

OHIO VALLEY REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION Executive Committee Meeting

Minutes

April 28, 2011
Pike County Government Center
Waverly, Ohio

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

1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Bob Proud, OVRDC Chairman had advised he would not be attending the April 28th meeting therefore Roger Rhonemus, OVRDC Vice-Chairman, called the meeting to order and stated that a quorum was present. He welcomed everyone to the Pike County Government Center. Mr. Rhonemus then asked David Malone, Mayor of Portsmouth to lead the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. Afterward, Mr. Rhonemus asked those present to introduce themselves, since many new members were present.

Executive Committee Members:

	Attended	Proxy	
Roger Rhonemus, Adams County Commissioner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Dane Clark, Adams County Private Sector	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Ralph Jennings, Brown County Commissioner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Ray BeCraft, Brown County Member-at-Large	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Bob Proud, Clermont County Commissioner	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Tim Ross, Clermont County Private Sector	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Jack DeWeese, Fayette County Commissioner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Faye Williamson, Fayette County Member-at-Large	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Joe Foster, Gallia County Commissioner	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Tracy Stewart-Call, Gallia County Private Sector	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Shane Wilkin, Highland County Commissioner	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Katy Farber, Highland County Member-at-Large	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Jerry Hall, Jackson County Commissioner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Randy Heath, Jackson County Member-at-Large	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Les Boggs, Lawrence County Commissioner	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lonnie Best _____
Bill Dingus, Lawrence County Member-at-Large	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Harry Rider, Pike County Commissioner	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Bob Matthey, Pike County Private Sector	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Doug Corcoran, Ross County Commissioner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Joseph Sulzer, Mayor of Chillicothe	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Joyce Atwood, Ross County Member-at-Large	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Mike Crabtree, Scioto County Commissioner	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
David Malone, Mayor of Portsmouth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Don Hadsell, Scioto County Private Sector	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Eugene Collins, Sr., Scioto County Minority Representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Jerry Zinn, Vinton County Commissioner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Ralph Neal, Vinton County Private Sector	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

OVRDC Staff Present:

John Hemmings, OVRDC Executive Director
Michele Throckmorton, OVRDC Development Director
Juanita Bragg, OVRDC Finance Director
Sharon Clark, Administrative Assistant

Guests Present:

Brian Basil, MMB (OVRDC Legal Counsel)
Sam Brady, Jackson County Economic Development
Susan Brinker, Congressman Gibbs
Cindy Cunningham, Horizon
Dan Dean, Fayette County Commissioner
Nick Gatz, Representative for Governor Kasich
Dallas Gerber, Representative, Congressman Gibbs
Jennifer Jacobs, Jackson County Economic Development
Wesley Lamm, Horizon Telcom
Danielle Nameth, Representative Senator Sherrod Brown
Fred River, ODOT District 9
Lois Snyder, Gallia County Commissioner
Rebecca Steele, Community Development, City of Portsmouth
Lynn Stevens, USDA Rural Development
Shannon Vanderpool, Ohio Department of Development

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Rhonemus stated that a draft of the March 31, 2011 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes was mailed to members, along with the meeting notice and he asked for any corrections or additions. Mr. Rhonemus asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

IT WAS MOVED BY EUGENE COLLINS AND SECONDED BY RALPH JENNINGS TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 31, 2011 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING. THE MOTION PASSED.

3. FINANCE REPORT

Mr. Rhonemus introduced Doug Corcoran, OVRDC Treasurer. Mr. Corcoran referred to Tab #3 in the packet which included the Balance Sheet for February 28, 2011. Mr. Corcoran asked if there were any questions. Being none, Mr. Rhonemus asked for a motion to accept the Finance Report as presented.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY RANDY HEATH AND SECONDED BY RALPH JENNINGS TO ADOPT THE FINANCE REPORT AS PRESENTED AND THE MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Corcoran also advised the 2010 Audit is nearing completion and the report should be presented at the May Executive Committee Meeting.

4. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Rhonemus introduced John Hemmings, OVRDC Executive Director and Mr. Hemmings referred to the Director's Report under Tab #4 and highlighted the various sections. Mr. Hemmings advised on February 28 to March 2nd he attended meetings in Washington, DC with Misty Casto of Buckeye Hills Hocking Valley Regional Development District, Greg DiDonato of Ohio Mid-Eastern Governments Association and Kathy Zook of

Eastgate Council of Governments. The group visited the Appalachian Regional Commission and the Economic Development Administration. In addition, meetings were held with Senator Sherrod Brown, Senator Rob Portman, Congressman Bob Gibbs, Congressman Bill Johnson and Congressman Steve Austria and/or their staff.

Mr. Hemmings advised on March 20-23rd, he and Bob Proud, OVRDC Chairman and Clermont County Commissioner attended the Development District Association of Appalachia (DDAA) and National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) conferences in Washington, DC. They also met with staff of Congresswoman Jean Schmidt and with the staff of Congressman Mike Turner.

On March 16, 2011, Mr. Hemmings attended the Ohio Mid-Eastern Governments Association (OMEGA) Annual Membership Meeting near Coshocton, Ohio. The guest speaker for the event was Kristi Tanner, Assistant Director of the Ohio Department of Development. Greg DiDonato, OMEGA Executive Director, and Mr. Hemmings had the opportunity to meet with Mrs. Tanner prior to the event to discuss the Governor's Executive Budget particularly the Appalachian Development line items in the Ohio Department of Development budget.

On March 21, 2011, Mr. Hemmings advised Michele Throckmorton and Kim Reynolds met with Gary Abernathy of Senator Portman's Office. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss current and future projects.

Mr. Hemmings said on March 25, 2011, Jason Gillow met with the Vinton County GIS Steering Committee and DDTI about GIS and Location Based Response System (LBRS). Vinton County is moving forward in forming a GIS Steering Committee as part of the requirement for the LBRS program. OVRDC and Vinton County has secured \$120,000 in public safety money for the county's LBRS project. Additionally, ODOT has agreed to fund the maintenance for two years after the data is collected for Vinton County if the county moves forward with LBRS program.

Mr. Hemmings advised on March 9, 2011, Lee Shirey, Ohio's new Economic Development Representative for the US Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration visited and he was able to take him on a tour of the area and show him some EDA funded projects. He showed Mr. Shirey the newly funded Pike Manufacturing Center Improvement project, the OSU South Center's Endeavor Center, the Zahns Corner Industrial Park (all in Pike County), and the Madison Mills Waterline Extension project in Fayette County. He advised they also visited the City of Greenfield to discuss a possible EDA Technical Assistance project that the City wants to submit for consideration.

Mr. Hemmings advised that Jessica Purdon has been busy entering in company data as a part of the Early Warning Network Retention and Expansion project that OVRDC is involved in with OSU South Centers and Workforce Development Board #1.

Mr. Hemmings included a new release from USEC advising it had reached a significant step in the Company's application for a \$2 billion loan guarantee from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) for the American Centrifuge Plant. DOE's Loan Guarantee Program Office has substantially completed the due diligence and negotiation stage of the application process and has advanced the American Centrifuge Plant application to the next phase.

Mr. Hemmings included a news release from Appalachia Regional Commission regarding the release of the new Civil War tourism map. Earl Gohl, federal co-chair of ARC stated "Our story here is that there are a lot of jewels in Appalachia, and a lot of great stories about families and communities that we should stop and take a look at". The guide will be a free insert in the spring issue of American Heritage magazine and copies have been distributed to tourism agencies in West Virginia, Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina and Tennessee. Mr. Hemmings stated he would try to get some of the maps for distribution for the Executive Committee members.

5. OLD BUSINESS

(a) Economic Recovery Coordinator Update

Mr. Hemmings referred to Tab #5a which included the cover letter and resume of James Raussen who is being recommended by the Tri-County Economic Recovery Advisory Committee for the Economic Recovery Coordinator position, which recently was advertised due to Rafeal Underwood's contract not being renewed. Signing of a contract for the position is contingent on receiving a grant extension from EDA for OVRDC's Economic Recovery Strategy grant which has not been received as of this date. The original grant agreement ended March 31, 2011 and OVRDC applied for an extension through December 31, 2011, which was denied by EDA. Mr. Hemmings advised he contacted EDA and was told to submit a letter requesting reconsideration which he has already completed and they would approve the extension. Therefore, Mr. Hemmings asked for a motion to offer the position to Mr. Raussen contingent upon the receipt of the extension from EDA.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY DOUG CORCORAN AND SECONDED BY DAVID MALONE TO ALLOW OVRDC TO OFFER A CONTRACT TO JAMES RAUSSEN TO SERVE AS THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY COORDINATOR AT AN \$80,000 ANNUAL RATE, WHICH WILL BE PRORATED FROM HIS START DATE TO DECEMBER 31, 2011 IF AND WHEN THE GRANT EXTENSION HAS BEEN APPROVED BY EDA. THE MOTION CARRIED.

(b) Office Carpeting

Mr. Hemmings advised Wausau Homes has agreed by email to pay a portion of the cost to replace carpeting at the office (\$3,500) and continue the present lease arrangement. Mr. Hemmings also advised OVRDC for the last 5 years has been operating under a continuation of the original lease agreement since 2006. Before signing an agreement with Wausau Homes to assist with carpet replacement, Mr. Hemmings wanted to ensure that the lease arrangement would continue as it has over the past five years. Mr. Hemmings advised he will send Wausau Homes a letter of agreement for both OVRDC and Wausau Homes to sign indicating that our lease agreement will remain the same, that Wausau will contribute \$3,500 toward the replacement of the office carpeting, that OVRDC will pay the balance of the carpeting and if Wausau Homes would sell the property within the next 4 years an annually depreciated percentage of OVRDC's investment in the carpet would be returned (80% the first year, 60% second year, 40% third year, 20% fourth year, 0% thereafter). Mr. Hemmings advised when this agreement is signed by both parties, we will have the carpeting installed.

(c) Authorize letter Concerning HR763

Mr. Hemmings advised this item was tabled at last month's meeting. A discussion was held regarding HR763, the Safe & Efficient Transportation Act (SETA) which would allow states to increase the truck weight limits on federal interstate highways. After discussion by the committee, it was decided that OVRDC will remain neutral regarding this matter.

6. NEW BUSINESS

(a) Revolving Loan Fund Procedure Review

Mr. Rhonemus introduced Brian Basil of Murray, Murphy, Moul and Basil, OVRDC legal counsel. Mr. Basil asked Mr. Hemmings to provide a background on why he was in attendance. Mr. Hemmings advised that OVRDC has a loan through its Revolving Loan Fund which is in default after numerous attempts requesting payment and trying to work with the client. The OVRDC Loan Review Committee advised we take appropriate action against the client. Mr. Hemmings contacted Mr. Basil about this situation and he had suggested we file a judgment against the client. At this point Mr. Basil spoke and advised that Mr. Hemmings wanted him to speak to the Executive Committee about filing a judgment since it would be the first time we had done so since he has been our legal counsel. He explained that in the past, when other loans have been in default, OVRDC has followed the lead of the primary lien holder, generally the bank. In this case, the primary lien holder, Wesbanco, is receiving payments from the client. Therefore, we must take action ourselves. After some discussion, it was agreed to file the judgment against the client. Rather

than a motion and vote on this specific client, the Executive Committee by consensus agreed that OVRDC should take such action against this and all future clients of same or similar circumstance if deemed necessary by the staff and legal counsel.

(b) OVRDC Code of Ethics/Conflict of Interest/Sexual Harassment Compliance Forms

Mr. Hemmings advised each year it is required that our Executive Committee members sign the Code of Ethics/Conflict of Interest and Sexual Harassment Compliance Forms. The forms were distributed to the Executive Committee members present at the meeting and Mr. Hemmings asked them to complete them and advised members a signed copy of the forms would be available as requested. Forms will be mailed to those members not present.

(c) County Resolutions Supporting ODOD Appalachian Development/Ohio's Local Development Districts

Mr. Hemmings referred to Tab #6c which included a draft of a resolution of support for the Ohio Department of Development (ODOD) Appalachian Development Fund Line Items. Mr. Hemmings indicated this resolution was for each OVRDC member county's board of commissioners to consider, approve, and submit to their respective state legislators. Mr. Hemmings advised he will email the draft to each county clerk for the commissioners to act upon to support the continued funding of the ODOD Appalachian Development Fund Line items.

(d) County Resolutions Supporting ARC Program Federally

Mr. Hemmings referred to Tab #6d and a draft Resolution of Support for President Obama's FY 2012 request of \$76 million for the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) and support of the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission as its ARC Local Development District. Mr. Hemmings again indicated this resolution was for each OVRDC member county's board of commissioners to consider, approve, and submit to their respective federal legislators. Mr. Hemmings advised he will email a draft of the resolution to each county clerk for action by the commissioners.

(e) Federal FY 2011 Budget Update

Mr. Hemmings referred to Tab #6e which included a legislative update advising the United States House and Senate approved Federal Fiscal Year 2011 funding for the activities of the federal government through September 30, 2011 and the president signed the bill. For ARC's non-highway program the measure provides \$68,400,000, from which an across-the-board cut of 0.2% must be taken. That yields a total for ARC of \$68,263,200. That is the amount appropriated to ARC for Fiscal Year 2011.

(f) CDBG Administration Contract for City of Greenfield (\$10,000)

Mr. Hemmings advised we have been asked by the City of Greenfield to administer CDBG funds for the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant Phase II Upgrade. OVRDC would enter into a contract with the City of Greenfield in the amount of \$10,000 to administer the CDBG funds. He asked for a motion to approve entering into such contract.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY RANDY HEATH AND SECONDED BY RAY BECRAFT TO APPROVE OVRDC ENTERING INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE CITY OF GREENFIELD, OHIO FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADMINISTERING A CDBG GRANT FOR THE SUM OF \$10,000. THE MOTION CARRIED.

(g) Update on Marcellus Shale

Mr. Hemmings distributed an informational booklet from NADO regarding Natural Gas Drilling in the Marcellus Shale. He indicated that he will be participating in a core group meeting tomorrow, April 29th in Walnut Creek, Ohio with the ODNR Director to discuss this issue further. Mr. Hemmings indicated he will update the Executive Committee about this meeting at next month's Executive Committee meeting.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Rhonemus referred to Tab #7 which included meeting and workshop information.

8. OVRDC MEETINGS

Mr. Rhonemus advised the next Executive Committee Meeting will be held on May 26th at 1:30 pm at the Pike County Government Center in Waverly, Ohio.

9. ADJOURN

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

A MOTION WAS MADE BY RALPH JENNINGS AND SECONDED BY DOUG CORCORAN TO ADJOURN THE APRIL 28TH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING. THE MOTION CARRIED.

John W. Hemmings III, Executive Director & Commission Secretary

APPROVED:

Roger Rhonemus, Vice-Chairman