

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

**Minutes**

March 24, 2010

Pike County Career Technology Center

Piketon, 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 and stated that a quorum was present and welcomed everyone to the Pike County Career Technology Center in Piketon, Ohio. Mr. Proud then asked, Pike County Commissioner, Harry Rider to lead the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Those in attendance were as follows:

**Executive Committee Members:**

*Russ Brewer, Adams County Member at Large*

*Eugene Collins, Scioto County Minority Representative*

*Doug Corcoran, Ross County Commissioner*

*Justin Fallon, Gallia County Commissioner*

*Bill Geschwind, Proxy for Margery Paeltz, Brown County Commissioner*

*Paul Harrison, Gallia County Member at Large*

*Ralph Jennings, Proxy for Ben Houser, Brown County Private Sector Representative*

*Rick McNelly, Jackson County Private Sector Representative*

*Tom Morgan, Vinton County Commissioner*

*Ken Morrison, Clermont County Member at Large*

*Bob Proud, Clermont County Commissioner*

*Roger Rhonemus, Adams County Commissioner*

*Harry Rider, Pike County Commissioner*

*Charles Stevens, Highland County Private Sector Representative*

*Tom Walton, Proxy for Edmund Armstrong, Jackson County Commissioner*

*Tom White, Ross County Private Sector Representative*

**Staff:**

*John Hemmings, OVRDC Executive Director*

*Rebecca Banchy-McIlwain, OVRDC Finance Director*

*Sharon Clark, OVRDC Administrative Assistant*

**Guests:**

*Gary Abernathy, Representative, Senator Voinovich*

*Ashley Kelly, USDA Rural Development*

*Roger Kemper, Pike County*

*Tony Logan, State of Ohio Director, USDA Rural Development*

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Proud stated that the draft of the February 25, 2010 Executive Committee meeting minutes was mailed to members, along with the meeting notice. He asked for any corrections or additions to the minutes. Mr. Proud then asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

**IT WAS MOVED BY PAUL HARRISON AND SECONDED BY CHARLES STEVENS TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 25, 2010 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING. THE MOTION PASSED.**

**3. FINANCE REPORT**

Mr. Proud introduced OVRDC Treasurer, Doug Corcoran. Mr. Corcoran referred to Tab #3 and the January 31, 2010 Balance Sheet which reflected the total assets of \$728,374.83; total liabilities of \$57,486.14 and total equities of \$670,888.69 and a balance of \$0.00.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY RALPH JENNINGS AND SECONDED BY TOM WALTON TO ADOPT THE FINANCE REPORT AS PRESENTED AND THE MOTION CARRIED.**

Mr. Proud took a moment to recognize Tony Logan, Ohio State Director of USDA Rural Development and Gary Abernathy, representing Senator Voinovich's Office.

**4. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

John Hemmings, OVRDC Executive Director referred to Tab #4 and highlighted the sections. He advised on February 2, 2010, the first OVRDC Congressional Team meeting was held at the OVRDC office. Those in attendance included David Hodapp of Senator Brown's office, Gary Abernathy and Nick Gatz of Senator Voinovich's office, Margaret Horst of Congressman Mike Turner's office, Phil Roberts of Congressman Charlie Wilson's office, Brad Young of Congressman Steve Austria's office, and Cindy Cunningham of Congressman Zack Space's office. Mr. Hemmings met with these individuals to discuss the need of a new building for the OVRDC office, to discuss the need for better broadband access in the OVRDC region, to discuss concerns with our EDA Economic Development District and Economic Recovery Coordinator grant awards, and to discuss projects in the region they are aware of that OVRDC might be of assistance with.

Mr. Hemmings also stated during February 2010, Jason Gillow created digital elevation modal (DEM) mosaics of Lawrence, Pike, Ross and Scioto Counties from the DEM tiles produced from OSIP (Ohio Statewide Imagery Program) 2.5-foot DEM data for OVRDC counties. The main reason behind this work is that Ohio Office of Information Technology, GIS Support Center has not created this information for selected counties in Southern Ohio. The GIS Support Center has created DEM mosaics for a majority of the counties in Ohio including Brown, Clermont, Fayette, Gallia, Jackson and Vinton Counties. Jason has been in contact with Jeff Smith of the GIS Support Center on different occasions on this topic. He informed Jason in January that the GIS Support Center was experiencing hardware issues and was unsure of completion dates for the DEM mosaics. The DEM mosaics are much easier to use in the ESRI

GIS software than trying to load all the tiles for an individual county. In March 2010, Jason will plan to complete the DEM mosaics of Adams and Highland Counties. Mr. Hemmings invited counties to call Jason if they have any GIS needs.

Mr. Hemmings referred to a press release in the packet from Greenfield regarding the \$485,000 loan approval for C-Mold Manufacturing Company which will help retain 60 jobs in the Highland County plastics manufacturing facility with additional job creation likely. OVRDC is on contract with Highland County Commissioners to administer this loan and the Highland County Revolving Loan Fund.

Mr. Hemmings also referred to a news release from USDA Rural Development advising applications are currently being accepted from rural residents to repair their homes in rural Ohio. Loan and grant funds have been received and are now available.

Mr. Hemmings advised a copy of a news release from USEC, Inc and the Department of Energy announcing an agreement to provide \$45 million in funding to USEC to fund on-going American Centrifuge technology demonstration and manufacturing activities. The work will support approximately 355 highly skilled jobs, primarily in Ohio, Tennessee and West Virginia.

Mr. Hemmings also indicated the Second Round Caucus Schedule was included in the packet and advised during these meetings projects will be prioritized and reviewed for ARC and EDA consideration.

## 5. OLD BUSINESS

### a. Connecting Appalachia Update

Mr. Hemmings advised he has requested support letters from our counties for this project and has received seven support letters as of this date and these have been forwarded to the consultant. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration grant application deadline was extended to March 26th and he indicated he emailed the remaining counties advising he needed letters by March 25, 2010.

### b. Economic Adjustment Recovery Strategy Update

Mr. Hemmings advised we have not yet received the grant award from EDA and will contact EDA tomorrow regarding the delay and will keep the Executive Committee updated.

### c. General Fund Budget Amendment

Mrs. Banchy-McIlwain, OVRDC Finance Director referred to Tab #5-c which included a copy of the amended 2010 General Fund Budget. She advised the budget was amended because we have been notified by EDA that the original three-year planning grant (approved for submission to EDA in November of 2009) is being amended and our original match amount will need to be adjusted to cover this increase.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY HARRY RIDER AND SECONDED BY KEN MORRISON TO APPROVE THE 2010 AMENDED GENERAL FUND BUDGET. THE MOTION CARRIES**

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

a. RBOG Draft Resolution #2010/03-02

Mr. Hemmings explained the resolution for pursuing USDA Rural Development Rural Business Opportunity Grant (RBOG) funds for a regional economic development marketing project. Mr. Proud asked for a motion to approve Draft Resolution #2010/03-02.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY PAUL HARRISON AND SECONDED BY TOM WHITE TO APPROVE DRAFT RESOLUTION #2010/03-02 TO AUTHORIZE THE OVRDC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO PREPARE AND SUMIT AN APPLICATION TO USDA/RURAL DEVELOPMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF IMPLEMENTING A REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MARKETING EFFORT UNDER THE RBOG PROGRAM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$50,000 FOR TWO YEARS TO BE MATCHED WITH OTHER CASH AND IN-KIND RESOUCES IN THE AMOUNT OF NOT TO EXCEED \$30,000 FOR A TOTAL PROJECT COST OF \$80,000. THE MOTION CARRIED.**

b. ARC Federal Co-Chairman Update

Mr. Hemmings referred to Tab #6b and the news release from ARC announcing the confirmation of Earl F. Gohl, Jr., as federal co-chair of the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC). Mr. Gohl is the 11<sup>th</sup> federal co-chair to be appointed since ARC was established by Congress in 1965. Mr. Gohl has 20 years of experience in Pennsylvania state and local government, having served in positions including executive assistant to the mayor of Harrisburg; elected member of the Harrisburg City Council; and deputy secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Community Affairs. Mr. Gohl was appointed in 1996 to serve as special assistant and then associate assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of Labor. Mr. Hemmings also referenced Mr. Gohl's testimony before the Senate Environmental and Public Works subcommittee, which was also included in Tab #6b.

c. [www.ohiocivilwar150.org](http://www.ohiocivilwar150.org)

Mr. Hemmings referred to Tab #6c and information regarding the Ohio Appalachian Country organization's plan to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil War. The event begins in 2011 and further information is available on the web site listed above.

d. 2010 Rural Fire Assistance Outreach

Mr. Hemmings referred to Tab #6d which included information regarding the 2010 Rural Fire Assistance Outreach Funding Opportunity. This program provides funding to improve the capacity and capabilities of rural and volunteer fire departments that protect rural communities and play a substantial cooperative role in the suppression of wildland fires within, or in the vicinity of lands managed by the Department of the Interior (DOI). Applications are due by April 30, 2010 and Mr. Hemmings advised he will email this information to committee members for whom he has email addresses.

e. Executive Session to Discuss Personnel Committee Recommendations and Executive Director Evaluation

Mr. Proud asked for a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss Personnel Recommendations.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY RALPH JENNINGS AND SECONDED BY RICK MCNELLY TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION. THE MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee reconvened into regular session at 4:30 pm.

Mr. Proud asked for a motion to approve the recommendations of the Personnel Committee.

The Personnel Committee Recommendations were as follows:

- Executive Director's evaluation was conducted and Mr. Proud stated he would meet with John Hemmings later to discuss.
- Finance Director  
The Personnel Committee authorized the OVRDC Executive Director to offer the Finance Director Position to Juanita Bragg effective Monday, May 31, 2010 for an annual Salary of \$44,000, and after a satisfactory 6-month evaluation, an increase to \$45,000 annually.
- Development Director  
The Personnel Committee authorized the OVRDC Executive Director to offer the Development Director Position to Michele Throckmorton effective Monday March 29, 2010 for an annual salary of \$44,000, and after a satisfactory 6-month evaluation, an increase to \$45,000 annually.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY TOM WALTON AND SECONDED BY TOM WHITE TO ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE. THE MOTION CARRIED.**

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Proud referred to the March Announcement Section.

8. OVRDC MEETINGS

Mr. Proud advised the next Executive Committee Meeting is scheduled for 1:30 pm, Thursday, April 22, 2010 at the Pike County Government Center.

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9. **ADJOURN**

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

**MOTION WAS MADE BY RICK MCNELLY AND SECONDED BY JUSTIN FALLON TO ADJOURN THE MARCH 24, 2010 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. THE MOTION CARRIED.**

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John W. Hemmings III, Executive Director & Commission Secretary

APPROVED:

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Bob Proud, Chairman

Attachments:

Resolution 2010/03-02