

OHIO VALLEY REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
Executive Committee Meeting

Minutes

March 31, 2011

*Fayette County Commission on Aging
 Washington Court House, 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 stated that a quorum was present and welcomed everyone to the Fayette County Commission on Aging in Washington Court House. Mr. Proud then asked Sharon Clark, OVRDC Administrative Assistant 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Lori Neal, Gallia County Member-at-Large	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Shane Wilkin, Highland County Commissioner	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Charles Stevens, Highland County Private Sector	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Jerry Hall, Jackson County Commissioner	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Rick McNelly, Jackson County Private Sector	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Les Boggs, Lawrence County Commissioner	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
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 Finance Director
Jason Gillow, Research/Planning Specialist
Kim Reynolds, Community Development Coordinator
Sharon Clark, OVRDC Administrative Assistant

Guests Present:

Gary Abernathy, Representative Senator Rob Portman
Melissa Clark, Gallia County Economic Development
Danielle Nameth, Representative Senator Sherrod Brown
Lois Snyder, Gallia County Commissioner
Lynn Stevens, USDA Rural Development

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Proud stated that a draft of the February 24, 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 EUGENE COLLINS AND SECONDED BY RALPH JENNINGS TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 24, 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 January 31, 2011. 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 HARRY RIDER AND SECONDED BY LOIS SNYDER 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 #4 and highlighted the various sections. Mr. Hemmings advised on February 2nd, he attended the Corporation for Ohio Appalachian Development (COAD) Legislative Reception in Columbus, Ohio and spoke with several of our area state legislators at the event. On February 3rd Mr. Hemmings met with Cliff Rosenberger, 86th Ohio House District Representative and with staff of Terry Johnson, 89th Ohio House District Representative and also with the staff of Danny Bulp, 88th Ohio House District Representative.

On February 3rd Mr. Hemmings advised he and representatives from the other Ohio Local Development Districts met with the Interim Director of the Governor's Office of Appalachia (GOA), Bill Graves and the Assistant Director Karen Fabiano; however, we have since learned Mr. Graves has resigned and has taken a position with HUD. This meeting was held to discuss the remaining state and federal funds available for projects in the region. No decisions were made about further project submissions at the meeting because Mr. Graves wanted to first confirm the amount of funds still available.

On February 2, Kim Reynolds and Shannon Nichols conducted the District 15 Small Governments, Executive Committee and Full Integrating Committee meetings. The purpose of the meetings was to approve the District 15 OPWC Small Government, SCIP and LTIP project packages.

Mr. Hemmings advised on February 23rd. he participated in a meeting of the Tri-County Economic Recovery Advisory Committee in Wilmington, Ohio. This meeting was held to discuss the amended scope of work for the extension of the Economic Recovery Coordinator project and to plan a timeline for interviewing new candidates for the position of Economic Recovery Coordinator.

Mr. Hemmings included information following the Director's Report from NADO regarding natural gas drilling in the Marcellus Shale and the environmental impact. Mr. Hemmings will participate in a core group meeting at Walnut Creek, Ohio on April 29th, along with participants from the other development districts and the Director of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to discuss the impact of this drilling. An extensive discussion was held by members attending the meeting about this topic. Mr. Hemmings stated that he would keep the Executive Committee updated on OVRDC's activities concerning this topic.

5. OLD BUSINESS

(a) ARC/EDA 2011 Project Update

Mr. Proud introduced Michele Throckmorton, OVRDC Development Director. Mrs. Throckmorton referred to Tab #5a. and discussed the FY 2011 Priority Project Package. She advised under "Area Development", Oak Hill Water System Improvements Project (Jackson) has been approved, Georgetown Possum Run Pump Station SSO Elimination Project (Brown) has been approved, Woodland Centers Electronic Health Records Project (Gallia) has been forwarded to ARC for review, Adams County Regional Medical Center Gamma Ray Camera (Adams) has been forwarded to ARC, Scioto County Center for Dental Wellness (Scioto) has been forwarded to ARC. Under Distressed Projects Fairview, Hutt, and Benson Road Waterlines (Vinton) has been forwarded to GOA.

Michele informed the committee that the Waverly Bridge Street Sanitary Sewer Main Rehab Project is not ready to be funded in FY'2011 but will be carried over to FY'2012 due to EPA funding not being approved. The Village of Picketon Water System Improvements Project will replace the Waverly project under the Distressed County projects.

Mrs. Throckmorton advised the Executive Committee that the Governor's Office of Appalachia contacted OVRDC asking them to submit an additional ARC state project for \$178,797. Mrs. Throckmorton informed the committee that the Village of Coalton Water Distribution System Renovations project is the next project on the list to receive funding and that they accepted the amount offered although they were originally asking for \$250,000.

(b) Economic Recovery Coordinator Update

Mr. Hemmings advised Rafael Underwood's Economic Recovery Coordinator contract ends today. The committee interviewed applicants for the Economic Recovery Coordinator position, which was contingent on receiving an extension from EDA. Mr. Hemmings advised he received notice that our extension has been denied and he will be contacting EDA. Mr. Hemmings suggested tabling this matter until the April Executive Committee meeting at which time OVRDC may have an extension approval from EDA. The consensus of the members was to table the item as well.

(c) Office Carpeting

Mr. Hemmings advised he has contacted Wausau Homes with a counter offer regarding the replacement of the flood damaged carpeting. This matter will be tabled and discussed at next month's meeting.

(d) Authorize Letter Concerning HR763

Information regarding HR 763, the Safe & Efficient Transportation ACT (SETA) which would allow states to increase the truck weight limits on federal interstate highways was included in last month's packet and also included in the March preliminary packet. Since the FY 2011 Federal budget has not been approved meaning this legislation is not going to be moving through the process quickly, and in the interest of time today, Mr. Hemmings asked to table this discussion. Mr. Hemmings suggested that those present discuss this legislation with their county engineers. The consensus was to table to item until the April Executive Committee meeting.

(e) Update of HB114 (Transportation Budget)

Mr. Hemmings advised the Governor signed the amended bill yesterday to include the Ohio Public Works District Funds (\$150 million) which was excluded in the original bill.

6. NEW BUSINESS

(a) District 15-Round 25 Update

Mr. Proud introduced Kim Reynolds, OVRDC Community Development Coordinator, and asked for the update on the District 15, Round 25 OPWC Projects. Mrs. Reynolds distributed spreadsheets for the District Fund, the LTIP Fund and the Small Governments Fund. She stated that the District 15 Executive, Full Integrating and Small Government Committees met on February 2, 2011 to review and approve the project package. Mrs. Reynolds stated that applications were delivered to Ohio Public Works Commission for consideration on March 1, 2011. In the District Fund (SCIP) the top 14 projects were submitted and in the LTIP Fund the top 6 projects were sent. For Small Governments 7 applications were delivered with the top 5 being reviewed and ranked competitive with the remaining districts in Ohio for funding.

(b) RLF Application Draft Resolution #2011/03-01

Mrs. Throckmorton referred to Draft Resolution #2011/03-01 for consideration included in the packets under Tab #6b. She advised the Loan Review Committee met on March 28, 2011 and recommended approval of the application for financing from Ohio Precious Metals, LLC located in Jackson County, an existing Ohio limited liability company who will be purchasing Coining equipment. Ohio Precious Metals has requested financing in the amount of \$200,000, (4% interest, serviced over a 10 year term respectively). The loan will be distributed from OVRDC's ARC-RLF program for \$200,000 (the fixed asset loan) for the purchase of the Coining equipment, together with the Bank, owner's equity and a State of Ohio loan for a total project cost of \$1,235,000. The primary lender is Peoples Bank, located in Lancaster, Ohio, and they have requested gap-financing assistance on this project. The new business will create ten (10) full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs within the District during the first three years from the date of closing. A copy of the Loan Review Committee's approving LRC Resolution #2011/03-01 was included in the packet. Mr. Proud asked for a motion to approve the loan committee recommendation.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY ROGER RHONEMUS AND SECONDED BY DEBORA PLYMAIL TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #2011/03-01 TO LOAN \$200,000 UNDER THE ARC-RLF PROGRAM, ALONG WITH ALL APPLICABLE CONDITIONS TO OHIO PRECIOUS METALS, LLC LOCATED IN JACKSON COUNTY. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

(c) 2010 Census

Mr. Proud introduced Jason Gillow, OVRDC Research/Planning Specialist. Mr. Gillow referred to Tab #6c which included the recently released 2010 census data. Mr. Gillow included the 2010 Census Population for Counties; 2010 State/County Population and Housing Occupancy Status; and 2010 Race and Hispanic or Latino, State/County Equivalent. Also included was information from the Federal Register/Vol. 76. Mr. Gillow advised this information is also available on line at census.gov. and will be released on the OVRDC web site. He advised if you dispute the census numbers you can initiate a challenge within a 2-year period (June 1, 2011-June 1, 2013) and information regarding disputes is included in the Federal Register.

(d) ARC County Designations

Mr. Gillow referred to Tab #6d and advised as of 2012, the Appalachia Regional Commission (ARC) redesignated the economic status of the 13 Appalachian states and he included in the packet the status of the 12 counties represented by Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission. He advised the changes from 2011-2012 in our region are Adams County is now designated "Distressed" and Clermont County is designated "Transitional". Mr. Gillow indicated the reason for these changes in status are that in 2011 the 2000 census data was used and in 2012 the American Community Survey poverty data from 2005-2009 was used. Mr. Hemmings also advised that ARC is still utilizing the same three criteria for determining ARC county status – per capita income, poverty rate, and three year unemployment average, but instead of comparing these values to national averages, the values are now indexed against all other counties in the United States for determination of status.

(e) Authorize Letter of Support for Ohio House Bill 120

Mr. Hemmings referred to Tab #6e regarding House Bill 120 introduced by Representatives John Carey and Lou Gentile to create the Water Access to Every Residence Task Force. The Task Force will identify residential communities and geographic areas of Ohio in which potable drinking water is not readily accessible and the Task Force shall develop strategies for providing access to potable drinking water, including strategies for financing drinking water projects.

Mr. Hemmings asked the board for authorization to send a letter in support of House Bill 120. Mr. Proud asked for a motion of support.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY RALPH JENNINGS AND SECONDED BY DOUG CORCORAN TO AUTHORIZE THE OVRDC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO SEND A LETTER IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL #120. THE MOTION CARRIED.

(f) State of Ohio Executive Budget FY 2012-2013

Mr. Hemmings referred to Tab #6f and the excerpt from the Ohio Department of Development's Budget, specifically Line item #GRF 195501-Appalachian Local Development District. It indicated 0% cut in FY2012-\$391,482. This line item is zeroed out in 2013.

Mr. Hemmings advised this line item is currently split 3 ways between Buckeye Hills, OMEGA and OVRDC and provides administrative funding for the organizations to match the federal ARC and EDA programs. This funding comes directly from the state to our three regions for the operations of our organizations. Mr. Hemmings advised with these dollars, the LDDs:

- Employ a professional staff to prioritize projects for the ARC grant funding at the local level
- Operate regional revolving loan fund lending programs for private businesses
- Operate regional GIS programs for our communities who lack the funding and staff capacity necessary to operate their own GIS
- Administer and implement programs such as the Clean Ohio Fund, Job Ready Site, Ohio Public Works Commission, and regional Business Retention program
- Assist our municipalities and non-profits to secure and administer other federal, state, and local funds to finance priority economic development, infrastructure, health care, and community development projects.

Mr. Hemmings advised for every \$1 spent on administrative functions last year, the existing LDDs secured over \$88.52 in Direct Project Funds for our counties in the region and created/retained over 8,200 jobs and said \$1 to \$88 is a great return on the state's investment for our local municipalities.

Mr. Hemmings advised he will be contacting our state legislators regarding this matter and urged the Executive Committee members to contact their representatives.

(g) MetLife Shares Sale Draft Resolution #2011/03-02

Mr. Hemmings referred to Tab #6g and Draft Resolution #2011/03-02 and advised years ago OVRDC provided life insurance for employees through MetLife and in the year 2000 Met Life, Inc. went from a mutual organization to a public company and at the time of this demutualization offered a choice of cash, a policy change, or stock shares to its policyholders. Due to an oversight, OVRDC did not respond to this request and was issued 206 shares of MetLife stock. We were advised by our auditors since OVRDC does not have an approved Investment Plan in place these shares (206) must be sold. Mr. Proud asked if there was a motion to support this request.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY DOUG CORCORAN AND SECONDED BY DEBORA PLYMAIL TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #2011/03-02 AUTHORIZING THE OVRDC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO PROVIDE A LETTER OF CONDITIONS TO METLIFE TO SELL ITS SHARES AND RECEIVE CASH PAYMENT OF THE VALUES OF THE 206 SHARES OWNED BY OVRDC. THE MOTION CARRIED.

7. ANNOUCEMENTS

Mr. Proud advised the new 2011 2nd Round Caucus Schedule was included on the back side of the Agenda in the packet.

8. OVRDC MEETINGS

Mr. Proud advised the next Executive Committee Meeting will be held on April 28th at 1:30 pm at the Pike County Government Center in Waverly, Ohio.

Mr. Proud also advised the Executive Committee/Full Commission Member Orientation will be held Thursday, April 28, 2011 at the Pike County Government Center in Waverly, Ohio beginning at 11:00 am.

9. ADJOURN

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

John W. Hemmings III, Executive Director & Commission Secretary

APPROVED:

Bob Proud, Chairman