

OHIO VALLEY REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
Executive Committee Meeting

Minutes

February 24, 2011
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 at 1:35 pm and stated that a quorum was present and welcomed everyone to the Pike County Government Center in Waverly, Ohio. Mr. Proud then asked Ralph Jennings, Brown 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"/>	_____
Debra Plymail, Adams County Member-at-Large	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Ralph Jennings, Brown County Commissioner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Interim Caucus Chairman</u>
Ben Houser, Brown County Private Sector	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Bob Proud, Clermont County Commissioner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Ken Morrison, Clermont County Member-at-Large	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Jack DeWeese, Fayette County Commissioner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Doug Marine, Fayette County Private Sector	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Joe Foster, Gallia County Commissioner	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Lori Neal, Gallia County Member-at-Large	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Shane Wilkin, Highland County Commissioner	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Interim Caucus Chairman</u>
Charles Stevens, Highland County Private Sector	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Jerry Hall, Jackson County Commissioner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Interim Caucus Chairman</u>
Rick McNelly, Jackson County Private Sector	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Les Boggs, Lawrence County Commissioner	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>Lonnie Best</u>
Rick Griffith, Lawrence County Private Sector Representative	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Harry Rider, Pike County Commissioner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Roger Kemper, Pike County Member-at-Large	<input 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"/>	_____
Tom White, Ross County Private Sector	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Mike Crabtree, Scioto County Commissioner	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
David Malone, Mayor of Portsmouth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Gary Coleman, Scioto County Member-at-Large	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Interim Caucus Chairman</u>
Rick Reynolds, Vinton County Member-at-Large	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

OVRDC Staff Present:

John Hemmings, OVRDC Executive Director
Michele Throckmorton, OVRDC Development Director
Juanita Bragg, OVRDC Bookkeeper/Network Administrator
Sharon Clark, OVRDC Administrative Assistant

Guests Present:

Blaine Beekman, Pike County Commissioner
Rick Greene, Restoration Services, Inc.
Stephanie Howe, Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs
Jennifer Jacobs, Jackson County Economic Development
Marsha Lewis, Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs
Danielle Nameth, Representative Senator Sherrod Brown
Fred River, ODOT, District 9
Greg Simonton, USDOE, Portsmouth Site
Lois Snyder, Gallia County Commissioner
Ted West, Pike County Commissioner
Shane Wilkin, Highland County Commissioner

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Proud stated that a draft of the January 27, 2011 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes was mailed to members, along with the meeting notice and he asked for any corrections or additions. Mr. Proud asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

IT WAS MOVED BY DEBORA PLYMAIL AND SECONDED BY HARRY RIDER TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 27, 2011 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING. THE MOTION PASSED.

3. FINANCE REPORT

Mr. Proud introduced Doug Corcoran, OVRDC Treasurer. Mr. Corcoran referred to Tab #3 in the packet which included the Balance Sheet for December 31, 2010. Mr. Corcoran stated the balance sheet reflected the total assets of \$962,777.65; total liabilities of \$361,238.68 and total equities of \$601,538.97 and a balance of \$0.00. Mr. Corcoran asked if there were any questions. Being none, Mr. Proud asked for a motion to accept the Finance Report as presented.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY RALPH JENNINGS AND SECONDED BY ROGER RHONEMUS TO ADOPT THE FINANCE REPORT AS PRESENTED AND THE MOTION CARRIED.

4. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Proud introduced John Hemmings, OVRDC Executive Director and Mr. Hemmings referred to the Director's Report under Tab #5 and highlighted the various sections. Mr. Hemmings advised that on January 9 and 10, 2011, he attended the Ohio Association of Commodores Winter Induction Meeting in Columbus, Ohio with Ohio House Speaker Bill Batchelder as the keynote speaker on Sunday evening, and a presentation was given by Don Branson of the Southern Ohio Agricultural and Community Development Foundation (SOACDF) about their programs on Monday morning. In addition, the Ohio Association of Commodores acted as greeters at the Governor's Inauguration on January 10th.

Mr. Hemmings advised during the month of January, 2011, Kim Reynolds worked on finalizing applications for Round 25 funding consideration and preparing for the meetings of the Small Government, Executive, and Full Integrating Committees of District 15 scheduled for February 2, 2011. In addition, Mr. Hemmings advised the Committee that the State Capital Improvement Program (SCIP) is usually included in the Capital Bill but since there is no plans for a Capital Bill given the budget situation in Ohio, expectations were that the SCIP funds would be included in the Transportation Bill. HB 114 (Transportation Bill) does not include the \$150 million for the SCIP. Mr. Hemmings advised those in attendance that they may want to discuss this issue with their legislators.

During the month of January 2011, Mr. Hemmings participated in two conference calls with Senator Brown's staff regarding updates on the Masco closing in Waverly. The Pike County Commissioners, the Governor's Regional Economic Development office, and the Workforce Transition Office were part of the calls as well.

Mr. Hemmings advised that in the month of January Jessica Hollis, OVRDC Economic Development Specialist, contacted the remaining communities concerning their community assessments for the USDA Rural Community Development Initiative grant.

Mr. Hemmings referred to a News Release included in the Director's Report from USEC reporting on the progress of ongoing negotiations with the Department of Energy's (DOE) regarding the Loan Guarantee for USEC's Centrifuge project at Piketon. Highlights of the release are as follows:

- Due Diligence process well underway.
- USEC made significant progress in 2010 to address DOE concerns.
- Discussions continue with Japanese export credit agencies for additional funding.

5. SPEAKER

Mr. Hemmings introduced Marsha Lewis and Stephanie Howe of the Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs. They gave a presentation on the "PORTSfuture" kick-off meetings. This project is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Environmental Management. The purpose of this Public Outreach Support Grant is to engage a broad spectrum of community members in developing possible future use scenarios for the PORTSfacility. The overall goal of the visioning process is to produce a "publically approved End-State Report" that will be submitted to the U.S. Department of Energy for consideration.

Ohio University is organizing community Visioning Teams that represent diverse community perspectives on possible future uses of the Department of Energy facility in Piketon, Ohio. Residents of Jackson, Pike, Ross and Scioto counties are invited to participate by becoming a member of a Visioning Team, hosting meetings in their communities or sharing ideas and opinions on the PORTSfuture.com website. Meetings will be held March 15, 2011, 5:30 -8:00 pm at the PACCAR Medical Education Center, 446 Hospital Road in Chillicothe, Ohio and Thursday, March 17, 2011, 5:30-8:00 pm at the Scioto County Welcome Center, 342 Second Street, Portsmouth, Ohio.

6. OLD BUSINESS

(a) Connecting Appalachia Update

Mr. Hemmings advised a meeting of the OVRDC Broadband Committee was held February 2, 2011 at the OVRDC in Waverly. Reid Consulting Group was in attendance as well as Bill McKell, CEO of Horizon to answer questions.

(b) Economic Recovery Coordinator Update

A quarterly review and evaluation of the Economic Recovery Coordinator was held by members of the Tri-County Economic Recovery Advisory Committee from Highland, Fayette and Clinton Counties and the City of Wilmington. As a result, Mr. Rafael Underwood's contract will end March 31st of this year. There is still money available in the grant and the members of the committee are requesting OVRDC to ask the

Economic Development Administration (EDA) for an extension of the grant to the end of this year. They wish to hire a new Economic Recovery Coordinator and possibly a grants-writer to complete pending work items. The decision regarding the selection of a new Economic Recovery Coordinator will be brought before the Executive Committee at the March 31st meeting for approval.

(c) Office Carpeting

Mr. Hemmings advised he is continuing negotiations with Wausau Homes regarding replacement of carpeting in the OVRDC office which was destroyed by flooding. A discussion was held and Mr. Hemmings will update the committee at the March meeting.

(d) Fiscal Year 2011 Federal Budget Update

Mr. Hemmings referred to Tab #6d and an email from Dan Neff of the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) advising the House passed a continuing resolution that would fund the operations of government through September 30. The bill provides \$68.4 million for ARC's non-highway program. This represents a 10% cut from the FY10 funding level. During debate on the bill, the House rejected, 147-281, an amendment that would have imposed an additional across-the-board cut of 5.5%. Another amendment that would have replaced the cuts in the bill with a different package of across-the-board cuts was debated but subsequently withdrawn. The measure now goes to the Senate, which will begin work on its version of the bill when it returns on February 28th. The current continuing resolution expires on March 4.

Also included was an email from Matt Chase of the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) advising the U.S. House adopted an amendment by Rep. Mike Michaud of Maine to restore a proposed \$80 million cut to the FY2011 budget of the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA). The amendment passed with massive bipartisan support on the 305-127 vote. The action was taken as part of the House floor debate on the FY2011 Continuing Resolution.

7. NEW BUSINESS

(a) OVRDC Regional Transportation Planning/Advocacy

Mr. Hemmings advised for years the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) has been championing legislation to get money appropriated in the state and federal budgets to recognize Rural Transportation Planning Districts for rural areas. There is presently no advocacy for rural areas and Mr. Hemmings is researching ways OVRDC can provide assistance in this area within our present budget and utilizing the present staff. He asked the Executive Committee if they felt this is a direction that OVRDC should be going in. The committee felt it was and he advised that he will keep them updated on the staff's efforts.

(b) Authorize Letter Concerning HR763

Mr. Hemmings referred to Tab #7b which included information on legislation introduced by Congresswoman Jean Schmidt and Congressman Mike Michaud reintroducing H.R. 763 the Safe & Efficient Transportation ACT (SETA) which would allow states to increase the truck weight limits on federal interstate highways. Current truck weight limits are set at 80,000 lbs., a limit that was set in 1982.

Also included was a resolution adopted by the National Association of Counties (NACo) advising that the National Association of Counties (NACo) supports the Safe Highways and Infrastructure Preservation Act and strongly opposes any legislation that seeks to increase truck size or weight beyond the current federal standards, putting highways, roads, and bridges at risk of increased damage or deterioration. A discussion was held and those present will discuss this proposed legislation at their Commissioner's meeting and with their county engineers then make a decision at the March 31st Executive Committee meeting concerning OVRDC's support for or against this legislation.

(c) Fiscal Year 2012 President's Budget

Mr. Hemmings referred to Tab #7c which highlighted President Obama's Fiscal Year 2012 proposed budget.

The President's budget requests \$76 million for ARC's community and economic development programs. This is level funding with the FY10 appropriation and his FY11 budget.

The President's FY 2012 budget invests in regional economic competitiveness by providing \$325 million to the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) to support planning, capacity building and capital projects.

(d) Ohio Statewide Imagery Acquisition Project

Mr. Hemmings referred to Tab #7d which included information for the Ohio Statewide Imagery Program (OSIP). The Department of Administrative Services Office of Information Technology Ohio Geographically Referenced Information Program has awarded a contract for the Ohio Statewide Imagery Acquisition Project for the acquisition of orthophotography for the Ohio Statewide Imagery Program beginning in the Spring of 2011. OSIP is a partnership between State, Local and Federal government agencies to develop high-resolution imagery and elevation data for the State of Ohio to benefit Geographic Information System users at all levels of government. Accurate imagery and elevation data serve as the backbone for the development of additional data sets that are currently maintained and accessed by government decision makers and the public.

Standard imagery products will be captured and delivered in four (4) phases. The northeast portion of the state will be acquired in the spring of 2011; the western portion of the state will be acquired in the spring of 2012 (includes Brown, Clermont and Highland counties), the central portion of the state will be acquired in the spring of 2013 (includes Fayette, Ross and Vinton counties), and the southeast portion of the project will be acquired in the spring of 2014 (includes Adams, Gallia, Jackson, Lawrence, Pike and Scioto counties).

Enhanced products through the State's Cooperative Purchase Agreement are again available to local governments to obtain product enhancements through direct contract with the vendor, Woolpert. Mr. Hemmings pointed out that the cost for the enhanced products was included in the information as well.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Proud referred to Tab #8 which included the Announcement Section, and registration information for the March 31st Full Commission Meeting and Election of Officers to be held in Fayette County.

9. OVRDC MEETINGS

Mr. Proud advised the next Executive Committee Meeting will be held on March 31st at 4:00 pm at the Fayette County Commission on Aging in Washington Court House, with the Full Commission Meeting to follow.

10. ADJOURN

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

John W. Hemmings III, Executive Director & Commission Secretary

APPROVED:

Bob Proud, Chairman