

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD AN INFORMAL REGULAR SESSION ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2015, WITH COMMISSIONERS EDWIN H. HUMPHREY, ROBERT L. PROUD, AND DAVID H. UIBLE IN ATTENDANCE.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE WERE STEPHEN H. RABOLT, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR, AND DEBORAH BRITTON, CLERMONT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE. ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES AT THE INFORMAL REGULAR SESSION ARE LISTED ON THE ATTACHED ATTENDANCE SHEET.

LET THE RECORD SHOW THAT THE MAY 27, 2015 INFORMAL REGULAR SESSION WAS VIDEOTAPED AND IS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 8:00 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME. IN ADDITION, THE INFORMAL REGULAR SESSION IS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC VIEWING THROUGH THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT WEBSITE AT <https://www.youtube.com/user/clermontcounty/playlists>

Informal Session started shortly

THE FOLLOWING ISSUES WERE PRESENTED FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Issue - Apiary Update – Jeff Harris, Clermont County Apiary

Discussion - Mr. Harris provided the Commissioners with a presentation of photographs and overview of what an apiary is and what duties they perform.

At one point, there were 65 registered beekeepers in Clermont County, at the peak there were approximately 125. Mr. Harris indicated these numbers have decreased in recent years due to harsh winters, disease, and pests such as the small hive beetle and Varroa mite that are attacking the hives in our area. Mr. Harris explained how to treat for Varroa mites who must be treated chemically and during a non-food product season. He further specified that the small hive beetles are fought by using a trapping method, which is not an issue for or harmful to the bees.

Mr. Harris specified that Ohio has lost about 10% of the honeybee population since 1945. Feral bees account for 3%-4% of bees in this area when the numbers should be more in the area of 30-40%. The orchard numbers have also decreased because of the pollinator numbers decreasing as well. Mr. Harris stated pesticides in this area are one reason pollinators are on a downslide, without honeybees and monarch butterflies you will not have the pollination of important crops. Mr. Harris indicated a great deal of his time is spent educating the hobbyist beekeepers and less doing pest control on hives as in the past. Commissioner Uible stated that he himself is a hobbyist beekeeper and Mr. Harris spends as much time during the inspection process teaching as inspecting when visiting his three colonies. If a beekeeper has less than 10 colonies, they are considered a hobbyist beekeeper.

There are no commercial beekeepers in Clermont County.

Commissioner Proud asked if Mr. Harris has had any experience in our County with killer bees. Mr. Harris indicated it is important to know that certain species of bees are indigenous to our area and others were imported here by other means, such as transportation of food products. "Like dogs, most times bee colonies are docile, similar to a Labrador Retriever and they don't want to harm anyone." Mr. Harris specified with larger colonies there is bound to be someone in the colony who is unhappy and if a bee is unhappy it releases pheromones that notify the rest of the bee colony that something is wrong. This tends to create more of an issue when inspecting larger colonies such as those with 100 or more hives. Mr. Harris confirmed, killer bees have occasionally been found in Clermont County, he wanted it noted that killer bees were imported to this area and are typically not any more dangerous than any other species of bees found locally.

Commissioner Proud noted that bees pollinate everything and we cannot live without bees.

Mr. Harris stated that is correct. Bees pollinate all types of crops. Mr. Harris revealed that dandelions and clover provide the majority of the diet to sustain a bee colony. Bees need about 100 lbs. of honey to sustain them over the winter.

Conclusion/Follow-Up Action Needed – No follow up needed at this time.

2. **Issue - Area 12 Workforce Investment Board (WIB) Update – Adam Jones, WIB Administrator**

Discussion – Mr. Jones provided the Board with a PowerPoint presentation detailing the Butler, Clermont and Warren Counties Workforce Development Board achievements over the last few months. Mr. Jones stated that he and his staff have been updating the WIB by-laws, statement of work, involvement with several job fairs and prospective recruitment efforts for a new large retail/office and residential development. Mr. Jones also noted that the WIB has undertaken some recruitment of new WIB Board members, attended policy meetings with Congressional and State House representatives and participated in student mock interview events. Commissioner Humphrey stated he was able to attend the Southwest Ohio Regional Aerospace job fair and noted that it was well done.

Mr. Jones stated that he has encouraged WIB Board members to participate in the student mock interview event in coordination with Live Oaks Career Development Center. Commissioner Proud asked if Mr. Jones had reached out to US Grant Career center as well as the Live Oaks Career Development Campus regarding these training programs. Mr. Jones stated that he has not as of today and will put that on his list of contacts to make.

John Kasich, Governor, will be designating new local workforce development areas under the new legislation of Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). Mr. Jones indicated that Ohio Workforce Development (OWD) has been assigned two types of designations for approval of the program: “initial” (or automatic) and “discretionary” based on success measures to track each programs effectiveness. This measured success will be based on performance during the 2012 and 2013 program years (PY).

The Governor has designated our current area, Area 12 as “discretionary” due to one failed measurable outcome in PY13. Additionally, Mr. Jones stated the data that OWD graded Area 12 on for the failed outcome was discovered to be incorrect and all PY13 goals were met. Therefore, Area 12 should have qualified for “initial” designation. However, the OWD has declined to change the designation for Area 12.

Mr. Jones contacted the Department of Labor (DOL) with the scenario stated above. The DOL stated that Area 12 should be eligible for “Initial” designation and there may be some misinterpretation of the terminology or guideline criteria. Mr. Jones took the DOL opinion to OWD for reconsideration and again was told that OWD will not reconsider Area 12 for initial designation.

Applications for WIOA discretionary area designations to the State are due by May 29, 2015. A resolution must accompany the application, signed by each Board of Commissioners from each County we are including in our area. Mr. Jones stated we have been given a two-week extension to provide the signed copies of the resolutions. The resolution for Clermont County Commissioners to approve our application is set to be on the June 3, 2015 agenda. Mr. Jones stated that we are asking that Area 12 be kept intact as Butler, Warren and Clermont counties regardless of the “discretionary” designation we received from OWD at the start. If the application to keep Area 12 is rejected, Mr. Jones intends to challenge the decision based on the opinion from DOL.

WIOA programs will be partial implemented starting July 1, 2015 with full implementation to be complete by July 1, 2016. Mr. Jones would like to see planning regions created to bridge the gap between the levels of service that Area 12 and Area 13 offer for training reimbursement.

Mr. Jones noted the following items as the largest changes to the program:

- Adult Program - OhioMeansJobs (OMJ) Center individuals under WIA are now required to completed core services and then Intensive Services with OMJ staff, before training service opportunities can be provided. The WIOA program eliminates this process and provides training services from day one.
- Youth Program – will now serve youth from 16-24 instead of 16-21. Most of the youth program changes have taken place in the funding. Currently the WIA program requires 30% of program funds are spent on this age group. The WIOA now requires 75% of funding be spent on this age group, it will be required and be focused on out-of-school youth. 20% of those funds will now be required for work-based training activities.

Commissioner Proud stated that he was speaking with Congressman Wenstrup about the DOL requirements regarding our Veterans Representative at OMJ. Veterans with barriers are only allowed to see this representative if they have an identified barrier to employment. The Subcommittee in the House is suggesting that this regulation be changed so that Veterans Administration is responsible for representing all Veterans. Mr. Jones stated this is a much-needed change due to the specific needs of Veterans.

Commissioner Proud indicated that with the WIOA program changes the Administrative or Fiscal oversight will no longer be under Clermont County and will fall under the supervision of Butler or Warren County.

Conclusion/Follow-Up Action Needed – Mr. Jones has requested the following guidance from the Commissioners:

- With what counties should we collaborate?
- How will the Local Board membership change under WIOA?
- How will the Local Board engage in regional planning?
- How will the Local Board procure the OMJ operator?
- How does the youth program shift its priority to serve out-of-school youth?

The Commissioners shall take the questions under advisement after a final decision has been made as to the administrative responsibility for the WIB.

Adjournment

Informal Regular Session was adjourned.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CLERMONT COUNTY, OHIO**

EDWIN H. HUMPHREY, PRESIDENT

ROBERT L. PROUD, VICE PRESIDENT

DAVID H. UIBLE, MEMBER

STEPHEN H. RABOLT, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

06/24/15
DATE APPROVED