

OHIO VALLEY REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
Full Commission Meeting

Minutes
September 24, 2009
Chillicothe Middle School
Chillicothe, Ohio

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

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Bob Proud, Clermont County Commissioner and OVRDC Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. He welcomed everyone to the Full Commission Appreciation Banquet and Meeting and asked the Ross County Commissioners, Doug Corcoran and James Caldwell to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Doug Corcoran and Jim Caldwell, Ross County Commissioners welcomed attendees to Ross County and thanked the Chillicothe City School Superintendent, Roger Crago, who was unable to attend and Jon Saxton, the Assistant Superintendent for the use of their facility.

Roger Rhonemus, Adams County Commissioner and OVRDC Vice-Chairman gave the invocation and dinner was served.

OVRDC members, committee members, guests and OVRDC staff attending the dinner and meeting were:

Adams: Russ Brewer, Adams County Chamber of Commerce
Elaine Collins, Adams County Project Review Committee Member and Economic Development Director
Gladys Johnson, Adams County Minority Representative
Debora Plymail, Adams County Workforce Connection
Roger Rhonemus, Adams County Commissioner
David Wheeler, Mayor, Village of Seaman

Brown: Bertha Thomas, Brown County Minority Representative

Clermont: Ed Humphrey, Clermont County Commissioner
Ken Morrison, Clermont County Member-at-Large, US Grant CTC
Bob Proud, Clermont County Commissioner

Fayette Jack DeWeese, Fayette County Commissioner

Gallia: Brett Boothe, Gallia County Engineer
Joe Foster, Gallia County Commissioner
James Keels, Gallia County Minority Representative, President GEDA
Gene Layton, Mayor of Centerville
Lois Snyder, Gallia County Commissioner

Highland: Harvey Everhart, City of Greenfield
Gary Heaton, Highland County Commissioner
Charles W. Stevens, Highland County Private Sector Representative
Sherry Stout, President-Southern State Community College

Jackson: Martha Cosby, Jackson County Minority Representative
Frank Doenges, Mayor Village of Coalton

Lawrence: Lonnie Best, Proxy for Les Boggs, Lawrence County Commissioner
Bill Dingus, Director, Lawrence Economic Development Corporation

- Pike:** Harry Rider, Pike County Commissioner
Teddy West, Pike County Commissioner
- Ross:** Joyce Atwood, Member at Large, OU Chillicothe
James Caldwell, Ross County Commissioner
Doug Corcoran, Ross County Commissioner
Mal Payne, Ross County Minority Representative
Leigh Thompson, Mayor of Frankfort
Tom White, Ross County Private Sector Representative
- Scioto:** Steve Carter, Scioto County Economic Development
Eugene Collins, Scioto County Minority Representative
- Vinton:** Mike Bledsoe, Vinton County Commissioner
Tom Morgan, Vinton County Commissioner
- Ex-Officio:** Jim Brushart, ODOT, District 9
Stephen Caraway, Representative for, Congresswomen Schmidt
Senator John Carey, Ohio Senate, 17th District
Nan Cahall, District Representative for Senator Voinovich
Cindy Cunningham, Field Representative for Congressman Space
Fred Deel, Director Governor’s Office of Appalachia
Clyde Evans, Ohio House of Representatives, 87th District
David Hodapp, Representative for Senator Brown
Raymond Pryor, State Representative 85th District
Congresswoman Jean Schmidt, 2ND District
Brad Young, Representative for Congressman Steve Austria
- Guests:** Donna Bandy, Scioto County
JoAnn Brushart, Pike County
Rev. Olie Burton, Ross County
Beverly Cooper, Governor’s Office of Faith Based & Community Initiative
Carolyn DeWeese, Fayette County
Althea Howard, Gallia County GEDA
Melinda Jeffers, Medical Mutual
Ben Keller, Fayette County
Elder Sherman Johnson, Gallia County
Marie A. Jones, Jackson County
Jessie Payne, GEDA
Marlin Rose, Gallia County
Jon Saxton, Assistant Superintendent, Chillicothe City Schools
Christian Scott, City of Gallipolis
Jeff Spencer, Ross County, former OVRDC Executive Director
Karen Sprague, Gallia County Administrator
Lynn Stevens, USDA Rural Development
Mike Stout, Highland County
Rafeal Underwood, Economic Recovery Coordinator
Daniel Wade, Village of Frankfort
Tom Worley, OSU South Centers

OVRDC Staff John Hemmings, Executive Director
 Rebecca Banchy-McIlwain, Finance Director
 Juanita Bragg, Bookkeeper
 Sharon Clark, Administrative Assistant
 Jason Gillow, Research/Planning Specialist
 Sherrie Lanier, Development Director
 Shannon Nichols, Program Secretary
 Kim Reynolds, Community Development Coordinator
 Michele Throckmorton, Economic Development Coordinator

INTRODUCTION OF HEAD TABLE AND SPECIAL GUESTS

Chairman Proud requested a moment of silence to honor Harold Smith, OVRDC Minority Representative from Lawrence County who recently passed away. Mr. Smith was a member of the OVRDC family for many years and condolences were extended to his family.

Mr. Proud introduced guests sitting at the head table, Doug Corcoran, OVRDC Treasurer and Ross County Commissioner, Roger Rhonemus, OVRDC Vice Chairman and Adams County Commissioner, Fred Deel, Director, Governor’s Office of Appalachia and former OVRDC Executive Committee Member, John Hemmings, OVRDC Executive Director, Senator John Carey, State Representative Raymond Pryor, Congresswoman Jean Schmidt, and State Representative Clyde Evans.

Mr. Proud introduced special guests: Cindy Cunningham, Field Representative, Congressman Zack Space; Nan Cahall, District Representative for Senator Voinovich; Lynn Stevens, Area Director USDA Rural Development; Stephen Caraway, Representative for Congresswoman Jean Schmidt; Jim Brushart, ODOT, District 9 and former OVRDC Executive Committee member; Brad Young, Representative, Congressman Steve Austria; Tom Worley, OSU South Centers; Rafeal Underwood, Economic Recovery Coordinator; Jon Saxton, Assistant Superintendent Chillicothe City Schools; Beverly Cooper, Representative for Governor’s Office of Faith Based & Community Initiative; David Hodapp, Representative for Senator Sherrod Brown; Jeff Spencer, former OVRDC Executive Director, and Sherry Stout, President of Southern State Community College.

Chairman Proud asked John Hemmings, OVRDC Executive Director to introduce the OVRDC staff, “Team” OVRDC and he thanked the staff for their dedication and service. Mr. Hemmings advised Dan Yarmesch, Economic Development Specialist recently resigned to attend the University of Illinois Law School on a full-ride scholarship and wished him well in his future endeavors. Mr. Hemmings praised the OVRDC Staff and asked each member to stand as they were introduced: Rebecca Banchy-McIlwain, Finance Director; Sherrie Lanier, Development Director, Juanita Bragg, Bookkeeper; Jason Gillow, Research/Planning Specialist; Shannon Nichols, Program Secretary; Sharon Clark, Administrative Assistant, Michele Throckmorton, Economic Development Coordinator and Kim Reynolds, Community Development Coordinator. Mr. Hemmings also recognized former OVRDC receptionist Donna Bandy who was in attendance.

SPEAKER

Mr. Proud introduced State Senator John A. Carey, Jr, representing Ohio’s 17th District in his second term. Senator Carey gave a brief update about the State of Ohio budget and spoke about the importance of the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission in Southern Ohio.

APPROVAL OF FULL COMMISSION AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Proud stated that copies of the draft meeting minutes had been mailed to Full Commission Members. He asked for a motion to waive the reading of the minutes and to adopt the minutes as listed on the Full Commission meeting agenda.

A MOTION TO WAIVE THE READING OF THE MINUTES AND TO ADOPT THE FULL COMMISSION MINUTES OF MARCH 26, 2009 AND THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 26, 2009, APRIL 30, 2009, MAY 28, 2009, JUNE 25, 2009, AND AUGUST 27, 2009 WAS MADE BY GARY HEATON, HIGHLAND COUNTY. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY HARRY RIDER, PIKE COUNTY AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Proud asked OVRDC Treasurer, Doug Corcoran to present the Financial Report. Mr. Corcoran advised he was very pleased to report that we have completed our single audit process in compliance with OMB Circular A-133 with the new Independent Public Accounting (IPA) firm, Whited Seigneur Sams & Rahe, LLP. He indicated there were no findings or questioned costs. The firm will be conducting the annual audits through December 31, 2010. Mr. Corcoran also said the independent auditor's Report for the audit period January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008 has been accepted by the auditor of the State and a copy of the report can be found on their website.

Mr. Corcoran expressed his appreciation for the working partnerships we have with the following federal and state grantor agencies: Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC); U.S. Department of Commerce under their Economic Development Administration (EDA) Program; USDA Rural Development; Governor's Office of Appalachia (GOA); Ohio Department of Development (ODOD), and Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC).

In closing, Mr. Corcoran thanked our 12 member counties for their assistance in helping make a difference, and to keep up the good work and that he looked forward to the continuing partnerships in 2010.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY BILL DINGUS AND SECONDED BY TOM WHITE TO ACCEPT THE FINANCIAL REPORT AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION CARRIED.

2010 NOMINATING COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Proud acknowledged members of the 2010 Nominating Committee: Jack DeWeese-Fayette County, James Keels, Chairman-Gallia County, Eugene Collins-Scioto County, Margery Paeltz, Brown County, and Harry Rider, Pike County.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BRIEFING

Mr. Hemmings presented a power point presentation "Executive Director Briefing" and the following topics were discussed:

UPDATE FROM LAST YEAR

- E-newsletter launched
- Regional Marketing grant application submitted to HUD RHED (\$150,000)
- Dealing with Aging Infrastructure (Hillsboro WWTP and Washington Court House WWTP)
- Environmental Records Clearinghouse
- Expansion of assistance to member counties (Highland County CDBG Revolving Loan Fund administration)
- Expansion of GIS planning (Housing and Fire Protection Planning grant extension and scope of work to Fayette, Gallia, Ross, and Scioto Counties)

NEW/CONTINUING PROJECTS

- Tri-County Economic Recovery Coordinator
- Leadership in Entrepreneurial Assistance and Development (LEAD)
- CDBG Administration for Village of Frankfort, Village of Coalton, Ross County, and Scioto County
- OU Voinovich School’s Ohio Appalachian Regional Economic Advancement Program (REAP)

NEW INITIATIVES/DIRECTIONS

- Rural Transportation Planning
- Connecting Appalachia Broadband Project
- Appalachian Environmental Infrastructure Energy Efficiency Initiative
- Going “Green”
- A Permanent Home for OVRDC

AWARDS/RECOGNITION

Chairman Proud and Mr. Hemmings presented the following awards:

Recipient of the OVRDC Area Leadership Award was Congresswoman Jean Schmidt honored for her outstanding service commitment and advocacy for the OVRDC Region, Southern Ohio and Its Communities.

Outstanding OVRDC Public Service Award was presented to Elaine Collins, Adams County Economic Development Director.

Dr. Sherry Stout, President of Southern State Community College and Ray Becraft, Brown County Chamber of Commerce were presented with OVRDC Outstanding Full Commission Member Awards in grateful appreciation for their services to Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission.

The OVRDC Outstanding Executive Committee Member Award was presented to Doug Corcoran, OVRDC Treasurer and Ross County Commissioner, for his dedication and commitment to the OVRDC area.

Also Chairman Proud and Mr. Hemmings presented the Ross County Commissioners, a Certificate of Appreciation for hosting the September 2009 Full Commission Appreciation Banquet.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Proud advised the next Full Commission Banquet, and Election of Officers would be held in Pike County in March 2010. Mr. Proud reminded members to complete the in-kind sheets and leave them at the registration table and there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. (Note: It was later determined the March 2010 Full Commission Meeting would be hosted by Pike County and the September 2010 Full Commission Meeting would be hosted by Clermont County.)

John W. Hemmings III
OVRDC Executive Director and Commission Secretary

APPROVED:

Bob Proud
OVRDC Chairman