

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

**Minutes**

June 25, 2009

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, called the meeting to order and stated that a quorum was present and welcomed everyone to the Pike County Government Center in Pike County. Mr. Proud advised George Robert Schwable, former OVRDC Executive Director passed away on June 20, 2009 and he asked for a moment of silence in his honor. Mr. Proud then asked Gary Heaton, Highland County Commissioner, to lead the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Those in attendance were as follows:

**Executive Committee Members:**

*Ed Armstrong, Jackson County Commissioner*  
*Russ Brewer, Adams County Member-at-Large*  
*Carl Darling, Lawrence County Private Sector Representative*  
*Jack DeWeese, Fayette County Commissioner*  
*Justin Fallon, Gallia County Commissioner*  
*Paul Harrison, Gallia County Member-at-Large*  
*Gary Heaton, Highland County Commissioner*  
*Ben Houser, Brown County Private Sector Representative*  
*Ken Morrison, Clermont County Member at Large*  
*Margery Paeltz, Brown County Commissioner*  
*Bob Proud, Clermont County Commissioner*  
*Roger Rhonemus, Adams County Commissioner*  
*Thomas White, Ross County Private Sector Representative*

**Staff:**

*John W. Hemmings, 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:**

*Tommy Arnold, ODOT District 8*  
*Benjamin Keller, ODOT District 6*  
*Ronda Kinnamon, Governor's Economic Development Director*  
*Fred River, ODOT District 9*  
*Robin Williams, City of Waverly*

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Proud stated that the draft of the May 28, 2009 Executive Committee meeting minutes was mailed to members, along with the meeting notice. He asked for 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 ED ARMSTONG TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 28, 2009 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING. THE MOTION PASSED.**

**3. FINANCE REPORT**

Mr. Proud introduced Rebecca Banchy-McIlwain, OVRDC Finance Director who presented the Financial Report since Doug Corcoran, OVRDC Treasurer was not in attendance. Mrs. Banchy-McIlwain referred to Tab #3 and the April 30, 2009 Balance Sheet which reflected the total assets of \$978,343.91; total liabilities of \$175,338.35 and total equities of \$803,005.56 and a balance of \$0.00.

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

**MOTION WAS MADE BY MARGERY PAELTZ AND SECONDED BY PAUL HARRISON TO ADOPT THE FINANCE REPORT AS PRESENTED AND THE MOTION CARRIED.**

**4. U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY RESERVATION-PIKETON SITE ACTIVITIES**

The Executive Committee was to hear a presentation by Greg Simonton of the US Department of Energy about activities ongoing at the Piketon site; however, Mr. Simonton was unable to attend the meeting.

**5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Hemmings referred to Tab #5 and the June 2009 Director's Report. He indicated the obituary for Mr. Schwable was included and advised his passing is a great loss to the OVRDC family.

Mr. Hemmings advised Daniel Yarmesch , OVRDC Economic Development Specialist has submitted his resignation effective August 7, 2009. He will be attending the University of Illinois College of Law in the fall. Mr. Hemmings wished Mr. Yarmesch well in his future endeavors. A copy of his letter of resignation is included. Mr. Hemmings advised there are no plans to replace this position at this time.

Mr. Hemmings advised during May he and Sherrie Lanier, OVRDC Development Director worked on, completed and submitted a grant application to HUD for the Rural Housing and Economic Development program. The \$150,000 Southern Ohio Business Retention and Expansion Project grant would make it possible for OVRDC to provide various types of retention and expansion assistance to eight of our counties, as well as create and maintain a regional marketing website for all of our counties. A common theme through meetings and discussions with business leaders, economic development and government officials was the need for the kind of information and assistance this project would provide to our counties.

On May 18, 2009, Mr. Hemmings advised Jason Gillow attended an OGRIP (Ohio Geographically Referenced Information Program) Forum meeting held at the ODOT Central Office in Columbus, Ohio. Updates were given on Ohio Statewide Imagery Program and Location Base Response System (OSIP). Pike and Ross have been flown for 1-foot pixel imagery and re-sampling of Adams, Highland, and Scioto 6-inch pixel to 1-foot pixel imagery will complete the data collection. The final products for OSIP will be available in the summer of 2009.

On May 27, 2009, Mr. Hemmings advised he attended a meeting of the Tri-County Economic Recovery Strategy Advisory Committee in Wilmington, Ohio. Topics of discussion were an update on the Clinton County CEDS projects, next steps for Rafeal Underwood, the Economic Recovery Coordinator, the process for development of the Strategy document, discussion about next year's grant application and the need to secure resolutions of support from the partners.

Mr. Hemmings advised during May 2009, Jason Gillow researched and mapped the 911 fire dispatch service areas for Fayette, Gallia, Ross, Scioto, and adjacent counties. He did this by contacting local EMA Directors and GIS personal, and requesting this information. He indicated Jason requested GIS data from Fayette, Gallia, Ross and Scioto Counties and received GIS information from Fayette, Gallia and Ross. Additionally, Jason finished mapping the fire stations that serve Gallia, Scioto, Lawrence, Fayette and Ross Counties.

Mr. Hemmings also included in the packet news releases from the Portsmouth Daily Times regarding Governor Strickland's announcement that The Southern Ohio Clean Energy Park Alliance – a partnership among Duke Energy, AREVA, USEC and UniStar Nuclear Energy, will evaluate the U.S. Department of Energy site in Piketon as a potential location for a new nuclear power plant. During the initial licensing efforts, several hundred well-paying jobs will be created. An average of 1,400 to 1,800 jobs could be created during nuclear plant construction with a peak of about 3,000 or more workers and once in operation, the plan is expected to employ 400-700 permanent workers.

## 6. OLD BUSINESS

### a. ARC/EDA Project Status

Michele Throckmorton, OVRDC Economic Development Coordinator referred to Tab #6a and advised that changes since the May 2009 meeting are shown in bold print. She advised under Area Development, the Eden Park Sanitary Sewer Expansion Project (Scioto County) will be considered in FY 2010 after the state budget is passed with reconsideration at that time. She indicated due to the availability of additional federal funds, the New Richmond Front Street Downtown Revitalization Project (Clermont County) was added and the application was forwarded to GOA (Governor's Office of Appalachia). Also forward to GOA was the Family Health Care Center X-Ray Equipment Project (Scioto County).

### b. Connecting Appalachia Broadband Initiative Update

Mr. Hemmings wanted to update everyone on this project. He advised our CEDS Committee met and they recommended the board make the project a priority for the region, which they did at last month's meeting. Resolutions were then sent to our 12 counties and 11 have been approved with the majority of signed copies returned to OVRDC.

He referred to Tab #6b which contained a news release advising The Southern Ohio Health Care Network (SOHCN) announced on June 10, 2009 the award of an \$18 million FCC-funded contract to Horizon Telcom for construction of a state-of-the-art fiber optic network across thirteen counties in Southern Ohio. This contract represents Phase 1 of a plan called Connecting Appalachia that will extend the same broadband benefits across all 34 rural counties of the 17,000 square mile SOHCN service area in southern and eastern Ohio. In order to make sure our county's need are being served as this project continues to develop, Mr. Hemmings asked that each county choose a representative to be part of a committee that will meet via conference call regarding the progress of this project. He asked that the name and information be sent to Sharon Clark at OVRDC.

## 7. NEW BUSINESS

### a. Audit/Finance Committee Recommendation

Mrs. Banchy-McIlwain advised the Finance Committee (Bob Proud, Roger Rhonemus, Rebecca Banchy-McIlwain and John Hemmings) met today at the OVRDC Office in Waverly to go over the audit report with a representative from the CPA firm of Whited Seigneur Sams & Rahe. There were no findings and no questioned costs and the committee approved the report and recommended it be submitted to the OVRDC Executive Committee for approval. The auditing company will then submit to the state for review.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY JACK DEWEESE AND SECONDED BY KEN MORRISON TO ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND APPROVE THE RESULTS OF THE AUDIT REPORT AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION CARRIED.**

b. 2010 Census Partner Draft Resolution #2009/06-06

Mr. Hemmings referred to Tab #7b and requested a motion to designate April 1, 2010 as Census Day in the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission Region.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY MARGERY PAELTZ AND SECONDED BY PAUL HARRISON TO DESIGNATE APRIL 1, 2010 AS CENSUS DAY IN THE OHIO VALLEY REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION REGION AND JOIN THE REST OF THE NATION AS A 2010 CENSUS PARTNER. THE MOTION CARRIED.**

c. District 15 Schedule

Mr. Hemmings referred to Tab #7c which included the Tentative Schedule for OPWC District 15, Round 24.

d. RBOG Hardwood Kiln RFP

Sherrie Lanier, OVRDC Development Director referred to Tab #7d which contained a "Request for Proposal" for preliminary engineering/design and cost estimate of a proposed Hardwood Lumber Dry Kiln Facility. The results will be used as part of OVRDC's Hardwood Lumber Kiln Feasibility Study, funded in part by USDA Rural Development through its Rural Business Opportunities Grant program. The RFP was issued on June 12, 2009. The last day for submitting written inquiries is July 10, 2009 and the proposals are due July 17, 2009. The contract should be available at the August Board Meeting for approval.

e. Highland County CDBG RLF Administration

Highland County has an opportunity to apply for Revolving Loan Fund through the State CDBG program. The amount of Loan is \$500,000 and we have been asked to administer the program for \$10,000 administration fee if approved by the Executive Committee.

**MOTION MADE BY KEN MORRISON AND SECONDED BY TOM WHITE TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH HIGHLAND COUNTY TO ADMINISTER THE \$500,000 RLF LOAN THROUGH THE STATE CDBG PROGRAM FOR A \$10,000 ADMINISTRATIVE FEE. MOTION CARRIED.**

Mr. Hemmings presented a certificate to Ronda Kinnamon, Governor Strickland's Regional Office/Economic Development Director for Southern Ohio, in grateful appreciation for services rendered to the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission, and dedication to Economic, Workforce, and Business Development in Southern Ohio. She will be retiring June 30, 2009.

Mr. Proud announced that John Hemmings, OVRDC Executive Director has been nominated for membership in the Executive Order of the Ohio Commodores. Founded by Ohio Governor James A. Rhodes in 1966 during a ceremony at the Perry Monument at Put-In Bay, the Association of Ohio Commodores has been in existence for over 38 years. Named for the hero of the Battle of Lake Erie in 1813, Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry, and Governor Rhodes established the Executive Order of the Ohio Commodores (which encompasses membership in the Association) to honor 60 Ohio businessmen who accompanied him on Ohio's first international trade mission. Since then, over 300 men and women have been appointed to the Executive Order of the Ohio Commodore as recognition of their contributions to economic development in their communities, and to the State of Ohio. Membership in the Executive Order of the Ohio Commodores is only possible through appointment by Ohio's Governor in recognition for outstanding contributions to the economic development of the State of Ohio. It is considered Ohio's "most distinguished honor." Since the inception of the Association, the Ohio Commodores have served as international trade

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mission participants, received international delegations to the State of Ohio, and acted as the Governor's honor guard at key official events. Mr. Proud extended congratulations to Mr. Hemmings for receiving this honor.

**8. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Proud referred to the June Announcement Section and the Annual Full Commission Appreciation Banquet and Meeting Announcement. The meeting will be held September 24, 2009 at the Chillicothe City Middle School in Chillicothe, Ohio.

**9. OVRDC MEETINGS**

Mr. Proud advised that the next Executive Committee Meeting is schedule for August 27, 2009 at 1:30 pm at the Pike County Government Center in Waverly.

**10. ADJOURN AND INKIND**

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

**MOTION WAS MADE BY GARY HEATON; SECONDED BY MARGERY PAELTZ TO ADJOURN THE JUNE 25, 2009 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING AT 3:00 PM. MOTION CARRIED.**

Mr. Proud advised there will not be an Executive Committee Meeting in July.

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John W. Hemmings III, Executive Director & Commission Secretary

APPROVED:

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Bob Proud, Chairman

Attachments: Draft Resolution #2009/06-06