

OHIO VALLEY REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
Executive Committee Meeting

Minutes

March 26, 2009

University of Rio Grande
Rio Grande, 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 University of Rio Grande in Rio Grande, Ohio. Mr. Proud thanked Justin Fallon, Gallia County Commissioner and Caucus Chair for hosting the meeting and asked him 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

Justin Fallon (Interim Caucus Chairman), Gallia County Commissioner

Tom Morgan, Vinton County Commissioner

Margery Paeltz (Interim Caucus Chairman), Brown County Commissioner

Bob Proud, Clermont County Commissioner

Roger Rhonemus, Adams County Commissioner

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:

Brandon Kern, Representative for Senator Voinovich

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Proud stated that the draft of the February 26, 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 JACK DEWEESE, SECONDED BY MARGERY PAELTZ AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES, OF THE FEBRUARY 26, 2009 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING. THE MOTION PASSED.

3. FINANCE REPORT

Doug Corcoran, Ross County Commissioner and OVRDC Treasurer referred to Tab #3 in the Executive Committee Meeting Packet which contained the Schedule of Expenditures for the Year January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008 for the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission.

The bottom-line, the total revenues and expenditures for the fiscal year ending 12/31/08 was \$1,086,229. This amount represents our agency operations - \$648,518; fiscal agent projects - \$87,930; Commission expenses - \$26,857; our Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) program (we closed 2 loans) - \$303,000 and our RLF administration - \$19,934.

MOTION WAS MADE BY RAY BECRAFT AND SECONDED BY DOUG CORCORAN TO ADOPT THE FINANCE REPORT AS PRESENTED AND THE MOTION CARRIED.

4. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Hemmings referred to Tab #4 and highlighted the underlined sections. He advised on February 4, 2009, he participated in a meeting with staff from Senator Sherrod Brown's office in Chillicothe with the Ross County Commissioners and the Mayor of Chillicothe and his Chief of Staff. Senator Brown's staff wanted to discuss the economic stimulus bill and asked about possible projects locally that could be targeted for assistance with the stimulus funds. Some highway projects in Chillicothe and Ross County were discussed.

Mr. Hemmings advised on February 4th, Michele Throckmorton and Kim Reynolds met with Howerton Engineering and City of Portsmouth staff including Jennifer Hanlon and Mayor Kalb to discuss upcoming projects in the city as well as the Waterline Replacement Project in Franklin Furnace that would increase capacity to industries.

Under CDBG, Mr. Hemmings gave an update on the Village of Highland Sewer Collection System. On February 4, 2009, Mr. Hemmings attended a meeting in Hillsboro regarding the agreement between the Village of Highland and the Village of Leesburg and the Capacity Fee that Leesburg was wanting Highland to pay them. The meeting resulted in agreement that a new contract between the two villages needed to be developed, and a solution to the Capacity Fee and potentially high sewer rate for the residents of Highland was developed. On February 18th, he participated in a follow-up conference call about these issues.

Mr. Hemmings advised on February 12th, Dan Yarmesch, Jason Gillow, and Sherrie Lanier attended a meeting of the Corridor Study Economic Development Sub-committee. The Survey Report was presented by Dan Yarmesch and discussed by the Sub-committee. Plans for meeting with economic development personnel were made to discuss the industrial sites and the layout of the corridor report.

Mr. Hemmings advised on February 12, 2009, Rebecca Banchy-McIlwain attended the conference planning committee meeting with the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) along with the other community partners to help coordinate and conduct a small business conference entitled "It's All About Business~Facing the Economic Challenges of Small Business" scheduled for Wednesday, May 20, 2009. The conference will be a day long event and will be held on the campus of Shawnee State University at the Vern Riffe Center for the Arts and will focus on providing business entrepreneurs various tools that will enable business enhancement and stability. In addition, the planners of the event have included a "procurement cafe" which will offer the opportunity for a brief exchange between government and private entities with those seeking contractual information and consideration. This effort is consistent with Governor Ted Strickland's commitment to all Ohio businesses.

5. LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Mr. Hemmings referred to Tab #5 in the packet and highlighted the various sections. Included in the packet was a NADO News Release indicating the President signed FY2009 Omnibus Bill that provides \$410 billion in spending for nine appropriations bills that were left uncompleted during the 110th Congress. The bill contains \$30 billion more than was spent on similar measures for FY2008. Mr. Hemmings advised EDA spending includes:

Public Works: \$133.28 million, a reduction of \$14.77 million

Technical Assistance: \$9.4 million, equal to current funding

Economic Adjustment: \$35.33 million, a reduction of \$7 million

Mr. Hemmings also advised that the Omnibus Bill provides the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) with \$75 million, an increase of roughly \$2 million.

Mr. Hemmings also advised on March 10, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Economic Development, Emergency Management and Public Buildings held a hearing on reauthorization of the Economic Development Administration which focused on both the historic, recent performance and oversight of the agency.

Mr. Hemmings presented and discussed a handout on the Ohio Department of Transportation Summary of State and Stimulus Funding Across Ohio. Attached to the handout was the detail of project funding for District 6, District 8, District 9, and District 10 (all of which cover some portion of the OVRDC region). The total dollar amount of ODOT Stimulus Projects in District 6 is \$62,812,000; District 8 is \$61,943,401; District 9 is \$20,244,579; and District 10 is \$153,250,662.

6. OLD BUSINESS

a. ARC/EDA Project Status

Michele Throckmorton, OVRDC Economic Development Coordinator referred to Tab #6a and advised that changes to the status of the project applications were shown in bold print: **Area Development:** Lawrence County Medical Center Colon Cancer Screening (Lawrence County) has been approved. Loveland Downtown Redevelopment Project (Clermont County) has been approved. Pike County Manufacturing Center Infrastructure Project (Pike County) was forwarded to OVRDC. **Distressed County Projects:** Kelly Road Waterline Extension (Vinton

County) has been forwarded to GOA. **Access Road Projects:** Gallia S.R. 850 Access Road (Gallia County) was forwarded to OVRDC. **Rapid Response Projects-GOA Commitments:** Williamsburg 8th Street Water Tower Elevation and Rehabilitation (Clermont County) was approved. **Economic Development Administration:** Pike County Manufacturing Center Infrastructure Project (Pike County) has been submitted through Grants.gov.

Ms. Throckmorton added that the City of Hillsboro EDA application amount has been reduced from \$4,000,000 to \$2,500,000. This was a decision by EDA. She also indicated that there are two additional EDA projects from the region that may have the opportunity to be funded this fiscal year due to American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds being provided to EDA. Those projects include: City of Washington Court House WWTP upgrade (Fayette County) and The Point Intermodal Facility (Lawrence County).

Ms. Throckmorton also indicated that a few more OVRDC priority ARC projects may have a chance for funding this fiscal year due to project changes in the existing State of Ohio ARC Project Package. The projects that might be added for funding this fiscal year include: New Richmond Front Street Downtown Revitalization Phase I project (Clermont County) and Mifflin Township Waterline Extension (Pike County).

b. March 10th LDD Reception Update

Mr. Hemmings advised the Legislative Reception was held March 10, 2009 at Tony's Restaurante in Columbus, Ohio and was well attended by State Senators and Representatives from the State of Ohio. However, he indicated State Representative David Daniels and State Representative Todd Book were the only two legislators from our region in attendance.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. SOACDF Contract Termination

Mr. Hemmings referred to Tab #7a which contained a letter from Don Branson, Executive Director of the Southern Ohio Agricultural & Community Development Foundation. The letter served as written notification of their intent to cancel the personal service contract with OVRDC effective June 30, 2009. Mr. Branson indicated in the letter the termination of the contract was due to the economic environment and extreme budgets cuts of his funding. The amount of the contract was \$29,000. OVRDC will continue work until the end of May.

b. SARE Alternative Energy Field Trip 4-13-09

Mr. Hemmings advised on April 13, 2009, OVRDC, in conjunction with Ohio State University South Centers and the Ohio Cooperative Development Center is hosting a field trip to visit Alternative Energy facilities in the Southwest Ohio Area. The visits will include Twin Rivers Technologies, a biodiesel plant in Cincinnati, Ohio, as well as the Dull Homestead, a farm that showcases alternative energy use north of Dayton, Ohio. Please RSVP to Dan Yarmesch by no later than March 31, 2009.

c. OVRDC New Member Orientation 4-30-09

Mr. Hemmings advise OVRDC will host a New Member Orientation on Thursday, April 30, 2009 at 11:00 am at the Pike Government Center in Waverly with Lunch provided. Further information will be forthcoming.

d. CEDS Committee Meeting 4-2-09

Mr. Hemmings referred to Tab #7d which included a 2009 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs) revised timeline for the year. The first meeting of the CEDs Committee will be held April 2, 2009 at 10:00 am at the OVRDC Office in Waverly to develop goals and begin development of objectives for the development of the new Strategic Plan.

e. Discussion on Ohio Senate Bill #1

Mr. Hemmings referred to Tab #7e which included an excerpt of Ohio Senate Bill 1 and the section to allocate certain funds for broadband initiative projects. A discussion was held and it was agreed to approve OVRDC to issue a letter of support for Ohio Senate Bill 1 to Senator Carey.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY TRACY CALL AND SECONDED BY TOM MORGAN TO ISSUE A LETTER OF SUPPORT FROM OVRDC TO SUPPORT SENATE BILL #1. THE MOTION CARRIED.

f. Discussion on Rail Regulation

Mr. Hemmings referred to insert under tab #7f which included information regarding the Go21 initiative. Mr. Hemmings met with Michael Gaynor who requested OVRDC to go on record to write a letter of support in support of continuing the Staggers Act which was passed in 1980 to deregulate rail. A discussion was held and it was decided to table this item until next month's meeting.

TANF/Title XX

Mr. Hemmings referred to a draft letter to Governor Strickland opposing the proposed elimination of \$62 million dollars of TANF/Title XX dollars (statewide) that are predominantly used to provide child welfare services throughout our state. He requested approval for OVRDC to send a letter to Governor Strickland expressing opposition of the elimination of the \$62 million dollars of TANF/Title XX dollars.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY DOUG CORCORAN AND SECONDED BY JUSTIN FALLON TO APPROVE OVRDC ISSUING A LETTER TO GOVERNOR STRICKLAND OPPOSING THE ELIMINATION OF \$62 MILLION DOLLARS OF TANF/Title XX DOLLARS. THE MOTION CARRIED.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Proud referred to Tab #8 and the March Announcement section.


9. OVRDC MEETINGS

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

10. ADJOURN AND INKIND

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

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MARGERY PAELTZ AND SECONDED BY ROGER RHONEMUS TO ADJOURN THE MARCH 26TH, 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

**RESOLUTION
OF THE
OHIO VALLEY REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

WHEREAS, the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will likely soon announce the availability of grant funding under their Rural Housing and Economic Development program for the purpose of providing support for innovative housing and economic development activities in rural areas; and

WHEREAS, this HUD Rural Housing and Economic Development program deems projects that provide assistance to businesses/homeowners/developers, etc. as potential eligible activities; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission (OVRDC) has a need for additional grant resources to expand and focus its assistance on economic development activities to assist low-to-moderate income residents such as retention and expansion efforts with existing businesses and regional marketing efforts to attract new businesses to the region;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Executive Committee of the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission (OVRDC) authorizes the Executive Director to prepare and submit said grant application to the Department of Housing and Urban Development for their Rural Housing and Economic Development program in the amount of up to \$150,000 to be matched by \$60,000 in cash and in-kind match over 36 months and that the Executive Director accept and affirm any reasonable grant offer that may result from said application.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution will be forwarded to the appropriate agencies, member governments, or other interested parties.

ADOPTED THIS 30TH DAY OF APRIL, 2009

Signed:


Robert L. Proud, Chairman

Witnessed:


John W. Hemmings III
Executive Director & Commission Secretary