

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

**Minutes**

May 28, 2009

Pike Government Center

Waverly, Ohio

|                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Chairman:</i>      | <i>Bob Proud</i>      |
| <i>Vice-Chairman:</i> | <i>Roger Rhonemus</i> |
| <i>Treasurer:</i>     | <i>Doug Corcoran</i>  |

**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 Government Center in Pike County. Mr. Proud then asked Margery Paeltz, Brown 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*  
*Lonnie Best, Proxy for Les Boggs, Lawrence County Commissioner*  
*Russ Brewer, Adams County Member-at-Large*  
*Eugene Collins, Scioto County Minority Caucus Chairman*  
*Doug Corcoran, Ross County Commissioner*  
*Paul Harrison, Gallia County Member-at-Large*  
*Gary Heaton, Highland County Commissioner*  
*Rick McNelly, Jackson County Private Sector Representative*  
*Tom Morgan, Vinton County Commissioner*  
*Ken Morrison, Clermont County Member at Large*  
*Margery Paeltz, Brown County Commissioner*  
*Bob Proud, Clermont County Commissioner*  
*Roger Rhonemus, Adams County Commissioner*  
*Harry Rider, Pike County Commissioner*  
*Charles Stevens, Highland County Private Sector Representative*  
*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*  
*Sharon Clark, OVRDC Administrative Assistant*  
*Jason Gillow, OVRDC Research/Planning Specialist*  
*Daniel Yarmesch, OVRDC Economic Development Specialist*

**Guests:**

*Blaine Beekman, Pike County Commissioner*  
*David Hodapp, Representative for Senator Brown*  
*Benjamin Keller, ODOT District 6*  
*Brandon Kern, Representative for Senator Voinovich*  
*Cynthia King, US Census Bureau*  
*Della Rucker, Jacobs APG*  
*Lynn Stevens, USDA Rural Development*  
*Ted West, Pike County Commissioner*  
*Tim Wojdacz, Engineer City of Wellston*

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Proud stated that the draft of the April 30, 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 KEN MORRISON, SECONDED BY ED ARMSTONG TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 30, 2009 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**3. FINANCE REPORT**

Mr. Proud introduced Doug Corcoran, OVRDC Treasurer who presented the Financial Report. Mr. Corcoran referred to Tab #3 and the March 31, 2009 Balance Sheet which reflected the total assets of \$979,260.96; total liabilities of \$156,169.86 and total equities of \$823,091.10 and a balance of \$0.00.

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

**MOTION WAS MADE BY RICK MCNELLY AND SECONDED BY HARRY RIDER TO ADOPT THE FINANCE REPORT AS PRESENTED AND THE MOTION CARRIED.**

Mr. Corcoran advised the audit of the OVRDC financial statements being completed by the firm of Whited Seigneur Sams & Rahe CPAs is ongoing and the final report should be available by the June 25, 2009 meeting.

**4. 2010 CENSUS**

Mr. Proud introduced Cynthia King, Southern Ohio Partnership Specialist for the 2010 Decennial Census with the U.S. Census Bureau. Ms. King distributed literature regarding the upcoming 2010 Census. She said the goal of the Census Bureau's partnership program is to combine the strengths of local governments, community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, schools, media, businesses and others, to ensure a complete and accurate 2010 Census. She indicated:

- Every year more than \$300 billion in federal funds are awarded to states and communities based on census data;
- Census data guides local decision-makers in important community planning efforts, including where to build new roads, hospitals and schools;
- Census data affects your voice in Congress. The census determines how many seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives as well as the redistricting of state legislatures, county and city councils and voting districts.

Ms. King gave a power point presentation and reviewed the 2010 census milestones with questions and answers. She also discussed the opportunity to become a census partner and encouraged the members to complete the 2010 Census Partnership Agreement form. Ms. King thanked the Executive Committee members and reminded everyone "It's in our Hands" and for more information, please email her at [cynthia.j.king@census.gov](mailto:cynthia.j.king@census.gov) or check the website at [www.2010census.gov](http://www.2010census.gov).

**5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Hemmings referred to Tab #5 and the May 2009 Director's Report and highlighted the various sections.

He advised during the month of April he along with Rebecca Banchy-McIlwain and Juanita Bragg worked on the preparation for the single audit process for OVRDC for 2008. He indicated on April 8, 2009 they met with the new IPA firm, Whited Seigneur Sams & Rahe (WSSR), LLP – CPA's and agreed on the timeline and plan of

action for the audit. The on-site field work has been scheduled for May 4th through May 7th. The audit report of the financial statements will be presented for approval by our June 25, 2009 Executive Committee meeting.

Mr. Hemmings advised on April 7, Sherrie Lanier attended a site selection briefing for Ross County in Chillicothe. Ross County's preparedness for attracting industry was tested by an exercise that included a "mock" company requesting information and then touring the county. A site selection consultant conducted the exercise and presented the results to Ross County officials. The information provided will serve as an excellent tool for the county to better market themselves to potential companies.

On April 13<sup>th</sup>, Michele Throckmorton and Kim Reynolds attended a meeting along with Elaine Collins, Adams County Economic Development Director, Adams County Commissioners, Ronda Kinnamon, ODOT staff, Congresswoman Jean Schmidt, Representative Danny Bupp, Senator Tom Niehaus, Nan Cahall of Senator Voinovich's staff, and GE staff. The meeting was held at the GE Peebles facility in Peebles, Ohio. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the current road problems GE has with oversized trucks carrying jet engines and solutions to widen the road. Michele and Kim are working closely with Elaine Collins on a funding package for the project.

Mr. Hemmings indicated on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, the first Community Economic Development Strategy (CEDs) meeting was held at the OVRDC office in Waverly. It was agreed by the group to adopt the overall goals of the State of Ohio Strategic Plan, but focus on those that affect our region.

During the month of April 2009, business assistance focused on our Revolving Loan Fund job updates requests submitted to our loan clients, 9 companies for the period ending March 31, 2009. The results of the data collected on the number of the full time equivalent jobs at 03/31/09 was 188; compared to the data collected at 09/30/08 was 194. The total job numbers on our active clients is down by 6 full time jobs, which is not too bad compared to the overall economic climate we have experienced in our District.

## 6. OLD BUSINESS

### a. ARC/EDA Project Status

Sherrie Lanier, OVRDC Development Director reported for Michele Throckmorton who was unable to attend due to another meeting. Referring to Tab #6a, Mrs. Lanier stated the list of projects for the fiscal year 2009 was included in the packet and that the only change since the last Executive Committee meeting in April was under Area Development, the Hillsboro WWTP Expansion and Bypass elimination (Highland County) was forwarded to OVRDC for review.

### b. HUD RHED Update

Mr. Hemmings advised OVRDC was monitored on March 31<sup>st</sup> by the Columbus Office of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development for the existing HUD RHED Grant awarded to OVRDC. Under Tab #6b is a letter from Ms. Jorgelle Lawson, Director of the Office of Community Planning and Development, US Department of Housing and Urban Development – Columbus, Ohio Office. There were no findings, but there was a concern regarding performance measures. Also included is a response letter from Mr. Hemmings which addresses this concern by advising the remaining survey work will be completed by OVRDC staff by contacting the county building departments or other appropriate departments in the county. The survey results will be submitted to Cheryl Andrews of the HUD Office in Columbus, Ohio annually by the end of March through 2012. It was also pointed out by Ken Morrison that in conclusion HUD had determined that OVRDC had complied with the RHED Program requirements and that the grant should be closed in accordance with the Grant Agreement.

### c. Corridor Study Update

Mrs. Lanier advised the study is ongoing and she distributed a handout reflecting the SR32/US50/US35 Corridor Study Area. She advised the specific problem which the study will address is how to maintain

the great economic development potential of the SR 32 corridor while planning for anticipated future increases in traffic and congestion. She indicate this economic development corridor study will provide the detailed socioeconomic, demographic, business and industrial site information, which will supplement a transportation study of the corridor and that this corridor study is also related to more effective utilization and marketing of existing commercial and industrial sites in proximity to the corridor in the 12 counties in the study area. Mrs. Lanier introduced Dan Yarmesch, OVRDC Economic Development Specialist. Mr. Yarmesch discussed the survey of businesses along the corridor that was conducted in 2008 and shared the summary of results of the survey. He indicated the project should be completed by the end of this year and regular updates will be given every other month at the Executive Committee Meeting.

d. Recommendations for Reauthorization of Federal Surface Transportation Programs

Mr. Hemmings referred to Tab #6d which included the updated version of the Recommendations for the Reauthorization of Federal Surface Transportation Programs as developed jointly by the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), The Ohio Association of Regional Councils (OARC), and Transportation MATTERS. (The draft was discussed at the April Meeting). Mr. Hemmings asked for any comments on the recommendations he could pass on to Mr. John R. Getchey, President of OARC who will in turn forward to Congress as Ohio's position on the transportation bill regarding the upcoming reauthorization of the Federal Surface Transportation Program. One comment received was that there should be fair distribution of funds to local areas. Mr. Hemmings pointed out that the possible vehicle miles traveled (VMT) tax could hurt the OVRDC region given that so many of our residents travel great distances to their places of employment.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. Ohio Local Development District Application-Draft Resolution #2009/05-03

Mr. Hemmings referred to Tab #7a which included a draft copy of the annual State Local Development District (LDD) application Resolution #2009/05-03 for review and approval, indicating this was for OVRDC's annual State LDD grant support.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY KEN MORRISON AND SECONDED BY ED ARMSTRONG TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #2009/05-03 AUTHORIZING JOHN HEMMINGS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION, INCLUDING THE WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET, TO THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF AT LEAST \$130,494 (ONE-THIRD OF AMOUNT APPROVED IN THE OHIO BIENNIUM BUDGET), THE MOTION WAS PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

b. EDA Economic Adjustment Planning Grant Application-Draft Resolution #2009/05-04

Mr. Hemmings referred to Tab #7b which included a draft copy of the EDA Economic Adjustment Assistance Program grant application Resolution #2009/05-04 for review and approval, indicating this was for the continuation of the Tri-County Economic Recovery Strategy effort (Clinton, Fayette, and Highland County) through the Economic Adjustment Assistance Program.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY GARY HEATON AND SECONDED BY RICK MCNELLY TO AUTHORIZE THE COMMISSION CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AND SUBMIT AN EDA ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION, ALONG WITH ALL SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION TO THE EDA FOR THE FEDERAL REQUEST OF UP TO \$150,000 TO BE MATCHED WITH NONFEDERAL CASH OF \$50,000 FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR. THE MOTION CARRIED.**

- c. EDA Economic Planning Partnership Grant Amendment, Draft Resolution #2009/05-05  
Mr. Hemmings referred to Tab #7c which included a draft copy of the USDOC EDA grant amendment Resolution #2009/05-05 for review and approval .

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY PAUL HARRISON AND SECONDED BY ROGER RHONEMUS TO AUTHORIZE THE OHIO VALLEY REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION TO SUBMIT THE REQUESTED APPLICATION FORMS AND MATERIAL FOR THE ONE TIME EDA GRANT INCREASE AS AN AMENDMENT OF THE CURRENT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT PLANNING PARTNERSHIP FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AWARD AND AUTHORIZES THE COMMISSION CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AND SUBMIT SAID DOCUMENTS, ALONG WITH ALL SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION TO THE EDA FOR THE FEDERAL GRANT INCREASE OF \$10,189 TO BE MATCHED WITH NONFEDERAL CASH IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,367. THE MOTION CARRIED.**

- d. Fiscal Agent for GOA Internship Grant  
Rebecca Banchy-McIlwain, OVRDC Finance Director advised the Governor's Office of Appalachia has requested OVRDC to again act as fiscal agent for the summer internship grant (\$7,500) and requested a motion to approve.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY DOUG CORCORAN AND SECONDED BY TOM MORGAN TO AUTHORIZE OVRDC TO SERVE AS FISCAL AGENT FOR A GRANT UP TO \$7,500 FOR THE GOA ARC SUMMER INTERN PROGRAM FOR THE SUMMER OF 2009. THE MOTION CARRIED.**

- e. AAT Marketing Manager Contract  
Mrs. Banchy-McIlwain advised the Appalachian Adventure Trail Advisory Committee met this month and recommended extending the contract of the Independent Consultant, Ms. Carolyn Rizutto to December 31, 2009 and increase the amount of \$5,000 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$16,000.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY RICK MCNELLY AND SECONDED BY MARGERY PAELTZ TO EXTEND THE CONTRACT FOR THE APPALACIAN ADVENTURE TRAIL INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT (MS. CAROLYN RIZUTTO) TO DECEMBER 31, 2009 AND AUTHORIZE AN INCREASE OF \$5,000 FOR A TOTAL CONTRACT AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$16,000. THE MOTION CARRIED.**

- f. Fiscal Year 2010 ARC/EDA Budget  
Mr. Hemmings referred to Tab #7f, which included information from NADO NEWS containing information from President Obama's detailed budget which was released recently. The budget contains \$284 million for the Economic Development Administration (EDA) an increase of \$11.2 million. Despite the increase, the budget proposes to shift roughly \$60 million from the agency's public works account to two initiatives. One is to support the creation of regional innovation clusters that leverage regions' existing competitive strengths to boost job creation and economic growth, and the other is to support networks of business incubators that encourage entrepreneurial activity in economically distressed areas and regions. However, these are currently eligible activities under the public works program so there really is no need for the set-aside of the \$60 million.

The budget request contains \$76 million for the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), an increase of \$1 million.

Mr. Hemmings advised he would provide further updates of the EDA, ARC, and other OVRDC related budget situations as they become available.

Mr. Proud asked if there was any new business:

OVRDC GENERAL FUND

Mrs. Banchy-McIlwain advised the Finance Committee met today at the OVRDC Office. The Finance Committee members are Doug Corcoran, Roger Rhonemus, Bob Proud, John Hemmings and Rebecca Banchy-McIlwain. The Committee recommended the distribution of the per capita (general fund) resolutions to member counties for fiscal year 2010 to be based on the recent 2008 population estimates. The committee recommended retaining the present per capita rate amount of .17 cents per person per county. Mrs. McIlwain distributed a chart with the 2009 and 2010 amounts and with the approval of the Finance Committee's recommendation the general fund amount would increase by \$495 (from \$111,516.00 in 2009 to \$112,011.00 in 2010). She advised resolutions will be mailed to each county, and asked for a motion to accept this recommendation.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY ED ARMSTRONG AND SECONDED BY KEN MORRISON TO APPROVE THE FINANCE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION FOR THE 2010 GENERAL FUND BUDGET TO APPROVE THE PER CAPITA RATE AT 17 CENTS USING THE 2008 POPULATION ESTIMATES FROM EACH COUNTY. THE MOTION CARRIED.**

**8. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Proud referred to the May Announcement Section.

**9. OVRDC MEETINGS**

Mr. Proud advised that the next Executive Committee Meeting is schedule for June 25, 2009 at 1:30 pm at the Pike Government Center in Waverly.

Mrs. Banchy-McIlwain advised the OVRDC Finance Committee will meet June 25 at the OVRDC Office.

**10. ADJOURN AND INKIND**

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

**MOTION WAS MADE BY DOUG CORCORAN; SECONDED BY MARGERY PAELTZ TO ADJOURN THE MAY 28, 2009 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING. MOTION CARRIED.**

---

John W. Hemmings III, Executive Director & Commission Secretary

APPROVED:

---

Bob Proud, Chairman

Attachments: Resolution #2009/05-03  
Resolution #2009/05-04  
Resolution #2009/05-05