Commissioner
Harry Rider, Pike County Commissioner
Dan Saez, Proxy for James Kalb, Mayor, City of Portsmouth
Charles Stevens, Highland County Private Sector Representative
Thomas White, Ross County Private Sector Representative

Staff:

John W. Hemmings, 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
Nan Cahall, Representative for Senator Voinovich
Fred River, ODOT District 9
Lynn Stevens, USDA Rural Development
Ted West, Pike County Commissioner

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Rhonemus stated that the draft of the June 25, 2009 Executive Committee meeting minutes was mailed to members, along with the meeting notice. He asked for any corrections or additions to the minutes. Mr. Rhonemus then asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

IT WAS MOVED BY KEN MORRISON AND SECONDED BY MARGERY PAELTZ TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 25, 2009 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING. THE MOTION PASSED.

3. FINANCE REPORT

Mr. Rhonemus introduced Doug Corcoran, OVRDC Treasurer who presented the Financial Report. Mr. Corcoran referred to Tab #3 and the June 30, 2009 Balance Sheet which reflected the total assets of \$604,980.00; total liabilities of \$73,541.35 and total equities of \$531,438.65 and a balance of \$0.00.

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

MOTION WAS MADE BY HARRY RIDER AND SECONDED BY TOM WHITE TO ADOPT THE FINANCE REPORT AS PRESENTED AND THE MOTION CARRIED.

4. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Hemmings referred to Tab #4 and the June and July 2009 Director's Report and highlighted the underlined sections.

Mr. Hemmings advised he attended a meeting of the Ohio Association of Regional Councils (OARC) in Columbus, Ohio and was appointed to a committee to identify OARC's fall legislative priorities. Mr. Hemmings indicated he will work to keep the designation of rural transportation organizations on the national and state agenda for transportation.

He indicated on July 27, 2009, he and Sherrie Lanier attended an information meeting in Columbus, Ohio sponsored by Senator Sherrod Brown highlighting the USDA's broadband grant programs.

On June 19, 2009, Michele Throckmorton and Kim Reynolds attended a roundtable on funding opportunities sponsored by Congressman Zack Space. They made a presentation of the infrastructure programs available at OVRDC and discussed how we coordinate with the Economic Development Administration, Appalachian Regional Commission, Governor's Office of Appalachia and the Ohio Public Works Commission.

Mr. Hemmings said on July 20, 2009 Kim Reynolds attended a meeting with Ashley Kelley, USDA Rural Development; Craig Opperman, Scioto County Engineer; and Dwayne Hagen and Diana Stonerock, Bloom Township. The meeting was to discuss options for financing for a multi-jurisdiction project in Bloom Township. The county and township submitted an application for assistance from USDA Rural Development.

Mr. Hemmings advised on July 24, 2009, he attended the Highland County Legislative Luncheon in Hillsboro, Ohio. Breakout sessions concerning National Health Care and the State of Ohio budget were held in the morning. The keynote luncheon speaker was Rafeal Underwood, Economic Recovery Coordinator. A panel of local, state and federal legislators or their staff members was assembled after lunch to answer questions from the audience.

Mr. Hemmings advised Rebecca Banchy-McIlwain, OVRDC Finance Director provided businesses assistance to 10 individuals and/or companies during the months of June and July.

Also included in the packet was a copy of a news release from the PORTSMOUTH DAILY TIMES dated Wednesday, August 19, 2009 regarding the signing ceremony for the Bloom Township improvement project for Sugar Camp-Jackson Fork Road. Kim Reynolds of OVRDC attended the ceremony and was instrumental in the project's success.

Mr. Rhonemus thanked Nan Cahall, representative from Senator Voinovich's Office for attending and wished to thank the Senator for his dedication and everything he has done for the OVRDC area.

5. OLD BUSINESS

a. ARC/EDA Project Status

Michele Throckmorton, OVRDC Economic Development Coordinator referred to Tab #5a and advised all projects for 2009 have been submitted to GOA and forwarded on to ARC for approval. She also advised the Hillsboro WWTP Expansion and By Pass Elimination project (Highland) and the Pike County Manufacturing Center Infrastructure Project (Pike) was carried over to fiscal year 2010.

b. Connecting Appalachia Broadband Initiative Update

Mr. Hemmings advised this project was supported by our CEDS document and by resolutions from the majority of the OVRDC counties. He advised he heard from Congressman Zack Space's Office that an application was submitted by the Southern Ohio Health Care Network on August 14th for \$114 million dollars to provide broadband access to 34 counties. Mr. Hemmings stated it is his understanding that the Southern Ohio Health Care Network will bid out the work upon approval. Mr. Hemmings advised he will review the application and possibly suggest to Tom Reid, to host public hearings in our areas (western, central and eastern counties) to provide information about what is included in the application to separate myths from facts. Ken Morrison offered the use of space at the Grant Career Center to hold the meetings if scheduled.

c. RBOG Hardwood Kiln RFP Update

Sherrie Lanier, OVRDC Development Director advised an RFP was sent to prospective bidders for the preliminary engineering and design of a hardwood kiln and one proposal was received. The proposal was reviewed by Mrs. Lanier and Mr. Hemmings and it was determined an RFP was not needed since the kilns come prepackaged, with the engineering already done, which would eliminate the need for paying for engineering quotes which could amount to around \$6,500. Since OVRDC included in the RFP the right to "deny any and all proposals", Mr. Hemmings requested a motion from the Executive Committee to reject the response to the RFP. Mr. Hemmings advised a meeting would then be scheduled with the Advisory Committee and discussions held with representatives from USDA Rural Development regarding how to proceed.

MOTION WAS MADE BY TOM WHITE AND SECONDED BY MARGERY PAELTZ TO AUTHORIZE OVRDC TO REJECT THE RFP RESPONSE RECEIVED FOR THE RBOG HARDWOOD KILN PROJECT. THE MOTION CARRIED.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. GOA, ARC, EDA Appropriations Update

Mr. Hemmings referred to Tab #6a which included Federal and State Appropriations Update information. He discussed the ARC and EDA appropriations for FY'2009 and the projected appropriations for FY'2010. He also discussed the Governor's Office of Appalachian and Local Development District line item budget figures from the recently passed State of Ohio biennium budget.

b. ARC-EDA FY 2010 Proposed Project Package

Michele Throckmorton referred to Tab #6b in the packet regarding the District and Distressed County Project Review committee's meetings on July 30, 2009, and the approved ARC and EDA Project Packages. Mrs. Throckmorton advised that the Project Review Committee approved project packages for Area Development, Distressed County, Access Road, Rapid Response and Economic Development Administration and recommended them to the Executive Committee for approval.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY DOUG CORCORAN AND SECONDED BY RICK MCNELLY TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED ARC/EDA PROJECT PACKAGE AS RECOMMENDED BY THE PROJECT REVIEW COMMITTEE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010. THE MOTION PASSED.

c. CDBG Contracts for Coalton, Scioto County, Ross County & Frankfort

Mrs. Lanier requested authorization from the board to enter into contracts with Coalton, Scioto County, Ross County & Frankfort if the CDBG Water and Sewer Program grants are awarded for a fee of \$10,000 per grant.

MOTION WAS MADE BY KEN MORRISON AND SECONDED BY TOM MORGAN TO AUTHORIZE OVRDC TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS, IF CDBG WATER AND SEWER PROGRAM GRANTS ARE AWARDED TO COALTON, SCIOTO COUNTY, ROSS COUNTY AND FRANKFORT FOR A COST OF \$10,000 PER GRANT. THE MOTION CARRIED.

d. Enterprise Appalachia

Mr. Hemmings referred to handouts from the Ohio Business Development Coalition (OBDC), a nonprofit formed to be the marketing piece for the State of Ohio. The OBDC is investing \$300,000 to build a strong entrepreneur community as a solid foundation for long term economic growth and Mr. Hemmings suggested the handouts be given to Economic Development Directors in the members' respective counties for their feedback.

e. Ohio Ambassador Program

Mr. Hemmings referred to Tab #6e and an attached letter from Lisa Patt-McDaniel, Interim Director of the Ohio Department of Development and a brochure regarding the Ohio Ambassador Program. The Ohio Ambassador Program is an integral part of the Ohio Department of Development's Strategic Plan to promote our state by encouraging citizens to "Share the Ohio Story."

Mr. Hemmings advised a regional meeting may possibly be held prior to our Executive Committee Meeting in Chillicothe on September 24th and further information will be forthcoming.

f. Regional Infrastructure Improvement Zones

Mr. Hemmings referred to Tab #6f. Included in this section was information regarding the formation of Regional Infrastructure Improvement Zones (RIIZs). This concept was developed by the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments (OKI) in conjunction with the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC).

“Regional Infrastructure Improvement Zones” (RIIZs) are new, innovative solution to encourage private-sector investment through a favorable tax treatment of funds and streamlined approval processes. RIIZs will allow private corporations or individuals to contribute tax-deductible funds toward construction and maintenance of public infrastructure. RIIZs will address the need for alternative sources of infrastructure funding and benefit communities by helping build infrastructure to keep people, businesses and the economy growing and moving.

Mr. Hemmings asked for support from the Executive Committee to authorize OVRDC to send a letter of support for the Regional Infrastructure Improvement Zones (RIIZs).

MOTION WAS MADE BY TOM WHITE AND SECONDED BY MARGERY PAELTZ TO AUTHORIZE THE OVRDC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO SEND A LETTER IN SUPPORT OF THE FORMATION OF REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT ZONES (RIIZS). THE MOTION CARRIED.

g. Fiscal Agent for 2009 ARC Fall Conference

Mr. Hemmings and Mrs. Banchy-McIlwain advised OVRDC has been asked to partner with GOA and ARC to serve as Fiscal Agent for certain sections of the 2009 ARC Conference to be held in Athens, Ohio on October 26, 27, and 28th. Scholarships to defray the cost of attending the conference will be offered and reimbursement for speakers’ expenses will be provided, both of which OVRDC will handle the financial portion via this fiscal agent designation. The total project amount will not exceed \$25,000 of which OVRDC will receive \$1,000 for its fiscal agent services.

MOTION WAS MADE BY RICK MCNELLY AND SECONDED BY EUGENE COLLINS TO SUPPORT OVRDC SERVING AS FISCAL AGENT FOR A SECTION OF THE ARC FALL CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN ATHENS, OHIO ON OCTOBER 26, 27 AND 28TH, NOT TO EXCEED \$25,000. THE MOTION CARRIED.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Rhonemus referred to the August Announcement Section and the Annual Full Commission Appreciation Banquet and Meeting Announcement and Registration Form which was included.

8. OVRDC MEETINGS

Mr. Rhonemus advised the next Executive Committee Meeting is scheduled for 4:00 pm, Thursday, September 24, 2009 in Ross County at the Chillicothe Middle School. The CEDS Committee will meet on September 24, 2009, Thursday at 5:00 pm at the Chillicothe Middle School with the Full Commission Appreciation Banquet and Meeting to follow (Registration 5:30 pm, Dinner/Meeting at 6:00 pm at the Chillicothe Middle School).

MINUTES - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

August 27, 2009

Page 6 of 6

Lynn Stevens, USDA Rural Development distributed an announcement regarding a Community Forum with United States Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack to be held in Zanesville, Ohio August 31, 2009 at 10:00 am to 11:15 am at the Muskingum County Welcome Center.

Mrs. Stevens also wished to thank Kim Reynolds for her part in the success of the Bloom Township improvement project for Sugar Camp-Jackson Fork Road.

9. ADJOURN AND INKIND

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

MOTION WAS MADE BY DOUG CORCORAN; SECONDED BY GARY HEATON TO ADJOURN THE AUGUST 27, 2009 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING AT 3:00 PM. MOTION CARRIED.

John W. Hemmings III, Executive Director & Commission Secretary

APPROVED:

Roger Rhonemus, Vice-Chairman