

OHIO VALLEY REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
Executive Committee Meeting

Minutes

January 22, 2009
Pike Government Center
Waverly, Ohio

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

1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Roger Rhonemus, OVRDC Interim Vice Chairman, called the meeting to order. Mr. Rhonemus stated that a quorum was present and welcomed everyone to the Pike Government Center in Waverly, Ohio. Mr. Rhonemus asked Harry Rider, Pike County Commissioner to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. Mr. Rhonemus then asked those present to introduce themselves.

Those in attendance were as follows:

Executive Committee Members:

Ray Becraft, Brown County Chamber of Commerce
Mike Boster, proxy for Doug Malone, Lawrence County Commissioner
Eugene Collins, Scioto County Minority Representative
Jack DeWeese, Fayette County Commissioner
Katy Farber, Highland County Chamber of Commerce
Randy Heath, Jackson Area Chamber Director
Gary Heaton, Highland County Commissioner
Bob Matthey, Private Sector, Pike County
Tom Morgan, Vinton County Commissioner
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
Faye Williamson, Fayette County DJFS

Staff:

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

Guests:

Cindy Cunningham, Field Representative, Congressman Zack Space's Office
Ben Keller, ODOT District 6, Fayette County
Ralph Norman, Jacobs Engineering
Tom Reid, Reid Consulting Group, LLC
Fred River, ODOT District 9
Amy Robison, Reid Consulting Group, LLC
Lynn Stevens, USDA Rural Development
Ted West, Pike County Commissioner
Brett Boothe, Gallia County Engineer
James Keels, Gallia County Minority Rep and GEDA President

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Rhonemus stated that the draft of the November 20, 2008 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. Rhonemus then asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

IT WAS MOVED BY GARY HEATON, SECONDED BY RAY BECRAFT AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES, OF THE NOVEMBER 20, 2008 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING. THE MOTION PASSED.

3. FINANCE REPORT

Rebecca Banchy-McIlwain, OVRDC Finance Director presented the Finance Report due to the excused absence of OVRDC treasurer, Doug Corcoran. Mrs. Banchy-McIlwain referred to Tab #3 and the November 30, 2008 Balance Sheet which reflected the total assets of \$866,789.25; total liabilities of \$240,796.27 and total equities of \$625,992.98 and a balance of \$0.00.

Mr. Rhonemus asked for a motion to adopt the Finance Report as presented:

MOTION WAS MADE BY EUGENE COLLINS AND SECONDED BY HARRY RIDER TO ADOPT THE FINANCE REPORT AS PRESENTED AND THE MOTION CARRIED.

4. ALL INCLUSIVE BROADBAND FOR SOUTHEAST OHIO

Mr. Hemmings advised on December 5, he attended a meeting at the office of Congressman Zack Space to discuss the possibility of the 29-county Appalachia Ohio broadband initiative to get broadband access to most areas of Appalachia Ohio. Mr. Hemmings introduced Tom Reid of Reid Consulting Group who presented at the December 5th meeting. Mr. Reid advised the Southern Ohio Health Care Network (SOHCN) has been awarded \$16 million under the FCC Rural Health Care Pilot Program and with that funding they are partnering with carriers to build the SOHCN Fiber-Optic Backbone.

Mr. Reid's presentation "Moving Appalachia Forward" contains 4 projects:

Project #1 Southern Ohio Health Care Network Fiber-Optic Backbone

(Public Funds Request: \$27.8 million)

The Mission:

- Deliver metropolitan-class broadband to Appalachian cities and towns through partnerships with carriers
- Connect rural health care providers to the robust fiber-optic network
- Expand the reach of business and residential broadband services

Project #2 Wireless Coverage of the rural Expanse

(Public Funds Request: \$26.9 million)

The Mission:

- Create all-inclusive and sustainable broadband coverage across the rural expanse in Appalachia Ohio
- Provide high-speed service in the region to support new or existing businesses, regardless of physical location
- Stimulate economic growth, support health care innovation and improve educational outcomes

Project #3 World Class Connectivity for Industrial Parks

(Public Funds Request: \$20.9 million)

- Provide state-of-the art broadband infrastructure to industrial parks in Appalachia Ohio
- Deploy architecture in which multiple carriers compete to serve the companies
- Offer companies environmentally controlled machine room space for local servers

Project #4 Telemedicine Initiative

- Deliver World-class health care to Appalachia using broadband medical tools

- Improve health outcomes for both acute and chronic conditions
- Lower costs for treatment, benefiting government and private payers
- Provide professional development for rural health care providers

Bob Proud, Clermont County Commissioner and OVRDC Chairman took over the meeting at this time.

5. DIRECTORS REPORT

Mr. Proud introduced John Hemmings, OVRDC Executive Director. Mr. Hemmings referred to Tab #5 and highlighted the various sections.

Mr. Hemmings advised he attended a meeting with the other two Ohio Local Development district directors and Fred Deel and Lou Gentile of the Governor's Office of Appalachia to discuss the upcoming State of Ohio budget and the Ohio LDDs concern with the addition of a fourth LDD in Ohio and no additional administrative funds. Mr. Hemmings advised Fred Deel discussed his plan to hold us harmless next year (2009), but could not guarantee anything beyond that date.

On November 11-13, 2008, Michele Throckmorton, Kim Reynolds and Sherrie Lanier attended the ODOD Community Development Conference at Salt Fork Lodge. Jason Gillow attended the conference on November 12th.

Mr. Hemmings advised on December 2, he attended the District 15 Small Government, Executive and Full Integrating committee meetings with Kim Reynolds, Shannon Nichols, and Sherrie Lanier to approve the project package to be submitted to Ohio Public Works Commission for funding for Round 23. The meetings were held at the OVRDC Office in Waverly.

On November 20, 2008, Jason Gillow met with Cindy Poole and Marsha Lewis of ILGARD about U.S. Census Bureau's Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP) for Southern Ohio. The PSAP program is focusing on redistricting census tracts, block groups, and CDPs based off a minimum threshold of population and housing units. If counties do not participate in PSAP, the Census Bureau or someone in the state will determine these boundaries for them. With this in mind, some rural counties could be impacted with less tracts, block groups, and CDPs per county, thus affecting federal funding programs that base their geographic area on these boundaries. That is why it's important for counties to review the data and participate.

The counties that were nonparticipants in the OVRDC region were Gallia, Brown, Adams, Scioto, Lawrence, Vinton, Pike, Highland, and Fayette. OVRDC and ILGARD identified county commissioners, engineers and ED people to send letters to. ILGARD will work with ODOD on conducting the training and OVRDC would help with sending the invitation letters to the counties, figure out who is coming, and arrange the location and logistics.

Mr. Hemmings advised he and Mrs. Banchy-McIlwain on November 7th conducted the Revolving Loan Fund closing with the new business in Brown County, Sardinia Feed & Farm Supply.

6. LEGISLATIVE REPORT, STATE AND FEDERAL DEVELOPMENTS

Mr. Hemmings referred to Tab #6 and highlighted the various sections. Mr. Hemmings referred to Tab #6 which contained information regarding the American Recovery and Reinvestment bill of 2009. The package contains targeted efforts in: Clean, Efficient, American Energy; Transforming our Economy with Science and Technology; Modernizing Roads, Bridges, Transit and Waterways; Education for the 21st Century; Tax Cuts to Make Work Pay and Create Jobs; Lowering Healthcare Costs; Helping Workers Hurt by the Economy; Saving Public Sector Jobs and Protect Vital Services.

Mr. Hemmings also advised Governor Ted Strickland was elected by his fellow Appalachian governors to serve as 2009 ARC States' Co-Chair.

7. **OLD BUSINESS**

a. ARC/EDA FY 09 Project Status

Michele Throckmorton, OVRDC Economic Development Coordinator referred to Tab #7a and advised the “bolded” projects were forwarded to GOA. They are **Area Development:** Lawrence County Medical Center, Colon Cancer Screening (\$200,000) **Distressed County Projects:** Beaver Water System Improvements, Pike County (\$250,000), **Rapid Response Projects:** Williamsburg 8th Street Water Tower Elevation and Rehabilitation, Clermont County (\$100,000).

b. Economic Recovery Coordinator Selection Update

Mr. Hemmings advised Rafeal Underwood accepted the position of Economic Recovery Coordinator and is working in Clinton County developing a CEDS document for the county.

c. OVRDC Network Server

Mr. Hemmings advised OVRDC is working with SCOCA (South Central Ohio Computer Association) to update the OVRDC network and website servers, and to improve our broadband capacity. SCOCA received a bid from Scioto Wireless (one-time fee of \$4,037 for OVRDC) with an option of a 30-day trial period for OVRDC to begin utilizing wireless internet in place of the T-1 line we currently use. OVRDC is going to move forward and test the wireless internet for the 30 day trial period. Further information will be forthcoming at future meetings.

d. Executive Committee Meeting Agenda

Mr. Hemmings asked members to advise him of any deletions or additions they would like to see in the Executive Committee Agenda. Mr. Proud suggested e-mailing information to save postage. Mr. Hemmings also advised that he would like to provide most legislative updates through email as opposed to speaking about them during the Executive Committee meetings unless they specifically pertain to OVRDC.

e. Other Old Business (Grant Writing Fiscal Agent Project)

Mr. Proud asked if there was any other old business. Mrs. Banchy-McIlwain advised that OVRDC will again serve as fiscal agent for the GOA sponsored Grant Writing and Board Development Workshops to be held in June 2009. She advised that the Executive Committee had approved OVRDC to apply for \$27,000 ARC Flex-E-Grant funds through GOA at the September 2008 Executive Committee to sponsor these workshops and act as fiscal agent for the grant. She requested Board approval to apply for an additional \$25,000 of funding through the ARC Area Development program for these workshops. Mr. Proud asked for a motion.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY TIM ROSS AND SECONDED BY JACK DEWEESE TO APPROVE OVRDC (AS FISCAL AGENT) TO APPLY FOR AREA DEVELOPMENT FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25,000 FOR THE GOA SPONSORED GRANT WRITING AND BOARD DEVELOPMENT TRAINING TO BE HELD IN JUNE 2009. THE MOTION CARRIED.

8. **NEW BUSINESS**

a. Nominating Committee Report

Mr. Proud introduced James Keels from Gallia County, Chairman of the OVRDC Nominating Committee. Mr. Keels advised the Nominating Committee met at 11:30 a.m. on January 22, 2009. Members present included himself, Jack DeWeese (Fayette County), Eugene Collins (Scioto County), Margery Paeltz (Brown County), Harry Rider (Pike County), and Mr. Hemmings, OVRDC Executive Director. Mr. Keels then presented the slate of officers chosen during this meeting which are to be considered during the March 2009 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. Proud asked for a motion to accept the slate of officers.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY TOM MORGAN AND SECONDED BY GARY HEATON TO ACCEPT THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT OF THE SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2009-2010 TO BE PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION DURING THE MARCH 26, 2009 FULL COMMISSION MEETING. THE MOTION CARRIED.

b. By-Laws Changes

Mr. Hemmings referred to Draft Resolution #2009/01-01 under Tab #8b and asked the Executive Committee to approve the following changes to the Bylaws which will be presented to the Full Commission for approval at the March 26, 2009 meeting.

- Executive Committee Meetings will be held at least 8 times per year.
- Executive Committee Meetings will be held by the last Thursday of the month.
- CEDS Committee quorum will be representatives from 7 or more member counties.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY GARY HEATON AND SECONDED BY ROGER RHONEMUS TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2009/01-01 AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE OHIO VALLEY REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE BYLAWS AS PRESENTED IN THE REVISED DRAFT BYLAWS INCLUDED IN THE JANUARY 22, 2009 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE PACKET AND TO SUBMIT THESE CHANGES TO THE FULL COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP FOR APPROVAL MARCH 26, 2009. THE MOTION CARRIED. (Resolution #2009/01-01 attached)

c. 2009 OVRDC Annual Budget Approval

Mrs. Banchy-McIlwain referred to Tab #8c which contained the Annual Budget for Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission for Fiscal Year January 1, 2009-December 31, 2009. Mr. Proud asked for a motion to approve the Annual Budget.

IT WAS MOVED BY HARRY RIDER AND SECONDED BY TOM MORGAN TO APPROVE THE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR JANUARY 1, 2009-DECEMBER 1, 2009. THE MOTION CARRIED.

d. 2008 Audit Process

Mrs. Banchy-McIlwain advised we received notice from the Auditor of the State (AOS) in December that they will be conducting/overseeing our annual audit process. The Auditor of State has determined that an Independent Public Accountant (IPA) firm will be engaged to perform the audits of the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission for the fiscal year period December 31, 2008, and for the subsequent two (2) periods. The IPA firms are selected through a competitive bidding process. We worked with the Auditor of State's office and they developed the Request for Proposals (RFP), which was issued January 20, 2009. The RFP response deadline is February 6, 2009. The RFP was issued to seven IPA firms within our District. The RFP responses are received by the Auditor of State and we will have the opportunity to score each proposal using a form provided by AOS. The proposals will also be scored by AOS. The final selection will be made by the AOS Chief Auditor, IPA Audit Administration, based on his review of both the AOS Region and OVRDC's scores and written recommendations. In addition to the IPA audit cost, we can expect to be billed by AOS for the costs incurred in preparing the RFP, reviewing the proposals, monitoring the work of the IPA, and reviewing the audit report, which will need to be issued by the end of June each year. We will report to you on the RFP response and selection, hopefully, by the next Executive Committee meeting.

- e. CEDS Timeline
Mr. Hemmings referred to Tab #8e and reviewed the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission 2009 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Timeline.
- f. USDA Household Waterwell Systems Grant
Lynn Stevens from USDA Rural Development announced the availability of the USDA Household Water Well Systems Grant. She advised the Household Water Well Grant Program helps individuals finance the cost of household water wells. Funds can be used to upgrade or replace water well systems and to increase the awareness of substandard drinking water systems in communities. The deadline for submission is May 31, 2009.
- g. 2008 CEDS Revision
Mr. Hemmings asked the Executive Committee if they would consider adding the broadband projects presented earlier by Tom Reid of Reid Consulting to the OVRDC CEDS. After some discussion the Executive Committee decided to table their decision on this matter and have the OVRDC CEDS Committee meet about the proposals first.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Proud referred to Tab #9 and the January Announcement section. Mr. Proud advised OVRDC's March 26, 2009 Full Commission Banquet & Election of Officers will be held in Gallia County at the University of Rio Grande.

10. OVRDC MEETINGS

Mr. Proud advised the next meeting will be February 26, 2009 at 1:30 pm at the Pike Government Center in Waverly, Ohio.

11. ADJOURN AND INKIND

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

A MOTION WAS MADE BY GARY HEATON AND SECONDED BY ROGER RHONEMUS TO ADJOURN THE JANUARY 22ND, 2009 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AND THE MEETING STOOD ADJOURNED.

John W. Hemmings III, Executive Director & Commission Secretary

APPROVED: _____
Bob Proud, Chairman

Attachments: Resolution #2009/01-01