

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

*Minutes  
April 22, 2010  
Pike County Government Center  
Waverly, Ohio*

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

**1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER**

Roger Rhonemus, OVRDC Vice-Chairman, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. for Bob Proud, OVRDC Chairman who was unable to attend the meeting. Mr. Rhonemus stated that a quorum was present and welcomed everyone to the Pike County Government Center in Waverly, Ohio. Mr. Rhonemus then asked, Jack DeWeese, Fayette County Commissioner to lead the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. Mr. Rhonemus then asked those in attendance to introduce themselves, since new members were present. Those in attendance were as follows:

**Executive Committee Members Present:**

*Lonnie Best, Proxy for Les Boggs, Lawrence County Commissioner  
Eugene Collins, Scioto County Minority Representative  
Doug Corcoran, Ross County Commissioner  
Jack DeWeese, Fayette County Commissioner  
Joe Foster, Gallia County Commissioner  
Rick Griffith, Lawrence County Private Sector Representative  
Gary Heaton, Highland County Commissioner  
Ralph Jennings, Proxy for Ben Houser, Brown County Private Sector Representative  
Rick McNelly, Jackson County Private Sector Representative  
Ken Morrison, Clermont County Member at Large  
Lori Neal, Gallia County Member-at-Large  
Margery Paeltz, Brown County Commissioner  
Debora Plymail, Adams County Member-at-Large  
Roger Rhonemus, Adams County Commissioner  
Harry Rider, Pike County Commissioner  
Charles Stevens, Highland County Private Sector Representative  
Tom Walton, Jackson County Commissioner  
Thomas White, Ross County Private Sector Representative*

**Staff Present:**

*John Hemmings, OVRDC Executive Director  
Rebecca Banchy-McIlwain, OVRDC Finance Director  
Juanita Bragg, OVRDC Bookkeeper/Network Administrator  
Jason Gillow, OVRDC Research/Planning Specialist  
Sharon Clark, OVRDC Administrative Assistant*

**Guests Present:**

*Gary Abernathy, Representative, Senator Voinovich's Office  
Blaine Beekman, Pike County Commissioner  
Cindy Cunningham, Representative Congressman Zack Space's Office  
Justin Fallon, Gallia County Commissioner  
Nick Gatz, Representative, Senator Voinovich's Office*

*David Hodapp, Representative Senator Brown's Office*  
*Fred River, ODOT District 9*  
*Pete Wilkes, Pike County Community & Economic Development Director*  
*Ted West, Pike County Commissioner*

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Rhonemus stated that the draft of the March 24, 2010 Executive Committee meeting minutes was mailed to members, along with the meeting notice. He asked for any corrections or additions to the minutes. Mr. Rhonemus then asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

**IT WAS MOVED BY GARY HEATON AND SECONDED BY CHARLES STEVENS TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 24, 2010 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING. THE MOTION PASSED.**

**3. FINANCE REPORT**

Mr. Rhonemus introduced OVRDC Treasurer, Doug Corcoran. Mr. Corcoran referred to Tab #3 and the February 28, 2010 Balance Sheet which reflected the total assets of \$797,914.64; total liabilities of \$54,676.71 and total equities of \$743,237.93 and a balance of \$0.00.

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

**4. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

John Hemmings, OVRDC Executive Director referred to Tab #4 and highlighted the various sections.

Mr. Hemmings advised he traveled to Washington, DC with Bob Proud, OVRDC Chairman on February 28 to March 4, 2010 to attend the Development District Association of Appalachia (DDAA) Annual Conference, the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Washington Policy Conference and they also met with legislators/staff on Capitol Hill. Legislative office visits included Congresswoman Jean Schmidt, Congressman Mike Turner, Congressman Charlie Wilson, Congressman Steve Austria, Congressman Zack Space, Senator George Voinovich and Senator Sherrod Brown.

Michele Throckmorton, OVRDC Development Director and Mr. Hemmings attended a meeting with Holzer Hospital staff, Holzer Clinic staff and Fred Deel of the Governor's Office of Appalachia on March 18, 2010. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss possible funding for the Holzer Regional Medical Imaging System project.

During March 2010, Jason Gillow received the final environmental review correspondence from ODNr for the Village of Rio Grande Sewer Project. The Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was published in the local paper on April 2, 2010 and the Request for Release of Funds (RROF) form was signed. The RROF was mailed to the ODOD Office of Housing and Community Partnerships in April.

Mr. Hemmings advised on March 3, 2010, Rebecca Banchy-McIlwain met with the SBA District Director, Thomas K. Mueller to discuss business activities within our region. The meeting was scheduled by Mr. Mueller in order to increase SBA's outreach with other business assistance partners throughout Ohio. Mr. Mueller has agreed to help identify OVRDC as an entrepreneurship resources provider in the next annual issue of the Central & Southern Ohio Small Business Resource magazine, which should be released by July 2010.

Mr. Hemmings included in the meeting packet updated information regarding the 2010 Census. Starting May 1, 2010 residents who have not returned their form will be visited by a Census Bureau employee, called an enumerator or census taker, to collect the information in person. This process will take place until the end of July 2010. Mr. Hemmings shared some information about preparing residents for Census enumerators coming to their homes. Residents may call the Detroit Regional Census Center to confirm that the census taker is employed by the Census Bureau: 313-396-5200. A map showing the to-date 2010 Ohio Census Participation Rates was distributed to attendees. Mr. Hemmings also shared a map showing the 2010 Ohio Census Participation Rates and identified that the OVRDC region had several areas that had lower participation rates than the State average.

Mr. Hemmings included information in the meeting packet about a North Carolina congressman who wants to replace Ulysses Grant with Ronald Reagan on the \$50 bill. Clermont and Brown County Ohio have passed a joint resolution urging Congress to keep Grant on the \$50 bill. Mr. Hemmings stated that he would try to get a copy of that resolution and have a similar one for passage at the next OVRDC Executive Committee meeting in May.

Mr. Hemmings also referred to a News Release from the Ohio Department of Agriculture indicating they will soon begin aerial treatments designed to slow, suppress or eradicate the gypsy moth population in Ohio. Treatment will begin in southern Ohio on April 27 and will move north as weather permits. Counties in the OVRDC region scheduled are Highland, Pike and Vinton. Daily updates on treatment progress across the state are available by calling 614-387-0907 or 1-800-282-1955, Ext. 37, any time after 5 p.m. For up-to-date information, the web site is [www.agri.ohio.gov](http://www.agri.ohio.gov).

Mr. Hemmings included a News Release from the Ohio Department of Agriculture regarding the availability of Farmers Market Access Project Funds. In an effort to make fresh produce more available to all Ohioans, the Ohio Department of Agriculture is providing grants to farmers markets through the Farmers Market Access Project to help fund new infrastructure to accept Electronic Benefits Transfer. This would allow the electronic processing of food assistance through the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services' Direction Card. Funds for this program were made available by congressional appropriation, with \$26,000 available for 2010. Awarded grants will range from \$500 to \$1,000. For more information about the Farmers Market Access Project, or to apply, visit [www.agri.ohio.gov](http://www.agri.ohio.gov). For a listing of Ohio's farmers markets, visit [www.ohioproud.org](http://www.ohioproud.org).

Mr. Hemmings also included in the meeting packet information on new federal regulations for mountaintop removal that could impact Ohio coal industry.

**5. OLD BUSINESS**

a. ARC/EDA FY'2010 Project Status

Mr. Rhonemus introduced John Hemmings, OVRDC Executive Director who presented the report in the absence of Michele Throckmorton, OVRDC Development Director who was attending a conference out of town. Mr. Hemmings advised the following about ARC projects: the Hillsboro WWTP Expansion and By-Pass Elimination Project (Highland) has been approved; Eden Park Sanitary Sewer Project (Scioto) Approved; Portsmouth Water Systems Upgrade (Scioto) Approved; Coalton Village and Coal Township Wastewater Improvements (Jackson) forwarded to ARC; Frankfort Water System Improvements (Ross) forwarded to ARC; Perry Township Waterline Extension (Brown) Approved; Richland/Jackson Townships Waterline Extension (Vinton) submitted to GOA; Pike Hospital Diagnostic/Medical Equipment Project (Pike) Forwarded to ARC; Hamden Sludge Handling Project (Vinton) Submitted to GOA; Appalachian Environmental Infrastructure Energy initiative (RCAP) Forwarded to ARC; and GE Peebles/Jaybird Road Restructuring (Adams County) Approved. Concerning EDA projects, the Pike County Manufacturing Center Infrastructure Project (Pike) has been forwarded to EDA Washington.

b. Connecting Appalachia Update

Mr. Hemmings referred to Tab #5b which included an executive summary of the second round application for \$66 million (\$28 million match from the private sector) that was submitted to the National Telecommunications & Information Administration (NTIA) by the private-sector applicant Horizon of Chillicothe, Ohio for "The Connecting Appalachian Ohio Middle Mile Consortium" for a regional middle-mile fiber backbone. Mr. Hemmings indicated this application focuses on 34 counties, the same counties as the Round 1 stimulus application. Further updates will be made available when received.

c. Economic Adjustment Recovery Strategy Update

Mr. Hemmings advised the EDA Grant award has been received and Rafael Underwood is again under contract as of April 5, 2010 as the Economic Recovery Coordinator for Clinton, Highland and Fayette Counties to continue our efforts to assist the region due to the DHL Airpark closure in Wilmington, Ohio.

d. Finance & Development Director Update

Mr. Hemmings advised last month the board approved the Personnel Committee recommendations to select Juanita Bragg as the OVRDC Finance Director effective May 31, 2010. Juanita has accepted and will take over duties from Rebecca Banchy-McIlwain who is retiring as of June 1, 2010. Michele Throckmorton was selected and has accepted the Development Director position and started in her new position March 29, 2010.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

a. Ohio Local Development District Application, Draft Resolution #2010/04-03

Mr. Hemmings referred to Tab #6a which included a draft copy of the annual State Local Development District (LDD) application Resolution #2010/04-03 for review and approval, indicating this was for OVRDC's annual State LDD grant support.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY GARY HEATON AND SECONDED BY TOM WALTON TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION #2010/04-03 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. USDA Distance Learning & Telemedicine Program  
Mr. Hemmings referred to Tab #6b and a News Release from USDA Rural Development regarding funding to enhance education and health care in rural areas. The release indicated Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that funding is available through USDA's Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program (DLT) to increase educational opportunities and expand access to health care services in rural areas. Funds may be used to acquire end-user telecommunications equipment such as videoconferencing equipment needed to provide distance learning and telemedicine services to rural communities. Applications must be received by May 18, 2010. Grant awards can range from a minimum of \$50,000 up to a maximum of \$500,000. Further information can be obtained by visiting USDA's DLT website at <http://ww.usda.gov/rus/telecom/dlt/dlt.htm>.
- c. OVRDC Code of Ethics/Conflict of Interest-Sexual Harassment Compliance Forms  
Mr. Hemmings advised each year it is required that our Executive Committee members sign the Code of Ethics/Conflict of Interest/Sexual Harassment Compliance Form. Mrs. Banchy-McIlwain distributed forms to Executive Committee members present at the meeting and asked them to complete them and advised members a signed copy of the forms would be available as requested. Forms will be mailed to those members not present.
- d. South Central Manufacturing Network Purchasing Co-Op  
Mr. Hemmings referred to Tab #6d. He advised Ohio State University South Centers in Piketon, Ohio is working through their Cooperative Development Center to put together a South Central Manufacturing Network Purchasing Co-Op for manufacturers in southern Ohio and they have applied for Appalachia Regional Commission funds to help with this effort. The primary purpose of the cooperative is for members to work together to benefit members with shared resources to strengthen the workforce. Draft information was presented and a tentative kick-off is planned for June 9, 2010.
- e. Economic Development Specialist Position  
Mr. Hemmings advised due to Michele Throckmorton being promoted to Development Director, OVRDC will advertise for an Economic Development Specialist to assist with the completion of some of the work program items of the agency. He indicated advertising will happen in May, interviews will be held in June with a final decision at the June 2010 OVRDC Executive Committee. Mr. Hemmings stated that OVRDC had the budget to support this position.

## 7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Rhonemus referred to the March Announcement Section included in the meeting packet.

David Hodapp of Senator Brown's office mentioned the creation of a new Prescription Drug Task Force that is being formed and wanted those in attendance to be aware of it.

**8. OVRDC MEETINGS**

Mr. Rhonemus advised the next Executive Committee Meeting is scheduled for 1:30 pm, Thursday, May 27, 2010 at the Pike County Government Center. He also indicated an Audit/Finance Committee Meeting will be held Thursday, May 13, 2010 at 1:30 pm, at the OVRDC Office in Waverly. **(NOTE: LOCATION OF THE MEETING WAS LATER CHANGED TO 12:30 PM AT THE PIKE COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER.)**

**9. ADJOURN**

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

**MOTION WAS MADE BY HARRY RIDER AND SECONDED BY MARGERY PAELTZ TO ADJOURN THE APRIL 22, 2010 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. THE MOTION CARRIED AND THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 2:18 P.M.**

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John W. Hemmings III, Executive Director & Commission Secretary

APPROVED:

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Roger Rhonemus, Vice-Chairman

Attachment:

Adopted Resolution 2010/04-03