

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

***Minutes***

*June 30, 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 and Clermont County Commissioner, called the meeting to order. Mr. Proud stated that a quorum was present and he welcomed everyone to the Pike County Government Center. Mr. Proud asked Gary Abernathy, Representative for Senator Portman to lead the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

**Executive Committee Members:**

	Attended	Proxy	
Roger Rhonemus, Adams County Commissioner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Dane Clark, Adams County Private Sector	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Tim Ross, Clermont County Private Sector	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Jack DeWeese, Fayette County Commissioner	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lois Snyder _____
Shane Wilkin, Highland County Commissioner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Katy Farber, Highland County Member-at-Large	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Les Boggs, Lawrence County Commissioner	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Bill Dingus, Lawrence County Member-at-Large	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Harry Rider, Pike County Commissioner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Bob Matthey, Pike County Private Sector	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Doug Corcoran, Ross County Commissioner	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Ralph Neal, Vinton County Private Sector	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

**OVRDC Staff Present:**

*John Hemmings, OVRDC Executive Director*  
*Juanita Bragg, OVRDC Finance Director*  
*Sharon Clark, Administrative Assistant*  
*Jessica Purdon, Economic Development Specialist*

**Guests Present:**

*Gary Abernathy, Representative, Senator Rob Portman*  
*Blaine Beekman, Pike County Commissioner*  
*Davin Bentley, Regional Representative, Josh Mandel, State Treasurer of Ohio*  
*Danielle Nameth, Representative, Senator Sherrod Brown*  
*Fred River, ODOT District 9*  
*Ted West, Pike County Commissioner*

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Proud stated that a draft of the May 26, 2011 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes was mailed to members, along with the meeting notice and he asked for any corrections or additions. Mr. Proud asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

**IT WAS MOVED BY RALPH JENNINGS AND SECONDED BY DAVID MALONE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 26, 2011 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING. THE MOTION PASSED.**

**3. FINANCE REPORT**

Mr. Proud introduced Juanita Bragg, OVRDC Finance Director (Doug Corcoran, OVRDC Treasurer was not in attendance). Ms. Bragg referred to Tab #3 in the packet which included the Balance Sheet for April 30, 2011 and advised Total Assets of \$1,134,619.46, Total Liabilities of \$108,980.98, Total Equity of \$1,025,638.48 and a zero balance. Ms. Bragg asked if there were any questions. Being none, Mr. Proud asked for a motion to accept the Finance Report as presented.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY LOIS SNYDER AND SECONDED BY RAY BECRAFT TO ADOPT THE FINANCE REPORT AS PRESENTED AND THE MOTION CARRIED.**

**4. SPEAKER: DAVIN BENTLEY REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STATE TREASURER OF OHIO**

Mr. Proud introduced Davin Bentley, Regional Representative for the State Treasurer of Ohio. Mr. Bentley spoke about the GrowNOW program. He advised in partnership with Ohio's state depository banks, The Ohio Treasury offers small business owners a 3% interest rate reduction when they link their loans to creating or retaining jobs in Ohio. He said when a business takes out a loan with an eligible bank, GrowNOW can provide a 3% interest rate reduction on the loan. Essentially the Treasury places a deposit at the business' bank at a reduced rate which allows the bank to pass along the savings to the small business. The Treasurer's Office has been aggressively reaching out to Economic Development and Chamber of Commerce offices in the state. He said the GrowNOW Program makes borrowing affordable for Ohio's small businesses and enables them to remain financially stable, hire additional employees or retain their workforce and become more productive. He said to go to [www.Ohiotreasurer.gov](http://www.Ohiotreasurer.gov) for additional information or call him at 614/728-0073.

**5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Proud introduced John Hemmings, OVRDC Executive Director and Mr. Hemmings referred to the Director's Report under Tab #5 and highlighted the various sections. Mr. Hemmings advised on May 12, he attended along with Michele Throckmorton and Juanita Bragg the US Department of Labor seminar in Chillicothe, Ohio. Topics

covered were Family and Medical leave, Fair Labor Standards Act, Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

On May 23<sup>rd</sup>, Mr. Hemmings advised he attended the Connecting Appalachia kickoff meeting in Logan, Ohio. The event was more of a ground breaking but no ground was actually broken. Instead, Horizon hung a new fiber optic line which began the Connecting Appalachia project in the region.

Mr. Hemmings advised on May 16<sup>th</sup> he met with two consultants that Fluor-B&W Portsmouth has contracted to conduct economic development strategic plans for the four counties (Jackson, Pike, Ross and Scioto) most affected by the activities at the Department of Energy site at Piketon. The two consultants are meeting with economic development groups in the region to find out what information is already available to be used in their plans for each county. It is anticipated that all four county plans will be finished by the end of 2011.

On May 10, 2011, Jason Gillow conducted the OVRDC GIS User Group Meeting at the OVRDC Office. Speakers were Jeff Smith with OGRIP, Brian Stevens with Woolpert and Michael Cowles with Pictometry spoke about "The Ohio Statewide Imagery Program-OSIP II Project Deliverables and Optional Product Offerings".

## 6. OLD BUSINESS

### (a) Update on Marcellus Shale

Mr. Hemmings advised OVRDC will be taking on the role of educating the public about oil and gas exploration and drilling. Mr. Hemmings included in the packet an email from Attorney General Mike DeWine which includes landowner tips about leasing land for gas and oil drilling and setting up lease agreements. Mr. Hemmings also attached an article from the Wall Street Journal which indicates the drilling boom is the best U.S. energy news in generations and is crucial for reviving domestic manufacturing. Mr. Hemmings advised he will be working on partnering with the Ohio Farm Bureau to provide education about Marcellus and Utica Shale in our region.

### (b) HB 153 (State of Ohio Budget)

Mr. Hemmings referred to Tab #6b which includes an excerpt of the Ohio Department of Development budget. Mr. Hemmings thanked the OVRDC member counties for sending resolutions to state legislatures supporting restoration of the Appalachian Development line items in the second year of the biennium state budget. He advised that in Year 2 of the biennium budget, \$3.7 million was restored for the Governor's Office of Appalachia, \$391,482 was restored for the Local Development Districts, and \$475,000 was restored for the Appalachia Regional Commission dues. Mr. Hemmings advised Governor Kasich was expected to sign the budget this evening.

## 7. NEW BUSINESS

### (a) OVRDC Copier

Mr. Hemmings advised the lease for the OVRDC Xerox copier is up in July. Xerox is offering us a new copier for a lease price of \$1,020.75 which is a cheaper lease rate than we have now. Included in the packet is information regarding the new copier for review. Our present copier is not working properly and we need to expedite this decision. A discussion was held and it was suggested to acquire additional quotes and compare the cost as to leasing or buying. Mr. Hemmings will pursue these suggestions.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY SHANE WILKIN AND SECONDED BY RALPH JENNINGS TO AUTHORIZE THE OVRDC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO MAKE A DECISION TO EITHER PURCHASE OR ENTER INTO A LEASE AGREEMENT FOR A COPIER. THE MOTION CARRIED.**

### (b) District 15 Schedule

Mr. Hemmings advised the OPWC District 15- Round 26 Tentative Schedule is included under Tab #7b. This schedule will be put on the OVRDC website.

- (c) 2010 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Project Addition (Lawrence County)  
Mr. Hemmings advised this item was added because Lawrence had a project they wanted to add to the CEDS. Bill Dingus, Executive Director of Lawrence Economic Development Corporation (LEDC) advised that Lawrence County had decided against submitting an application and there was no further discussion.
- (d) 2011 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Schedule  
Mr. Hemmings advised the 2011 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) tentative timeline schedule was included under Tab #7b. He advised this schedule will also be added to the OVRDC website.
- (e) White House Rural Council  
Mr. Hemmings included an email from Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Federal Co-Chairman Earl Gohl announcing the creation of the White House Rural Council to coordinate programs across government that will promote economic prosperity and quality of life in rural communities across the country. Chaired by Agriculture Secretary Vilsack, the White House Rural Council and its participating agencies will hold a variety of outreach sessions across rural America over the next several months. Mr. Hemmings advised Mr. Gohl encouraged the White House to hold some of its outreach sessions in Appalachia. The sessions should be scheduled during August.
- (f) JobsOhio/Ohio Appalachia Business Committee  
Mr. Hemmings advised he met with directors of our member county Economic Development Offices this morning to discuss the progress of JobsOhio. He advised a conference call will be held July 5 at 2:00 pm with the The Foundation of Appalachia Ohio to discuss key issues further. The state is creating 6 regions to serve the economic development needs of the state. The region for Appalachia will be served by the Ohio Appalachia Business Council, although only 25 of the 32 Appalachia designated counties will actually be in the region. This council, which is private sector driven, will be the region's sales force. The Foundation for Appalachia Ohio is working with the Ohio Department of Development to set up the Ohio Appalachia Business Council as a 501-c-3 organization. The Ohio Local Development Districts serving all or part of the 25 counties involved in the Ohio Appalachia Business Council will be involved at some level in providing service to the Ohio Appalachia Business Council. Mr. Hemmings stated that he would keep the Executive Committee updated on further developments as necessary.
- (g) ARC Civil War Appalachia Map  
Mr. Hemmings advised he brought copies for those interested of the ARC "Civil War: The Home Front" map guide for Appalachia. The map guide was created in partnership with American Heritage Publishing and members of ARC's Tourism Advisory Council.
- (h) Personnel Committee Recommendations – Executive Session  
Mr. Proud asked for a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss Personnel Committee recommendations. The Personnel Committee met at the OVRDC Office today at 11:30 am.

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

The Executive Committee reconvened into regular session at 3:30 pm.

Mr. Hemmings advised the Personnel Committee met today at the OVRDC Office and recommended a 3% salary adjustment for all OVRDC employees, indicating the last annual salary adjustment was in December of 2007. Mr. Proud also advised that the Personnel Committee will be reviewing all salary classifications this fall for further consideration.

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

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY RALPH JENNINGS AND SECONDED BY DAVID MALONE TO ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE OVRDC PERSONNEL COMMITTEE TO APPROVE A 3% ANNUAL SALARY ADJUSTMENT FOR ALL OVRDC EMPLOYEES EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2011. THE MOTION CARRIED.**

**8. OVRDC MEETINGS**

Mr. Proud advised there would be no Executive Committee Meeting in July. The next Executive Committee will be held on August 25<sup>th</sup> at the Pike County Government Center in Waverly, Ohio at 2:00 pm.

**9. ADJOURN**

There being no further business Mr. Proud adjourned the meeting.

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John W. Hemmings III, Executive Director & Commission Secretary

APPROVED:

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Bob Proud, Chairman