

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

***Minutes***

*August 25, 2011*  
*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 and Adams County Commissioner, called the meeting to order since Chairman Bob Proud was not in attendance due to illness. Mr. Rhonemus stated that a quorum was present and he welcomed everyone to the Pike County Government Center. Mr. Rhonemus asked Jerry Hall, Jackson County Commissioner to lead the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

**Executive Committee Members:**

	Attended	Proxy	
Roger Rhonemus, Adams County Commissioner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Dane Clark, Adams County Private Sector	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Ralph Jennings, Brown County Commissioner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Ray BeCraft, Brown County Member-at-Large	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Bob Proud, Clermont County Commissioner	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Tim Ross, Clermont County Private Sector	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Jack DeWeese, Fayette County Commissioner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Faye Williamson, Fayette County Member-at-Large	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Joe Foster, Gallia County Commissioner	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Shane Wilkin, Highland County Commissioner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Katy Farber, Highland County Member-at-Large	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Jerry Hall, Jackson County Commissioner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Randy Heath, Jackson County Member-at-Large	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Les Boggs, Lawrence County Commissioner	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Bill Dingus, Lawrence County Member-at-Large	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Harry Rider, Pike County Commissioner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Bob Matthey, Pike County Private Sector	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Doug Corcoran, Ross County Commissioner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Joseph Sulzer, Mayor of Chillicothe	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Joyce Atwood, Ross County Member-at-Large	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Mike Crabtree, Scioto County Commissioner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
David Malone, Mayor of Portsmouth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Don Hadsell, Scioto County Private Sector	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Eugene Collins, Sr., Scioto County Minority Representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Jerry Zinn, Vinton County Commissioner	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tim Eberts _____
Ralph Neal, Vinton County Private Sector	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

**OVRDC Staff Present:**

*John Hemmings, OVRDC Executive Director*  
*Juanita Bragg, OVRDC Finance Director*  
*Michele Throckmorton, OVRDC Development Director*  
*Sharon Clark, Administrative Assistant*

**Guests Present:**

*Gary Abernathy, Representative, Senator Rob Portman*  
*Blaine Beekman, Pike County Commissioner*  
*Sam Brady, Jackson County Economic Development*  
*Susan Brinker, Representative Congressman Gibbs*  
*Nick Gatz, Representative, Governor Kasich*  
*Kevin Hoggatt, Representative Senator Portman*  
*Jennifer Jacobs, Jackson County Economic Development*  
*Danielle Nameth, Representative, Senator Sherrod Brown*  
*Ted West, Pike County Commissioner*

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Rhonemus stated that a draft of the June 30, 2011 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes was mailed to members, along with the meeting notice and he asked for any corrections or additions. Mr. Rhonemus asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

**IT WAS MOVED BY DAVID MALONE AND SECONDED BY JERRY HALL TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 30, 2011 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING. THE MOTION PASSED.**

**3. FINANCE REPORT**

Mr. Rhonemus introduced Doug Corcoran, OVRDC Treasurer. Mr. Corcoran referred to the Finance Report in the packet which included the Balance Sheet for May 31, 2011 and asked if there were any questions. Being none, Mr. Rhonemus asked for a motion to accept the Finance Report as presented.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY RANDY HEATH AND SECONDED BY RALPH JENNINGS TO ADOPT THE FINANCE REPORT AS PRESENTED AND THE MOTION CARRIED.**

**4. SPEAKER: BOB EICHENBERG - OHIO UNIVERSITY VOINOVICH SCHOOL**

Mr. Rhonemus introduced Bob Eichenberg from the Ohio University Voinovich School. Mr. Eichenberg discussed the PORTSfuture project, funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy. The PORTSfuture project has engaged hundreds of community members from Pike, Jackson, Ross and Scioto counties in developing possible future use scenarios for the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant located in Piketon, Ohio. He advised the ideas have been summarized and he invited those present to complete a brief on-line survey to indicate their preferences by selecting up to 3 scenarios at the website, [www.portsfuture.com](http://www.portsfuture.com). The scenarios presented are: Industrial Park, Green Energy Production, Multi-use Southern Ohio Education Center, National Research and Development, Training and Education, Greenbelt, Warehousing, Distribution, & Transportation Hub, Nuclear Power Plant, and Metal Recovery.

Mr. Hemmings advised that DOE is working with OVRDC and will conduct a tour of the Piketon site for our Executive Committee if we are interested. Mr. Hemmings will contact DOE and schedule a future tour for those members interested.

## **5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Rhonemus introduced John Hemmings, OVRDC Executive Director. Mr. Hemmings referred to the Director's Report included in the packet and highlighted the various sections. Mr. Hemmings advised on June 1, he met with the Appalachian delegation of the Ohio General Assembly and James Leftwich and Kristi Tanner of the Ohio Department of Development. The meeting was held to discuss the Ohio Local Development Districts role in JobsOhio. Also attending were Misty Casto of Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District, Greg DiDonato of Ohio Mid-Eastern Governments Association, and Kathy Zook of Eastgate Regional Council of Governments. Several General Assembly members from the Appalachian region were present including John Carey, 87<sup>th</sup> House District; Cliff Rosenberger, 86<sup>th</sup> House District; Bob Peterson, 85<sup>th</sup> House District; and David Daniels, 17<sup>th</sup> Senate District.

Mr. Hemmings indicated during the months of June and July he attended and conducted other meetings and participated in conference calls related to JobsOhio, the JobsOhio Request for Proposal that was released, and the Ohio Appalachian Business Council (OABC)/Appalachian Partnership for Economic Growth (APEG). He advised OVRDC should be having a role in JobsOhio through OABC/APEG due to our participation in these meetings and calls.

On July 7, 2011, Mr. Hemmings participated in a conference call with Karen Fabiano, Interim Director of the Governor's Office of Appalachia; Shane Wilkin, Highland County Commissioner; and Kirby Ellison and other representatives of the City of Hillsboro to discuss a possible ARC application for FY 2012 for the Phase 2 expansion of PAS Technologies in Hillsboro. If the Phase 2 expansion occurs, the creation of 130 additional jobs will be realized on top of the Phase 1 creation of 40 new jobs and retention of 95 jobs. Michele Throckmorton assisted with the application development and has submitted it to the Governor's Office of Appalachia this week for consideration.

On July 10-12, Mr. Hemmings advised he attended the Development District association of Appalachia (DDAA) Board of Directors meeting in Kingsport, Tennessee. Mr. Hemmings is the Ohio representative to the DDAA Board of Directors.

On July 20-21, 2011, Mr. Hemmings advised he attended the ARC Network Appalachia and Export Trade Advisory Council (ETAC) meetings in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The two meetings are held in conjunction with one another due to their similar focuses (logistics and international trade).

Mr. Hemmings is the Development District Association of Appalachia representative to the ETAC, representing the interest of the 73 Local Development Districts in the 13 Appalachia states.

Mr. Hemmings indicated that on June 7, 2011, Jessica Purdon conducted a specialized training event for the RCDI communities of Vinton County in McArthur. Representatives from the villages of McArthur, Hamden and Zaleski were present and were presented with information by Terri Fetherolf of the Vinton County Commissioner's Development Department on business assistance and entrepreneurial services offered in the county. In addition, a round-table discussion was held and the communities discussed viable ideas in order to facilitate entrepreneurship and how to work collaboratively to encourage business development within the county as a whole. Topics such as using tourism resources as possible economic boons and the need to market the Vinton County area to attract potential entrepreneurs were discussed at length.

Mr. Hemmings also directed those present to a news release from USEC that was attached to the Director's Report stating that USEC had entered into an amendment to its standstill agreement with Toshiba America Nuclear Energy Corporation and Babcock & Wilcox Investment Company to extend their agreement through September 30, 2011. The amended agreement provides a limited additional period of time for USEC to finalize and enter into a conditional commitment with the US Department of Energy for a \$2 billion loan guarantee to support the construction of the American Centrifuge Plant and achieve the closing of the second phase of Toshiba and B & W's investment in USEC.

**6. OLD BUSINESS**

(a) ARC-EDA FY'11 Project Status

Mr. Rhonemus introduced Michele Throckmorton, OVRDC Development Director. Mrs. Throckmorton referred to the FY' 2011 Project Package (grey sheet) and advised the committee that the bolded projects have had changes since her last report. Those changes are:

Under Area Development- Adams County Regional Medical Center Gamma Ray Camera Project, Scioto County Center for Dental Wellness Project and the Village of Coalton Water Distribution System Renovations Project have been approved. Additional federal funding was made available which allowed OVRDC to submit the Adena 12-Lead EKG Implementation Project for funding. That project has been forwarded to GOA for review.

Under Distressed County Projects- Zaleski Water Main Replacement Project has been approved. The Village of Piketon Water System Improvements Project and the Zaleski Water Tower Improvements Project have been forwarded to GOA for review. The Zaleski Water Tower Improvements Project was an additional project able to be funded due to the additional federal funding.

Under Access Road Projects- Hobart/Carl Smith Drive Access Road Project has been forwarded to GOA.

(b) OVRDC Copier

Mr. Hemmings advised this item was discussed at the June Executive Committee Meeting and it was suggested by the Executive Committee to research the possible purchase of a copier instead of leasing, and to secure another quote before moving forward with the lease of the suggested Xerox copier. OVRDC staff checked on the purchase of a copier and the total cost is significant compared to the agency's overall budget and was determined not a good alternative when considering cash flow. Staff requested a lease quote from a local Canon copier dealer but they provided information for a Sharp copier instead. The staff agreed that the layout of the Sharp copier was not conducive with our copier setup at the office in addition to the fact we were not very familiar with Sharp copier performance and dependability. Due to the Executive Committee's recommendation to shop other alternatives, Xerox did reduce the lease rate on the copier we were interested in purchasing and it was decided to lease the Xerox copier that the office originally had asked approval for in May. The Xerox copier will be leased for \$770 per month resulting in an annual savings of \$3,000 to OVRDC.

(c) Marcellus & Utica Shale Update

Mr. Hemmings advised OVRDC is partnering with the Farm Bureau to conduct workshops to discuss the impact Marcellus & Utica Shale will have on the local communities. The workshops will be held this fall. Mr. Hemmings advised OVRDC has created a Marcellus & Utica Shale link on our website and any communications received in our office will be posted to this site or communicated through the OVRDC E-Newsletter.

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

(a) FY 2012 ARC/EDA Budget Update

Mr. Hemmings referred to the pink sheet in the packet which included legislative news and advised the House of Representatives passed the FY12 Energy-Water Appropriations Bill. The bill provides \$68.4 million for the Appalachian Regional Commission for FY 2012, down from \$76 million in FY2010. The House Appropriations Committee approved the FY2012 House Commerce, Justice, Science (CJS) appropriations bill. Specific funding levels for EDA programs in the FY 2012 bill are: Public Works- \$123.28 million, the program received \$133.28 million in 2010; Planning- level funding at \$31 million; Economic Adjustment Assistance- \$38.62 million, level with FY 2010 funding.

(b) OVRDC Office Building

Mr. Hemmings indicated that at the May 2011 meeting he advised the Executive Committee that the Southern Ohio Diversification Initiative's (SODI's) Board of Directors donated 2 acres of land to OVRDC

contingent upon the agency developing a plan to construct an office building for OVRDC on the property. Mr. Hemmings gave a brief history of OVRDC's past and current building locations and an overview of the current office situation at the Wausau Homes' property in Waverly. Mr. Hemmings went on to discuss why a new building is being considered on the donated property and discussed some other alternatives that have been explored. Mr. Hemmings then presented details on how OVRDC is able to consider constructing a new office building. Mr. Hemmings advised the Executive Committee that the bylaws need a modification regardless of whether a new building is built, because currently there is no provision of how assets would be divided if the agency ceased to exist. A question and answer period followed and Mr. Hemmings advised that this will be discussed more at future Executive Committee meetings.

(c) ARC/EDA 2012 Proposed Project Package

Michele Throckmorton, OVRDC Development Director, referred to the ARC FY'2012 Project Package for the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC)/Economic Development Administration (EDA) Project Packages. Mrs. Throckmorton advised that on July 28, 2011, the Project Review Committee met and approved the FY'2012 Project Packages for ARC Area Development, Distressed County, Access Road Projects, and for EDA Public Works and Economic Development, Economic Adjustment Assistance, and Technical Assistance projects, and recommended them to the Executive Committee for approval.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY RALPH JENNINGS AND SECONDED BY RANDY HEATH TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED ARC/EDA PROJECT PACKAGE AS RECOMMENDED BY THE PROJECT REVIEW COMMITTEE FOR FISCAL YEAR'2011. THE MOTION PASSED.**

(d) JobsOhio/Ohio Appalachian Business Council

Mr. Hemmings referred to the JobsOhio Overview in the packet. The functions of economic development in Ohio have been conducted by the Ohio Department of Development in the past, however with the passage of the JobsOhio Bill (H.B.1), Governor Kasich was authorized to form a not-for-profit corporation which is responsible for the promotion of economic development, job creation, job retention and the recruitment of businesses to the State of Ohio. The Ohio Department of Development will be transitioned to the Ohio Development Services Agency (ODSA). Mr. Hemmings referred to an Executive Summary in the packet that outlined the new functions of the ODSA. Mr. Hemmings also referred to excerpts of the JobsOhio Request for Proposal response from the Ohio Appalachian Business Council (OABC)/Appalachian Partnership for Economic Growth (APEG) that was in the packet. The OABC/APEG will be one of the six private sector driven regional partners of JobsOhio. Within the proposal response, OVRDC as well as Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District and the Ohio Mid-Eastern Governments Association are included as partners with OABC/APEG and will be responsible for regional Retention and Expansion programs and assistance to counties with industrial park/site data updates on the State of Ohio industrial marketing site, Ohio InSite.

**8. OVRDC MEETINGS**

Mr. Rhonemus advised the next Executive Committee will be held on September 29<sup>th</sup> in Scioto County at the Scioto County Career Technical Center, 951 Vern Riffe Drive, Lucasville, Ohio beginning at 4:00 pm. He also announced that the Full Commission Appreciation Banquet and Meeting will be held on September 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm also at the Scioto County Career Technical Center in Lucasville.

**9. ADJOURN**

There being no further business Mr. Rhonemus asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY RANDY HEATH AND SECONDED BY DOUG CORCORAN TO ADJOURN THE AUGUST 25, 2011 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING. THE MOTION CARRIED.**

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John W. Hemmings III, Executive Director & Commission Secretary

APPROVED:

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Roger Rhonemus, Vice-Chairman