

OHIO VALLEY REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
Executive Committee Meeting

Minutes

September 24, 2009

Chillicothe Middle School

Chillicothe, Ohio

Chairman: Bob Proud

Vice-Chairman: Roger Rhonemus

Treasurer: Doug Corcoran

1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

OVRDC Chairman, Bob Proud, called the meeting to order and stated that a representative from at least one more county was needed for a quorum and that all executive actions would be held until seven counties were represented at the meeting. Mr. Proud welcomed everyone to the Chillicothe Middle School in Chillicothe, Ohio and asked Ken Morrison, Member-at-Large from Clermont County, to lead the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Those in attendance were as follows:

Executive Committee Members:

Russ Brewer, Adams County Member-at-Large

Eugene Collins, Scioto County Minority Representative

Doug Corcoran, Ross County Commissioner

Jack DeWeese, Fayette County Commissioner

Paul Harrison, Gallia County Member-at-Large

Gary Heaton, Highland County Commissioner

Tom Morgan, Vinton County Commissioner

Ken Morrison, Clermont County Member at Large

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

Michele Throckmorton, OVRDC Economic Development Coordinator

Sharon Clark, OVRDC Administrative Assistant

Guests:

Nan Cahall, Representative for Senator Voinovich

Cindy Cunningham, Representative for Congressman Space

Ben Keller, Fayette County

Raymond Pryor, Ohio State Representative 85th District

Fred River, ODOT District 9

Lynn Stevens, USDA Rural Development

Ted West, Pike County Commissioner

Mr. Proud advised a quorum was now present and he also recognized and welcomed State Representative Raymond Pryor.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Proud stated a quorum was now present and that the draft of the August 27, 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 AND SECONDED BY EUGENE COLLINS TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 27, 2009 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING. THE MOTION PASSED.

3. FINANCE REPORT

Mr. Proud introduced Doug Corcoran, OVRDC Treasurer who presented the Financial Report. Mr. Corcoran referred to Tab #3 and the July 31, 2009 Balance Sheet which reflected the total assets of \$590,164.25; total liabilities of \$32,064.16 and total equities of \$558,100.09 and a balance of \$0.00.

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

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

4. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Hemmings referred to Tab #4 and the August 2009 Director's Report and he highlighted the underlined sections of the report.

Mr. Hemmings advised on August 21, 2009, Bob Hickey, Ohio Economic Development Representative for the US Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA) conducted an evaluation of the OVRDC District and its activities for the EDA Chicago Regional Office. Joe Hadley of the Northeast Ohio Four County Regional Planning and Development Organization (NEFCO) served as the Peer Reviewer. Mr. Hemmings served as the Peer Reviewer on August 18, 2009 for the Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District's evaluation. Mr. Hemmings advised the results of the evaluation should be received soon.

Mr. Hemmings advised Rebecca Banchy-McIlwain attended the town hall meeting held at the Muskingum County Welcome Center in Zanesville, Ohio on August 31, 2009. Also attending were the U.S. Agriculture Secretary, Tom Vilsack, Senator Sherrod Brown and Congressman Zack Space as part of the Rural Tour stop (www.ruraltour.gov). They listened to local residents, many of them farmers, about how the federal government can help them and get through challenges facing their communities.

Jason Gillow attended the OGRIP Forum meeting held at the ODOT Central Office in Columbus, Ohio on August 31, 2009. Project updates at the OGRIP Forum included information on their 2009 GIS County Survey. This is an annual inventory of county spatial data assets and GIS activities for the State of Ohio. The statewide results of the information gathered detailing local government GIS activities in Ohio are summarized and posted to the OGRIP website. Mr. Hemmings stated that it was important for counties to respond.

Mr. Hemmings attended the 2009 Governor's Excellence in Exporting Awards Program in Columbus, Ohio. Twenty-seven companies and organizations received awards including Freeman Schwabe Machinery from Batavia.

Kim Reynolds worked on preparing for Ohio Public Works Commission Round 24, including distributing applications to be prepared before the October 2, 2009 deadline. She also worked on the formation of the Ohio Public Works District 15 Full Integrating Committee of which the current member's term has expired.

Jason Gillow and Sherrie Lanier held a CEDS Committee meeting on August 27, 2009 to discuss the CEDS process and plan. Strategies were presented, discussed and approved by the group, with expected outcomes and responsible entities identified. Sherrie Lanier will incorporate this information into the final report, with a copy sent to the CEDS committee members for approval at the September CEDS meeting.

Sherrie Lanier worked with the City of Hillsboro, the Ohio EPA and EDA during August to facilitate Hillsboro's Wastewater Treatment Plant Project. Currently, the EPA and EDA are reviewing the source of certain funds in the project. A legal opinion is expected soon, at which time we will know which fiscal year (2009 or 2010) the project will be funded by EDA.

Mr. Hemmings advised the obituary for Herald Smith, Jr. was included. Mr. Smith, a long time member of the OVRDC Minority Caucus from Lawrence County passed away September 5, 2009 in Ironton, Ohio.

Mr. Hemmings also gave a brief update and summary on the Connecting Appalachia broadband initiative, advised that John R. Fernandez was confirmed as the new Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development, shared an article about USEC from the Chillicothe Gazette, and advised that USDA Rural Development has opened its competition for Value-Added Producer Grants.

5. OLD BUSINESS

a. ARC/EDA 09 Project Status

Michele Throckmorton, OVRDC Economic Development Coordinator referred to Tab #5a and advised all projects for 2009 have been approved except for Mifflin Township Waterline (Pike County) which is pending ARC approval.

b. RBOG Hardwood Kiln Update

Sherrie Lanier advised at the last Executive Committee Meeting it was decided to reject all responses to the Request for Proposals for Preliminary Engineering/Design and Cost Estimate of a Hardwood Lumber Dry Kiln Facility. This was due to information gathered by OVRDC staff and the Hardwood Dry Kiln Committee members concerning the fact that most hardwood dry kilns are pre-designed. She indicated USDA Rural Development staff and kiln consultants have been contacted and it has been suggested to gather further information and develop a business plan for a hardwood dry kiln. Mr. Hemmings also thanked Tim Ross from Clermont County who was very helpful in consulting and providing names of kiln consultants.

c. Corridor Study Update

Sherrie Lanier advised that she has been gathering further information on utility location at the industrial sites along the corridor and that Jason Gillow is mapping that information as well as other datasets for inclusion in the final report which will be presented to the Corridor Study Committee in November.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Job Ready sites Program (JRS) Update

Mr. Hemmings advised under Tab #6a was information regarding the Third Funding Round of the Ohio Job Ready Sites Program (JRS). The tentative schedule is for guidelines and pre-applications to be released in the fall of 2009, with award decisions to be made in the fall of 2010.

b. ARC Unemployment Report

Mr. Hemmings referred to Tab #6b in the packet which included information for review regarding the Appalachian Regional Commission Employment Report for the second quarter of 2009. Mr. Hemming briefly covered the executive summary referring to the attached tables of information that backed up the summary. Mr. Hemmings stated that this data might assist communities in pursuing grant funding by showing the economic needs of the region.

c. EDA Data Distress Tool

Mr. Hemmings referred to Tab #6c which includes information from NADO regarding the new EDA Economic Distress Data Tool. The national data tool was designed to evaluate/determine economic distress levels in U.S. communities and regions, including if your counties may match EDA's distress criteria. This information is valuable when completing grant applications.

d. OARC (Ohio Association of Regional Councils)

Mr. Hemmings included under Tab #6d information from the Ohio Association of Regional Councils (OARC) regarding their Fall Legislative Priorities including their support for recognition of Rural Transportation Planning Organizations, which would benefit OVRDC and its member counties.

7. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Proud referred to the September Announcement Section.

8. **OVRDC MEETINGS**

Mr. Proud advised the next Executive Committee Meeting is scheduled for 1:30 pm, Thursday, October 22, 2009 at the Pike County Government Center in Waverly.

9. **ADJOURN AND INKIND**

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

MOTION WAS MADE BY GARY HEATON; SECONDED BY HARRY RIDER TO ADJOURN THE SEPTEMBER 24, 2009 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING AT 5:00 PM. MOTION CARRIED.

John W. Hemmings III, Executive Director & Commission Secretary

APPROVED:

Bob Proud, Chairman