

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

***Minutes***

*January 27, 2011*  
*Pike County Government Center*  
*Waverly, Ohio*

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

**1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER**

Roger Rhonemus, OVRDC Vice-Chairman presided over the meeting since Bob Proud, OVRDC Chairman was not in attendance. Mr. Rhonemus called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm and stated that a quorum was present and welcomed everyone to the Pike County Government Center in Waverly, Ohio. Mr. Rhonemus asked those present to introduce themselves. Jerry Hall, Jackson County Commissioner led the Pledge to the American flag.

**Executive Committee Members:**

	Attended	Proxy	
Roger Rhonemus, Adams County Commissioner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Debora Plymail, Adams County Member-at-Large	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Ralph Jennings, Brown County Commissioner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Interim Caucus Chair</u>
Ben Houser, Brown County Private Sector	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Bob Proud, Clermont County Commissioner	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Ken Morrison, Clermont County Member-at-Large	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Jack DeWeese, Fayette County Commissioner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Doug Marine, Fayette County Private Sector	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Joe Foster, Gallia County Commissioner	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>Lois Snyder</u>
Lori Neal, Gallia County Member-at-Large	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Shane Wilkins, Highland County Commissioner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Interim Caucus Chair</u>
Charles Stevens, Highland County Private Sector	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Jerry Hall, Jackson County Commissioner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Interim Caucus Chair</u>
Rick McNelly, Jackson County Private Sector	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Les Boggs, Lawrence County Commissioner	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>Lonnie Best</u>
Rick Griffith, Lawrence County Private Sector Representative	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Harry Rider, Pike County Commissioner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Roger Kemper, Pike County Member-at-Large	<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"/>	_____
Tom White, Ross County Private Sector	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Mike Crabtree, Scioto County Commissioner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
David Malone, Mayor of Portsmouth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Gary Coleman, Scioto County Member-at-Large	<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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>Michael Bledsoe</u>
Rick Reynolds, Vinton County Member-at-Large	<input 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, OVRDC Administrative Assistant*

**Guests Present:**

Gary Abernathy, Representative for Senator Rob Portman  
Blaine Beekman, Pike County Commissioner  
Don Branson, SOACDF  
Jennifer Jacobs, Jackson County Economic Development  
Lynn Stevens, USDA Rural Development  
Ted West, Pike County Commissioner

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Rhonemus stated that a draft of the November 18, 2010 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 KEN MORRISON AND SECONDED BY DEBORA PLYMAIL TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 18, 2010 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING. THE MOTION PASSED.**

**3. FINANCE REPORT**

Mr. Rhonemus introduced Doug Corcoran, OVRDC Treasurer. Mr. Corcoran referred to the November 30, 2010 Balance Sheet included in the packet. He advised the balance sheet reflected the total assets of \$907,918.02; total liabilities of \$61,094.57 and total equities of \$846,823.45 and a balance of \$0.00. 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 HARRY RIDER AND SECONDED BY MIKE BLEDSOE TO ADOPT THE FINANCE REPORT AS PRESENTED AND THE MOTION CARRIED.**

**4. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Rhonemus introduced John Hemmings, OVRDC Executive Director and Mr. Hemmings referred to the Director's Report included in the packet.

Mr. Hemmings advised on November 29<sup>th</sup> he and Bob Proud, OVRDC Chairman and Clermont County Commissioner met with State Senator Tom Niehaus to explain the impact the Ohio Local Development Districts have on economic development efforts in the Appalachian Ohio region and expressed their concern about the future commitment to the Appalachia Ohio region by the State of Ohio.

Mr. Hemmings indicated on December 1<sup>st</sup> he attended the Economic Development Alliance of Southern Ohio's Insider/Outlook meeting in Chillicothe and following this meeting he met with State Senator-Elect David Daniels, State Representative-Elect John Carey and State Representative-Elect Bob Peterson about the impact of the Ohio Local Development Districts and the concerns about the future of the development districts.

Mr. Hemmings advised on December 13<sup>th</sup>, he attended a Legislative Education Forum at Salt Fork Lodge near Cambridge, Ohio sponsored by the Eastern Ohio Development Alliance (EODA) to highlight the impact of the Ohio Local Development Districts on economic development in Appalachia Ohio. Several new legislators from the eastern Ohio region were in attendance along with House of Representative-Elect Bob Gibbs (18<sup>th</sup>-Ohio) and House of Representative-Elect Bill Johnson (6<sup>th</sup>-Ohio). Each Ohio LDD provided an overview of our organization's work and impact.

During the months of November and December 2010, Mr. Hemmings advised Jason Gillow, OVRDC Research/Planning Specialist has been working with the Ohio Historic Preservation Office, the Parker House, Brown County and the Cincinnati Museum Center about getting information in regards to archaeological research at the Parker House property and property adjacent to it. The John Parker Society has a HUD grant to develop a park next to the house and OVRDC is conducting the environmental review for the project.

Mr. Hemmings advised that on December 14, 2010, Michele Throckmorton met with ODOD, Office of Housing and Community Partnerships staff to conduct the monitoring of the Village of Bloomingburg WWTP grant from Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). Michele is awaiting a written response from ODOD about the monitoring.

During the months of November and December Mr. Hemmings advised Jessica Hollis attended council meetings for the Village of Coalton, Village of Oak Hill, Village of Crown City, Village of Rio Grande and the Village of Zaleski to gather information on their community assessments as a part of OVRDC's USDA Rural Development, Rural Community Development Initiative (RCDI) project.

Mr. Hemmings referred to a letter sent to OVRDC from the New Richmond Troubadours thanking us for the donation we made to them for singing at our Full Commission meeting in September 2010 in Clermont County.

Mr. Hemmings referred to a letter in the packet from the Department of Energy in response to a request from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Environmental Management (EM) Portsmouth Site Specific Advisory Board (PORTS SSAB) indicating their desire to effectively communicate the progress of the cleanup program and opportunities associated with the D&D project at the DOE Portsmouth Site with local public officials. The letter advises DOE accepts the PORTS SAAB Recommendation 10-04 and plans to accomplish meeting with official representatives of local governments by attending and providing briefings on the EM program through the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission Executive Committee and Full Commission meetings and will be making presentations as requested by the OVRDC membership. Mr. Hemmings introduced Greg Simonton, from the Department of Energy. Mr. Simonton thanked OVRDC for the opportunity to have more interaction with local officials and local government regarding the Piketon facility and offered to answer any questions and to schedule tours of the plant when the weather permits.

Mr. Hemmings advised Ohio University is organizing community visioning teams that represent diverse community perspectives on possible future uses of the Department of energy facility in Piketon. Residents of Jackson, Pike, Ross and Scioto counties are invited to participate by becoming a member of a Visioning Team hosting a meeting in their communities or sharing ideas and opinions on the PORTSfuture.com website. Kickoff meetings will be held Tuesday, March 15, 2011 from 5:30 to 8:00 pm at PACCAR Medical Education Center, 4446 Hospital Road, Chillicothe, Ohio and Thursday, March 17, 2011 from 5:30-8:00 pm at the Scioto County Welcome Center, 342 Second Street in Portsmouth, Ohio. Residents from other counties are welcome also.

Mr. Hemmings advised the Appalachian Regional Commission has released a new Strategic Plan and a copy can be accessed through their website [www.arc.gov](http://www.arc.gov).

## **5. OLD BUSINESS**

### **(a) ARC/EDA FY 2011 Project Update**

Mr. Rhonemus introduced Michele Throckmorton, OVRDC Development Director. Mrs. Throckmorton referred to the "FY' 2011 Priority Project Package" included in the packet and advised under "Area Development" the Frankfort Water System Improvements Project (Ross) has been approved; Georgetown Possum Run Pump Station SSO Elimination Project (Brown) has been approved; The Woodland Centers Electronic Health Records Project (Gallia) and the Adams County Regional Medical Center Gamma Ray Camera Project (Adams) have been forwarded to GOA for review. Under "Distressed County Projects" Mrs. Throckmorton advised the City of Waverly Bridge Street Sanitary Sewer Main Rehab Project (Pike) has been forwarded to GOA for review. Under Economic Development Administration the Fayette County Hospital Emergency Room Renovation Project (Fayette) was submitted to EDA and deemed not competitive.

(b) Connecting Appalachia Update

Mr. Hemmings advised a Broadband Committee Meeting will be held Wednesday, February 2 at 10:30 am at the OVRDC Office. Tom Reid of Reid Consulting Group and Horizon Representatives will attend the meeting to update attendees on the progress of the project. Everyone is welcome to attend.

(c) Early Warning Network Proposal

Mr. Hemmings advised OVRDC, as a co-applicant with Workforce Development Board #1, was awarded \$242,745 to implement an Early Warning Network for Region 7 of the State of Ohio. Mr. Hemmings informed the committee that OSU South Centers is also a partner in this endeavor. Mr. Hemmings advised the proposal was the only one submitted from Region 7 and advised the Early Warning Network facilitates partnerships among state and local workforce and economic development partners, identifies possible resource and implements strategic solutions for companies at risk. He advised the project was moving forward.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

(a) Nominating Committee Report

Mr. Rhonemus introduced Jack DeWeese from Fayette County, Chairman of the OVRDC Nominating Committee and Fayette County Commissioner. Mr. DeWeese advised the Nominating Committee met at 12:00 noon on January 27, 2011 at the OVRDC Office. Members present included himself, Eugene Collins (Scioto County), Debora Plymail (Adams County), Harry Rider (Pike County) and Michele Throckmorton, OVRDC Development Director. Mr. DeWeese then presented the slate of officers chosen during this meeting which are to be considered during the March 2011 Full Commission Meeting. They are: Bob Proud, Clermont County Commissioner as Chairman, Roger Rhonemus, Adams County Commissioner as Vice Chairman and Doug Corcoran, Ross County Commissioner as Treasurer. Mr. Rhonemus asked for a motion to accept the slate of officers. Mr. Hemmings announced that James Keels of Gallia County resigned as the chairman of the OVRDC Nominating Committee to spend more time with his family and in accordance with the Bylaws, Chairman Bob Proud appointed Jack DeWeese as Chairman and Bill Dings as a new member of the committee. Mr. Hemmings also indicated that Debora Plymail had already been appointed to replace Margery Paeltz of Brown County on the committee.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY TOM WHITE AND SECONDED BY KEN MORRISON TO ACCEPT THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT OF THE SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2011-2012 TO BE PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION DURING THE MARCH 31, 2011 FULL COMMISSION MEETING. THE MOTION CARRIED.**

(b) Audit Committee Report

Mr. Rhonemus introduced Juanita Bragg, OVRDC Finance Director. Ms. Bragg advised she and Mr. Hemmings met with members of the Audit Committee on January 27<sup>th</sup> at the Pike County Government Center. Also attending the meeting was Kathy Lambert from the audit firm, Whited Seigneur Sams & Rahe (WSSR) who are performing the audit. Ms. Bragg indicated the audit should be completed and ready to present for approval at the May 26<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting.

Mr. Hemmings advised OVRDC presently uses GMS accounting software. The Auditor of the State requires our financial reports to be in a GASB 34 reporting format. OVRDC sent out a request for proposal (RFP) to three accounting firms recommended by WSSR to complete this conversion. OVRDC received proposals from Millhuff-Stang of Portsmouth and J.L. Uhrig of Chillicothe to perform the GASB 34 conversion and training of our Finance Director on how to do the conversion. Millhuff-Stang's proposal was for a cost of \$3750.00 and J.L. Uhrig's proposal was for \$3,700.00. Based on the responses to the RFP, Mr. Hemmings indicated Ms. Bragg is recommending going with Millhuff-Stang to assist us with the 2010 OVRDC audit, and if their assistance and fees are deemed satisfactory, OVRDC will continue to use them in future years to provide this assistance with our annual audits.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY TOM WHITE AND SECONDED BY RICK MCNELLY TO AUTHORIZE OVRDC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO RETAIN THE ACCOUNTING FIRM OF MILLHUFF-STANG FOR \$3,750.00 TO TRAIN AND ASSIST OVRDC WITH THE GASB 34 CONVERSION FOR THE 2010 AUDIT PERIOD AND ADDITIONAL YEARS IF THEIR PERFORMANCE AND FEES ARE DEEMED SATISFACTORY. THE MOTION CARRIED.**

(c) 2011 OVRDC Annual Budget Approval

Mr. Rhonemus introduced OVRDC Finance Director, Juanita Bragg. Ms. Bragg referred to the Annual Budget for Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission for Fiscal Year January 1, 2011-December 31, 2011. Ms. Bragg provided an overview of projects funded by our investment partners, the Economic Development Administration, the Appalachian Regional Commission, USDA Rural Development and a sub-award from Ohio University. The total budget for 2011 is \$745,244. Mr. Rhonemus asked for a motion to approve the Annual Budget.

**IT WAS MOVED BY DEBORA PLYMAIL AND SECONDED BY JERRY HALL TO APPROVE THE OVRDC ANNUAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR JANUARY 1, 2011-DECEMBER 31, 2011. THE MOTION CARRIED.**

(d) National Commission on Fiscal responsibility & Reform

Mr. Hemmings referred to the orange sheet in the packet which contained deficit reduction recommendations from the co-chairs of the bipartisan National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform. The recommendations lay out a five-step plan that would balance the budget by FY 2040. Mr. Hemmings highlighted several of the items of the plan as follows:

- Calls for the elimination of a number of programs administered by the Rural Utility Service.
- Calls for the elimination of the Economic Development Administration.
- Calls for the elimination of the Appalachian Regional Commission.
- Calls for the elimination of all earmarks.
- Calls for dropping wealthier communities from the Community Development block Grant program.

(e) Ohio Department of Development Future

Mr. Hemmings referred to a release from Governor Kasich's Office regarding House Bill 1 and JobsOhio. Mr. Hemmings said he is concerned how OVRDC and the other Ohio Local Development Districts (LDDs) will fit into the new administration's plan for development in Ohio. OVRDC, Buckeye Hills, and OMEGA receive a small administrative grant from the Ohio Department of Development (ODOD) and with this change to JobsOhio, he is not sure what will become of our line item in ODOD's budget. He stated he would keep the Executive Committee updated on this.

Mr. Hemmings advised the Executive Committee that the OVRDC Office was flooded over the past weekend and damaged the carpet in the Office. ServePro came in, cleaned up the water, and got the office dry. Wausau Homes is trying to sell the building and does not want to invest a large sum of money in the building. Mr. Hemmings stated that Wausau is asking if OVRDC could share in the cost of replacing the carpet. Wausau is willing to enter into an agreement that if the building sells, that OVRDC would get some of its investment back depending on how far in the future such a sale of the property would occur. Mr. Hemmings asked the Executive Committee to give him authority to negotiate with Wausau Homes regarding the replacement of carpet at the OVRDC office.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY HARRY RIDER AND SECONDED BY KEN MORRISON TO AUTHORIZE THE OVRDC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO NEGOTIATE, WITHIN REASON, WITH WAUSAU HOMES REGARDING THE REPLACEMENT OF CARPET AT THE OVRDC OFFICE. THE MOTION CARRIED.**

7. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Rhonemus referred to the January 2011 Announcement Section included in the meeting packet.

8. **OVRDC MEETINGS**

The next OVRDC Executive Committee Meeting will be held February 24<sup>th</sup> 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 DEBORA PLYMAIL AND SECONDED BY MIKE BLEDSOE TO ADJOURN THE JANUARY 27, 2011 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING. THE MOTION CARRIED.**

---

John W. Hemmings III, Executive Director & Commission Secretary

APPROVED:

---

Roger Rhonemus, Vice Chairman