

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

***Minutes***

*February 26, 2009*  
*Pike Government Center*  
*Waverly, Ohio*

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

**1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER**

Bob Proud, OVRDC Chairman, called the meeting to order. Mr. Proud stated that a quorum was present and welcomed everyone to the Pike Government Center in Waverly, Ohio. Mr. Proud asked Tim Ross, Clermont County to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Those in attendance were as follows:

**Executive Committee Members:**

*Ray Becraft, Brown County Chamber of Commerce*  
*Tracy Call, Gallia County Private Sector Representative*  
*Eugene Collins, Scioto County Minority Representative*  
*Doug Corcoran, Ross County Commissioner*  
*Jack DeWeese, Fayette County Commissioner*  
*Katy Farber, Highland County Chamber of Commerce*  
*Gary Heaton, Highland County Commissioner*  
*Bob Matthey, Private Sector, Pike County*  
*Margery Paeltz, Brown County Commissioner*  
*Bob Proud, Clermont County Commissioner*  
*Roger Rhonemus, Adams County Commissioner*  
*Harry Rider, Pike County Commissioner*  
*Tim Ross, Clermont County Private Sector Representative*

**Staff:**

*John Hemmings, III, OVRDC Executive Director*  
*Rebecca Banchy-McIlwain, OVRDC Finance Director*  
*Sherrie Lanier, OVRDC Development Director*  
*Kim Reynolds, OVRDC Community Development Coordinator*  
*Michele Throckmorton, OVRDC Economic Development Coordinator*  
*Sharon Clark, OVRDC Administrative Assistant*

**Guests:**

*Tommy Arnold, ODOT-District 8*  
*Cindy Cunningham, Field Representative, Congressman Zack Space's Office*  
*Honorable Raymond Pryor, State Representative 85<sup>th</sup> District*  
*Fred River, ODOT District 9*  
*Lynn Stevens, USDA Rural Development*  
*Rafeal Underwood, Tri-County Economic Recovery Coordinator*  
*Ted West, Pike County Commissioner*

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Proud stated that the draft of the January 22, 2009 Executive Committee meeting minutes was mailed to members, along with the meeting notice. He asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes. Mr. Proud then asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

**IT WAS MOVED BY GARY HEATON, SECONDED BY EUGENE COLLINS AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES, OF THE JANUARY 22, 2009 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING. THE MOTION PASSED.**

**3. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Hemmings referred to Tab #3 and highlighted the underlined sections.

Mr. Hemmings advised he met with the staff of State Senator John Carey's office and State Senator Tom Niehaus' office to share OVRDC's concern about the addition of a fourth Local Development District (LDD) in Ohio and its impact on the existing LDDs budgets.

Mr. Hemmings indicated Jason Gillow received a new LaCie 2-terabyte External Hard drive that helps extend the data memory capabilities of OVRDC's GIS Database. This will allow Jason to fully support the data being generated by the OSIP project for each of the 12 counties in the OVRDC region. Mr. Hemmings also noted that Jason has been in contact with staff at the Ohio Geographically Referenced Information Program (OGRIP) and they believe they have identified funding to complete the aerial imagery in southern Ohio particularly Pike and Ross Counties.

Mr. Hemmings advised the Village of Higginsport Sewer project has been monitored and no findings were discovered and the project files will be delivered to Higginsport this month. Mr. Hemmings thanked Kim Reynolds for her administration of this project.

Mr. Hemmings advised that in January, Rafeal Underwood, the Tri-County Economic Recovery Coordinator, began work on recovery efforts in Clinton, Highland, and Fayette Counties in response to the announced closing of the DHL Airpark in Wilmington, Ohio. Mr. Underwood is currently working on developing the Clinton County CEDS document.

Mr. Hemmings also advised that on January 26, 2009 Rebecca Banchy-McIlwain and Sherri Lanier attended the quarterly Business Development Network team meeting hosted by WesBanco CDC in Jackson, Ohio.

**4. LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

Mr. Hemmings referred to Tab #4 in the packet and highlighted the Line Item Summary from the State of Ohio Department of Development. He also included information regarding a Small Farm Conference and Trade Show sponsored by the OSU Extension Office in Clinton County on Saturday, March 14, 2009.

Mr. Hemmings included information regarding an ARC Energy Grants Competition. Two Energy RFPs have been issued, one focusing on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency for K-12 Schools, and a second RFP focusing on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Training and Certification Programming to be delivered by community colleges, vocational and technical schools, trade

associations, 4-year colleges and universities, and non-profits. The deadline for submission of proposals is May 29, 2009. For more information visit [www.arc.gov/energy](http://www.arc.gov/energy).

## 5. OLD BUSINESS

### a. ARC/EDA FY 09 Project Status

Michele Throckmorton, OVRDC Economic Development Coordinator referred to Tab #5a and advised that changes to the status of the project applications were shown in bold print and that some new projects have been added to the project list and are also in bold. Projects with changes included: Green Acres/Slate Mills Sewer Project in Ross County, Loveland Downtown Redevelopment Project in Clermont County, and Hillsboro WWTP Expansion and By-Pass Elimination in Highland County. New projects included Pike County Manufacturing Center Infrastructure Project in Pike County and Eden Park Sanitary Sewer Expansion in Scioto County. She indicated additional funds will possibly be available and asked if there were any questions.

### b. Executive Committee Meeting Mailings

Mr. Hemmings referred to a discussion held at last month's meeting regarding the possibility of board packets being sent via email. He said since new members would be coming on board in April, he would give members the option at that time of receiving information from us via regular mail or email.

### c. 2008 Audit Process Update

Mrs. Rebecca Banchy-McIlwain, OVRDC Finance Director advised we received notice from the Auditor of the State (AOS) in December that they will be conducting/overseeing our annual audit process.

Mrs. Banchy-McIlwain advised on February 11, 2009 OVRDC received a letter and copies of the technical proposals submitted by two (2) firms in response to the RFP for audit services from the AOS, Athens Region. We were requested to evaluate the proposals and complete the provided IPA Proposal Evaluation form with a deadline to fax the completed evaluation forms by February 20, 2009, which was finalized on that date.

She advised on February 23, 2009 we received a copy of the costs proposals submitted by two (2) IPA firms, a copy of the IPA Proposal Evaluation form completed by the AOS Region office and a copy of our evaluation form completed, which was updated by the AOS to include the scoring on the cost proposals. The two (2) IPA firms are identified below, referenced as IPA firm A and IPA firm B and include the bottom line scoring identified on the evaluation forms by OVRDC and AOS, and the costs associated to perform the audit of the financial statements of the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission, for the period January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2010.

#### IPA Firm A

Whited, Seigneur Sams & Rahe CPAs, LLP

Evaluation Form Scoring – OVRDC: 75.73 and AOS: 88.73

Cost Proposal - \$21,000.00

**IPA Firm B**

Balestra, Harr & Scherer, CPAs, Inc.

Evaluation Form Scoring – OVRDC: 74.68 and AOS: 87.68

Cost Proposal - \$23,400.00

Mr. Proud requested a motion to be made on OVRDC's recommendation to the Auditor of State on the IPA firm to perform the audit of the financial statements of the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission, for the period January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2010.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY RAY BECRAFT OF BROWN COUNTY AND SECONDED BY HARRY RIDER OF PIKE COUNTY TO RECOMMEND IPA FIRM A, WHITED, SEIGNEUR SAMS & RAHE CPAs, LLP TO THE AUDITOR'S OFFICE OF THE STATE OF OHIO TO PERFORM THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE OHIO VALLEY REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2008 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2010. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH DOUG CORCORAN ABSTAINING.**

Mr. Proud introduced State Representative Raymond Pryor from the 85<sup>th</sup> District and thanked him for attending our February Executive Committee Meeting.

Mr. Hemmings introduced Rafeal Underwood, the Tri-County Economic Recovery Coordinator for Clinton, Highland and Fayette County. Mr. Underwood advised he is currently working on a CEDS document for Clinton County and hopes to have a draft available next week.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

a. Fiscal Year 2010 Project Ranking Sheet Changes

Mrs. Throckmorton referred to Tab #6a which included the revised Area Development Program Rating Sheet FY 2010 which was approved by the Project Review Committee in July 2008. Mr. Proud asked for a motion by the Executive Committee to approve the revised rating sheet:

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY MARGERY PAELTZ AND SECONDED BY JACK DEWEESE TO APPROVE THE PROJECT RANKING SHEET CHANGES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010 WHICH WERE APPROVED BY THE PROJECT REVIEW COMMITTEE IN JULY 2008. THE MOTION CARRIED.**

b. District 15, Round 23 – OPWC Projects

Mr. Proud introduced Ms. Kim Reynolds, OVRDC Community Development Coordinator, and asked for the update on the District 15 OPWC Projects. Ms. Reynolds explained that this year the Ohio Public Works Commission-SCIP funding was unique due the increase in funding and expedited process. She stated that the District 15 Committee met on December 2 to review and approve the project package. In the District Fund the top 19 projects were submitted to Columbus in December for priority consideration for funding. Ms. Reynolds stated that 18 of the 19 submitted have already received approval from Ohio Public Works Commission and emphasized that if additional funds are returned to District 15 over the next year that the 19th project would also be funded. The LTIP package will be forwarded to OPWC for consideration

by the end of March 2009. The Small Governments process is a separate competitive process and in District 15, a total of 4 projects were funded for Round 23.

c. AdHoc Insurance Committee

Mr. Hemmings advised in order to prepare for 2010 he wishes to form a committee to discuss the OVRDC benefit package. The committee will include OVRDC Board Officers, OVRDC Executive Director, OVRDC Finance Director and any volunteers wishing to participate. The committee will probably meet in April 2009. Mr. Hemmings asked anyone wishing to volunteer to serve on the committee to contact him.

d. Intergovernmental Review Clearinghouse Process

Mr. Hemmings advised that in 1997, former Governor Voinovich eliminated the Statewide Clearinghouse process and by Executive Order indicated that the Area-Wide Clearinghouses, such as OVRDC, could continue their processes to receive federal grant/loan applications for local review. (To explain the process, if you applied for federal money you had to submit a copy of the application to the state and local clearinghouse for comments). Mr. Hemmings explained that OVRDC, as an Area-wide Clearinghouse has continued to receive and review federal application since that time; however, very few applications are received because applicants are encouraged to submit them through the Area-Wide Clearinghouse instead of being required to do so. Mrs. Throckmorton said she receives very few each month to process and that for some months, none are received. Mr. Hemmings stated he wanted to survey the other regional councils in Ohio (members of the Ohio Association of Regional Councils) to see how many of them are still conducting Area-wide Clearinghouse functions before discontinuing our process. Mr. Proud indicated he did not feel we needed to wait since the process was not providing much in the way of results and asked for a motion to move forward with discontinuing the process.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY GARY HEATON AND SECONDED BY MARGERY PAELTZ TO ALLOW OVRDC TO CEASE PARTICIPATING IN THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW CLEARINGHOUSE PROCESS. THE MOTION CARRIED.**

e. Wausau Homes Closure/OVRDC Office Lease

Mr. Hemmings advised OVRDC leases office space from Wausau Homes who advised him they will be closing operations April 3, 2009 and selling the building. He wanted to inform the board he will be looking for alternative space, in the event the new owner of the building does not wish to lease the office space presently used by OVRDC.

f. LDD Legislative Reception March 10, 2009

Mr. Hemmings referred to Tab #6f and the Invitation to the Legislative Reception to be held March 10 from 7-8:30 pm at Tony's Italian Ristorante in Columbus Ohio. The event is hosted by Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District, Ohio mid-Eastern Governments Association and Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission. Executive Committee members are invited to attend.

7. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Proud referred to Tab #7 and the February Announcement section. Mr. Proud advised OVRDC's March 26, 2009 Full Commission Banquet & Election of Officers and Executive Committee Members will be held in Gallia County at the University of Rio Grande.

8. **OVRDC MEETINGS**

Mr. Proud advised the next Executive Committee meeting will be March 26, 2009 at 4:00 pm at University of Rio Grande, Rio Grande, Ohio and the Full Commission Banquet and Election of Officers with Lieutenant Governor Lee Fisher as the key note speaker will be held immediately after the March Executive Committee meeting (5:30 Registration-Dinner/Meeting 6:00 pm).

9. **ADJOURN AND INKIND**

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

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY TRACY CALL AND SECONDED BY MARGERY PAELTZ TO ADJOURN THE FEBRUARY 26<sup>TH</sup>, 2009 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AND THE MEETING STOOD ADJOURNED.**

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John W. Hemmings III, Executive Director & Commission Secretary

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Bob Proud, Chairman