

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

Minutes

February 25, 2010
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 Waverly, Ohio. Mr. Proud then asked, State Representative Raymond Pryor 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
Justin Fallon, Gallia County Commissioner
Rick McNelly, Jackson County Private Sector Representative
Tom Morgan, Vinton County Commissioner
Ken Morrison, Clermont County Member at Large
Jane Murray, Mayor, City of Portsmouth
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
Tom Walton, Proxy for Edmund Armstrong, Jackson County Commissioner

Staff:

John Hemmings, OVRDC Executive Director
Rebecca Banchy-McIlwain, OVRDC Finance Director
Kim Reynolds, OVRDC Community Development Coordinator
Michele Throckmorton, OVRDC Economic Development Coordinator
Sharon Clark, OVRDC Administrative Assistant

Guests:

Gary Abernathy, Representative, Senator Voinovich
Blaine Beekman, Pike County Commissioner
Betty Bishop, Interim City Manager, City of Greenfield
Sam Brady, Jackson County Economic Development
Steve Carter, Scioto County Economic Development Director
Cindy Cunningham, Representative Congressman Zack Space
Rhonda DeFosse, USDA Rural Development
Joe Foster, Gallia County Commissioner
Tressie Hall, Pike County Southern Ohio Neighbors Group

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Cindy Howard, Pike County Community Development Coordinator
Jennifer Jacobs, Jackson County Economic Development
Ralph Jennings, Brown County Commissioner
Ben Keller, Fayette County
Stuart Osborne, Ohio Treasurer of State of Ohio, Regional Community Affairs Director
Honorable Raymond Pryor, State Representative 85th District
Fred River, ODOT, District 9
Geoffrey Sea, Pike County Southern Ohio Neighbors Group
Ted West, Pike County Commissioner
Brian ?????, Pike County Resident

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Proud stated that the draft of the January 28, 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. Proud then asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

IT WAS MOVED BY RICK MCNELLY AND SECONDED BY DOUG CORCORAN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 28, 2010 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING. THE MOTION PASSED.

3. FINANCE REPORT

Mr. Proud introduced OVRDC Treasurer, Doug Corcoran. Mr. Corcoran referred to Tab #3 and the December 31, 2009 Balance Sheet which reflected the total assets of \$672,384.39; total liabilities of \$195,415.02 and total equities of \$476,969.37 and a balance of \$0.00.

MOTION WAS MADE BY KEN MORRISON AND SECONDED BY CHARLES STEVENS TO ADOPT THE FINANCE REPORT AS PRESENTED AND THE MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Proud then asked Rebecca Banchy-McIlwain, (OVRDC Finance Director) to report on New Business Agenda Item 6-b.

Implementing GASB-54

Mrs. Banchy-McIlwain referred to Tab # 6b and advised the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) has issued GASB Statement No. 54, "Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions". She indicated Statement 54 is intended to improve the usefulness of information provided to financial report users about fund balance by providing clearer, more structured fund balance classifications, and by clarifying the definitions of existing governmental fund types. She requested approval to implement the GASB -54 starting with the 2009 OVRDC audit process. Mr. Proud opened the floor for a motion.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY KEN MORRISON AND SECONDED BY CHARLES STEVENS TO APPROVE IMPLEMENTATION OF GASB-54 STANDARDS STARTING WITH THE 2009 OVRDC AUDIT PROCESS. THE MOTION CARRIED.

4. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

John Hemmings, OVRDC Executive Director referred to Tab #4 and advised Ohio leads the nation for water and sewer projects funded with stimulus funds and that Ohio is number one regarding weatherization projects funded by stimulus funds.

5. OLD BUSINESS

a. ARC/EDA FY'10 Project Status

Mr. Proud introduced Michele Throckmorton, OVRDC Economic Development Coordinator. Mrs. Throckmorton referred to Tab #5a and advised of the following changes since the last meeting: Hillsboro WWTP Expansion and Bypass Elimination Project (Highland) has been submitted to OHCP for approval; Eden Park Sanitary Sewer Project (Scioto) has been submitted to GOA; Portsmouth Water Systems Upgrade (Scioto) has been submitted to OHCP for approval; GE Peebles/Jaybird road Restructuring Rapid Response Project (Adams County) has been submitted to GOA and the Hillsboro WWTP Expansion and Bypass Elimination Project (Highland) was not being funded by EDA.

b. Connecting Appalachia Update

Mr. Hemmings referred to Tab #6b which included a Fact Sheet for the Connecting Appalachia Project which stated (1) There will be a second Round Stimulus application; (2)34 County focus, the same counties as Round 1 Stimulus application; (3)Private-sector applicant is Horizon not the Southern Ohio Health Care Network (4) \$70 million US Department of Commerce, National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) request; (5)\$30 million in matching funds from private sector; (6)Middle-mile fiber backbone proposal in all 34 counties; (7)Governor's #1 Priority in the State for Round 2 Stimulus funds; (8)Possibly one or several last mile proposals from private sector will be pursuing USDA Rural Utility Service Round 2 Stimulus funds.

Mr. Hemmings requested Letters of support from our member counties supporting Horizon's application. He said the letters need to identify existing problems for businesses and/or residents in accessing broadband. Letters should also identify how any efforts to obtain broadband service from existing broadband providers have not been successful. The letters are needed by March 5, 2010 and can be addressed to Mr. Hemmings at OVRDC. Mr. Hemmings will also provide a letter of support on behalf of OVRDC. The application is due March 15, 2010.

c. Economic Adjustment Recovery Strategy Update

Mr. Hemmings advised that OVRDC still does not have a grant award from EDA to move forward with the contract with Rafael Underwood. He indicated he anticipates having the award in hand on March 8th when he returns to the office from his trip to Washington and would keep the Executive Committee updated.

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

a. District 15, Round 24, OPWC Project Status

Mr. Proud introduced Kim Reynolds, OVRDC Community Development Coordinator, and asked for the update on the District 15, Round 24 OPWC Projects. Ms Reynolds distributed spread sheets for the District Fund, the LTIP Fund and the Small Governments Fund. She stated that the District 15 Small Governments and Executive Committee met on January 27 as well as the Full Integrating Committee to review and approve the project package. In the District Fund the top 14 projects will be submitted to Columbus for consideration for funding. In the LTIP Fund, the top 16 projects will be sent and the top 7 projects in the Small Governments Fund will be sent for priority consideration.

b. See Financial Report Section, Page 2

c. CDBG Contract for Village of Rio Grande

Mr. Hemmings advised OVRDC has been requested by the Village of Rio Grande to administer the CDBG Water and Sewer Grant they received from the Ohio Department of Development (ODOD). Our administration amount for the contract is \$10,000 and Mr. Hemmings indicated approval from the Board is needed on any contract over \$5,000.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MARGERY PAELTZ AND SECONDED BY TOM WALTON TO APPROVE OVRDC'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE VILLAGE OF RIO GRANDE TO ADMINISTER THEIR AWARDED CDBG WATER AND SEWER PROJECT FOR A TOTAL OF \$10,000. THE MOTION CARRIED.

d. Ohio Hubs of Innovation and Opportunity Initiative RFP

Mr. Hemmings advised this initiative is included in the Ohio Department of Development's Strategic Plan and the RFP is due March 15. OVRDC, OSU South Centers and the Southern Ohio Agricultural and Community Development Foundation are working together to submit a response to the RFP by the March 15th deadline if possible. He advised he would be providing updates.

e. Fiscal Year 2011 ARC/EDA Appropriations Update

Mr. Hemmings referred to Tab #6e and reviewed the Fiscal Year 2011 ARC/EDA Appropriations from the President's Fiscal Year 2011 Budget Proposal. He indicated Economic Development Administration (EDA) amount of \$286.1 million is a reduction of nearly \$5 million and the amount for Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) is \$76 million, equal to current funding, which includes \$63.5 million for area development (a decrease of nearly \$190,000) and \$6.2 million for local development districts (equal to current funding).

f. Decommissioning & Decontamination (D&D) of the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant At Piketon, Ohio, Draft Resolution #2010/02-01

Mr. Hemmings referred to Tab #6f and Draft Resolution #2010/02-01, which was sent for review by the Executive Committee, a few days late since the preliminary packets had already been mailed. Mr. Hemmings apologized for any inconvenience this caused. He advised similar resolutions were passed by both Pike and Scioto Counties and he combined elements of both resolutions into Draft Resolution #2010/02-01. Mr. Hemmings asked for questions from attendees.

After discussion and comments from the floor concerning language in the resolution about the Gaseous Diffusion Plant site being improved for industrial and nuclear end use, and the land being brought to industrial/nuclear standards, Mr. Proud asked if there was a motion to approve Resolution #2010/02-01.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY HARRY RIDER AND SECONDED BY KEN MORRISON TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #2010/02-01, THAT OHIO VALLEY REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (OVRDC) IS SUPPORTIVE 1) OF THE DECOMMISSIONING AND DECONTAMINATION (D & D) OF THE PORTSMOUTH GASEOUS DIFFUSION PLANT AT PIKETON; 2) THAT THE GDP SITE BE IMPROVED FOR INDUSTRIAL AND NUCLEAR END USE; 3) OF AN ENERGY PARK INITIATIVE ON SITE; AND 4) THAT THE DECOMMISSIONING AND DECONTAMINATION OF THE GDP SITE CONTINUE AND THE END USE OF THE LAND BE BROUGHT TO INDUSTRIAL/NUCLEAR STANDARDS AND MAINTAIN KEY INDUSTRIAL INFRASTRUCTURES THUS CREATING THOUSANDS OF FAMILY WAGE CAREER BUILDING JOBS IN THE OVRDC REGION. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ONE NAY VOTE.

Mr. Proud asked that the records show the Mayor of Portsmouth, Jane Murray, voted against the resolution. She indicated she wanted the resolution to be revised to indicate the clean-up would meet industrial standards.

g. Executive Session to discuss Personnel Committee Recommendations

Mr. Proud asked for a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss Personnel Recommendations.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY DOUG CORCORAN AND SECONDED BY ROGER RHONEMOUS TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION. THE MOTION CARRIED.

The Executive Committee reconvened into regular session.

Mr. Proud asked for a motion to accept the resignation of Sherrie Lanier, OVRDC Development Director.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MARGERY PAELTZ AND SECONDED BY CHARLES STEVENS TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF SHERRIE LANIER, OVRDC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 19, 2010. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Proud asked for a motion to approve the recommendation of the Personnel Committee. (It was later revealed that the recommendation of the Personnel Committee was to offer Michele Throckmorton, OVRDC Economic Development Coordinator, the position of Interim Development Director at an annual salary rate of \$40,000 and to give her until the week of March 8th to provide a response.)

A MOTION WAS MADE BY JUSTIN FALLON AND SECONDED BY JACK DEWEESE TO ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE. THE MOTION CARRIED.

7. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Proud referred to the February Announcement Section.

8. **OVRDC MEETINGS**

Mr. Proud advised the next Executive Committee Meeting is scheduled for 3:30 pm, Wednesday, March 24, 2010 at the Pike County Career Technology Center, 175 Beaver Creek Road, Piketon, Ohio.

Mr. Proud advised the OVRDC Full Commission Banquet & Election of Officers will be held at the Pike County Career Technology Center, 175 Beaver Creek Road, Piketon, Ohio. (Registration/Refreshments 5:30 pm-Dinner/Program at 6:00 pm)

9. **ADJOURN**

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

MOTION WAS MADE BY DOUG CORCORAN AND SECONDED BY CHARLES STEVENS TO ADJOURN THE FEBRUARY 25, 2010 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. THE MOTION CARRIED.

John W. Hemmings III, Executive Director & Commission Secretary

APPROVED:

Bob Proud, Chairman