



Lowcountry Council of Governments

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Lowcountry Regional Development Corporation • Lowcountry Workforce Investment Area
Lowcountry Economic Development District • Lowcountry Regional HOME Consortium
Lowcountry Aging & Disability Resource Center/ Area Agency on Aging
Lowcountry Area Transportation Study

MEMORANDUM

TO: LCOG Board of Directors
FROM: Chris Bickley/Executive Director
SUBJECT: Board Meeting Notice
DATE: October 17, 2014

The regular monthly LCOG Board meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 23, 2014, at our Point South office. The fellowship period will begin at 6:00 p.m. Please use the enclosed proxy if you are unable to attend. **The Transportation Committee will meet at 5:00 p.m. to develop its recommendations on the first two Old Business agenda items below.**

Agenda

- I. Call to Order.
 1. Pledge of Allegiance
 2. Invocation
 3. Introduction of Guests and Staff
 4. Action on September 25, 2014 Minutes (Enclosed)
 5. Proxies
 6. Board Member Service Plaques
(Chairman Shaffer will present board service plaques to Lloyd H. "Tootie" Griffith's family and to George W. Williams, Jr.)
- II. Presentation.
 1. LCOG Agency Audit for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2014 – Lisa Wechsler.
(Crowley, Wechsler & Associates, our independent auditor, will present its report on COG operations for FY2013-2014. The draft report is enclosed.)
- III. Old Business.
 1. US17 – SC68 Funding Scenario
(See enclosed memo setting out SCDOT guideshare scenarios for the COG and the LATS MPO to fund widening of SC68 in Hampton County and US17 in Jasper County.)
 2. US21 – US21 Business (Parris Island Gateway Cost Increase)
(This intersection improvement project requires a \$400K budget increase. SCDOT will present details to the committee and board.)
 3. Executive Director's Resignation
(You know my retirement plans. Please accept my resignation effective January 5, 2015.)
- IV. New Business.
- V. Reports.
 1. September Finance Report – Sherry Smith
 2. Community and Economic Development Report – Michelle Knight
 3. Director's Report – Chris Bickley
- VI. Council Time.
- VII. Adjourn.

LOWCOUNTRY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
September 25, 2014
6:30 p.m.

MINUTES

	<u>PRESENT:</u>	<u>ABSENT:</u>
BEAUFORT COUNTY:	Gerald Dawson Brian Flewelling Mary Beth Heyward Bill McBride Jim Outlaw Jerry Stewart Lisa Sulka	Marc A. Grant Billy Keyserling (Proxy to B. Flewelling) Joseph McDomick Tabor Vaux (Proxy to Chair) George Williams (Proxy to Chair)
COLLETON COUNTY:	Esther S. Black Joseph Flowers Thomas (Tommy) Mann Evon Robinson Gene Whetsell	Bobby Bonds Jane Darby
HAMPTON COUNTY:	Frankie Bennett James (Pete) Hagood Travis L. (Pete) Mixson Charles (Buddy) Phillips Nat Shaffer	
JASPER COUNTY:	Henry Etheridge Carolyn Kassel Henry Lawton, Sr. Joey Malphrus Gwen Johnson Smith	
GUESTS:	Mike Phillips, Interim Hardeeville City Manager; Celia Price, guest of Esther Black; Alan M. Matienzo and Joy Shealy, SCDOT Lowcountry RPG	
STAFF:	Hank Amundson, Chris Bickley, Barbara Johnson, Michelle Knight, Ginnie Kozak, Sherry Smith, Carol Stonebraker	

Chairman Nat Shaffer called the September 25, 2014 Lowcountry Council of Governments regular board meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Pete Hagood gave the invocation. Introduction of guests and staff followed. Minutes of the August 28, 2014 meeting were unanimously approved on motion by Henry Lawton and second from Mary Beth Heyward. Proxies presented by the Executive Director included Billy Keyserling to Brian Flewelling and Tabor Vaux and George Williams to the Chair. All were general proxies. Jane Darby called to say she could not attend. The meeting proceeded after determining a quorum was present.

Chairman Shaffer opened a Public Hearing at 6:35 p.m. on the Lowcountry Regional HOME Consortium (LRHC) Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER). A summary was sent to board members prior to the meeting, and the hearing had been properly advertised in regional newspapers. Affordable Housing Manager Barbara Johnson was recognized to present the information. She reviewed the report and said the HOME Consortium Advisory Committee met September 18 and recommended approval. During its 8th program year, LRHC expended approximately \$772K and

contributed 25% local match, spending a little over \$1M on regional affordable housing. Sixty-nine rehab units and one new construction unit were completed. Six families received tenant-based rental assistance. Five rehab units are under construction in Colleton County. Barbara plans to meet with the Colleton County Habitat for Humanity Board of Directors in October to promote the program. The Chairman called for questions or public comments and there were none. He closed the hearing at 6:40 p.m.

With no Old Business brought forward, Chairman Shaffer addressed New Business and called for action on the Lowcountry Regional HOME Consortium CAPER presented at the public hearing. Tommy Mann made a motion to approve the report as information. The motion unanimously carried following a second from Mary Beth Heyward.

Sherry Smith was recognized for the August Finance Report. Sherry reported Revenues over Expenses are near 16% as budgeted. She reviewed Unrestricted Cash and Accounts Receivable. Receivables were at an all-time high and included June, July and August receivables from the Lt. Governor's Office on Aging. Sherry said those funds were received and the COG is now current with that agency. The COG's independent auditor conducted its review in September and is on schedule to present the audit report at the October board meeting.

Michelle Knight was recognized for the Community & Economic Development Report. Michelle submitted the report as written and recommended contacting her soon about projects for the spring funding round. She said that staff is looking for ways to streamline public hearings and will try to schedule needs assessment public hearings between January and mid-February. Michelle responded to a question about when completed projects drop off the report. She said projects shown as programmatically closed do not come off the list until a final audit letter is received from State. That status does not affect a community's ability to apply for new projects. Also, the Penn Center EDA project in Beaufort County requires a nine-year report that is coming up soon. The project will not be listed once confirmation is received that all requirements have been met.

Chris Bickley was recognized for the Director's Report, which he submitted with comments. The SC Association of Regional Councils (SCARC) annual conference is Nov 23-25, and board members wanting to attend should turn in registration forms by October 11. The Federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is implementing significant changes to the federal grants process. Chris recommended that board members from jurisdictions directly administering federal grants be certain their staff is aware and preparing for the changes. He noted that a Lowcountry Labor Force and Employment summary by region was included with the Unemployment Chart.

Chairman Shaffer called for a motion to enter Executive Session to receive and discuss the Executive Director Search Committee Report. The motion was made by Brian Flewelling, seconded by Pete Hagood, and unanimously approved. On return to Open Session, Brian Flewelling made a motion that the Chairman be authorized to negotiate a contract of employment for the position of Executive Director with Sabrina Graham; that the contract be according to the draft provided to board members with additional wording stating an annual performance review is required and that the effective date of the contract be no later than January 5, 2015. Jim Outlaw seconded the motion. Search Committee Chairman Brian Flewelling said the motion was developed by and in agreement with the full Committee. For the benefit of staff and guests returning to the room, the motion and comments were repeated, after which Chairman Shaffer called for a vote and the motion was unanimously approved. Ms. Graham came into the meeting, and everyone welcomed her to the COG.

There were no comments during Council Time, and with no additional business to address, and on motion duly made, seconded and approved, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 7:10 p.m. Copies of the agenda were distributed prior to the meeting. A notice of the meeting was posted on the LCOG bulletin board at least twenty-four hours prior to the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

L. Chriswell Bickley, Jr.
Executive Director

Attachments



CROWLEY WECHSLER & ASSOCIATES LLC
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

www.CWACPAs.com

BEAUFORT • MOUNT PLEASANT

Richard D. Crowley, CPA, CVA
Lisa T. Wechsler, CPA

Member:
American Institute of CPAs
South Carolina Association of CPAs

October 6, 2014

To the Board of Directors

Lowcountry Council of Governments

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, the aggregate discretely presented component units, and each major fund of Lowcountry Council of Governments for the year ended June 30, 2014. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, and OMB Circular A-133, as well as certain information in our letter to you dated June 1, 2014. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

Significant Audit Findings

Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by Lowcountry Council of Governments are described in Note 1 to the financial statements. No new accounting policies were adopted and the application of existing policies was not changed during the year ended June 30, 2014. We noted no transactions entered into by Lowcountry Council of Governments during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. The most sensitive estimate affecting the financial statements was:

Management's estimate of the depreciation expense is based on the useful life of the underlying assets. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the depreciation expense in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

The financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent, and clear.

Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are clearly trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Management has corrected all such misstatements. In addition, none of the misstatements detected as a result of audit procedures and corrected by management were material, either individually or in the aggregate, to each opinion unit's financial statements taken as a whole.

Disagreements with Management

For purposes of this letter, a disagreement with management is a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditor's report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

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Management Representations

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated October 6, 2014.

Management Consultations with Other Independent Accountants

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a "second opinion" on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the governmental unit's financial statements or a determination of the type of auditor's opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

Other Audit Findings or Issues

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as governmental unit's auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

Other Matters

With respect to the supplementary information accompanying the financial statements, we made certain inquiries of management and evaluated the form, content, and methods of preparing the information to determine that the information complies with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the method of preparing it has not changed from the prior period, and the information is appropriate and complete in relation to our audit of the financial statements. We compared and reconciled the supplementary information to the underlying accounting records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves.

Restriction on Use

This information is intended solely for the use of the Board of Directors, and management of Lowcountry Council of Governments, and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Very truly yours,



Crowley Wechsler & Associates LLC

Beaufort, South Carolina



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MEMORANDUM

TO: LCOG Board
FROM: Chris Bickley/Executive Director
SUBJECT: US17-SC68 Funding Scenario
DATE: October 17, 2014

Last month I reported that SCDOT staff was working to develop a funding scenario to include both the US Hwy. 17 widening project in Jasper County and the SC Hwy. 68 widening project in Hampton County. It is set out in the attached COG and LATS MPO financial statements from SCDOT. They are written in “DOT-speak”, but can be summarized as follows:

- SC 68 widening is scheduled to begin construction in 2015.
- US 17 widening construction is scheduled to begin in 2018.
- The projects require all COG guideshare funds through 2021 and all MPO guideshare funds through 2022.
- SCDOT is advancing three years of guideshare allocations each to the COG and the MPO.

The Transportation Committee will meet at 5:00 p.m. for a detailed briefing by DOT staff and to develop a recommendation to the full board. The funding scenario is also on the COG board meeting agenda for a decision.

At the June COG board meeting a decision was made not to fund the US 17 project. In order to fund it now, a motion to rescind that action must be made by someone who voted in the affirmative and then approved by the board. (The June vote was unanimous, so a motion to rescind can be made by anyone present at the June meeting.)

If approved by the COG, the scenario will then go to the MPO for action. Approvals by both the COG and the MPO are required.

This is an extraordinary commitment—no other guideshare projects will be funded in the Region until after 2021—but there is no other way to fund these projects.

Attachments

LOWCOUNTRY COG FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Updated September 16, 2014

(COST IN THOUSANDS)														TIP COST (2012-2022)	REMAINING COST (2023+)	FUNDING	
PIN #	COUNTY	GUIDESHARE PROJECTS	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022				
		INTERSECTION OF SC-48 @ S-29 (PROJECT REMOVED FROM PROGRAM)		-462												(\$462)	
	BEAUFORT	INTERSECTION OF US 21 @ US 21 BUS		109 R	100 P	250 C										\$458	
	HAMPTON	SC 68 FROM ENTRANCE TO INDUSTRIAL PARK TO 0.5 MI WEST OF S-65 (RIDGECUT RD)	500 P	47 R		9 000 C										\$9 547	
	JASPER	INTERSECTION OF US 17 @ SC 336 IN THE TOWN OF RIDGELAND	50 P		250 C											\$300	
	BEAUFORT	US 278 @ WINMILL HARBOR (ACCESS MANAGEMENT)	200 P		822 C											\$1,022	
	BEAUFORT	US 21 @ GRAYS HILL - CONSOLIDATE MEDIANS & CONSTRUCT TURN LANES	200 P		1,200 C											\$1,400	
	BEAUFORT	SC 802 @ S-112 (HOLLY HALLYS-72 (BRICKYARD) CONSTRUCT ROUNDABOUT	150 P		800 R	1,500 C										\$2,450	
	BEAUFORT	US 21 @ SHANKLIN DRIVE	200 P		950 C											\$1,150	
	COLLETON	INTERSECTION OF SC 64 @ S-24 (MT CARMEL RD) IMPROVE INTERSECTION	200 P		140 R	750 C										\$1,090	
	JASPER	WIDEN US 17 FROM GA STATE LINE TO SC 316			500 R				34 000 C							\$34,500	
	REGION WIDE	REGIONAL BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN PLAN	85 PL													\$85	
	REGION WIDE	REGIONAL TRAVEL DEMAND MODEL	100 PL													\$100	
		GUIDESHARE ADVANCEMENT PAYBACK								2 535	2 573	2 555					
		DEBT SERVICE	1 699	1 630	1 614	150	158	156	154	163	115	115	110			\$5,768	
		GUIDESHARE SUBTOTALS	\$3 981	\$1 324	\$6 376	\$11 660	\$158	\$156	\$34 154	\$2 688	\$2 688	\$2 670	\$110			\$57,409	
		GUIDESHARE ALLOCATION	8,744	8,154	8,154	2,688	2,688	2,688	2,688	2,688	2,688	2,688	2,688			\$35,804	
		CARRYOVER AVAILABLE	13,351	19,105	25,935	27,713	18,741	21,271	23,803				18			\$REF	
		GUIDESHARE ADVANCEMENT							7,663								
		GUIDESHARE SUBTOTALS	(3,581)	(1,324)	(6,376)	(11,660)	(158)	(156)	(34,154)	(2,688)	(2,688)	(2,670)	(110)			(\$57,409)	
		BALANCE	19 105	25 935	27,713	16,741	21,271	23 803				18	2,596				

THE ESTIMATED WIDENING COST IS \$53 MILLION WITH \$19 MILLION COMING FROM LATS

LATS MPO FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Updated September 16, 2014

(COST IN THOUSANDS)																	
PIN #	COUNTY	GUIDESHARE PROJECTS	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	TIP COST (2012-2025)	REMAINING COST (2026+)	FUNDING
	JASPER	WIDEN US 17 FROM GA STATE LINE TO SC 315 BRIDGE OVER BACK RIVER*					19,000 C			6,000 C					\$19,000		
		GUIDESHARE ADVANCEMENT PAYBACK					3,252	2,905		3,725							
		DEBT SERVICE		1,437	1,424	1,406	1,390	1,373	1,034	1,036	407					\$8,064	
		GUIDESHARE SUBTOTALS		\$1,437	\$1,424	\$1,406	\$20,390	\$4,625	\$3,939	\$9,036	\$4,132				\$33,221		
		GUIDESHARE ALLOCATION		4,625	4,625	4,625	4,625	4,625	4,625	4,625	4,625	4,625	4,625	4,625	\$27,750		
		CARRYOVER AVAILABLE			3,188	6,389	9,608			686		493	5,118	9,743	#REF!		
		GUIDESHARE ADVANCEMENT					6,157			3,725							
		GUIDESHARE SUBTOTALS		(1,437)	(1,424)	(1,406)	(20,390)	(4,625)	(3,939)	(9,036)	(4,132)				(\$33,221)		
		BALANCE		3,188	6,389	9,608			686		493	5,118	9,743	14,368			

*NOTE: THE ESTIMATED COST FOR THE BACK RIVER BRIDGE IS APPROXIMATELY \$15 MILLION. THE ASSUMPTION IS THAT GA DOT WILL PAY FOR HALF. 2020 COST INCLUDES INFLATION FACTOR. THE ESTIMATED WIDENING COST IS \$53 MILLION WITH \$34 MILLION COMING FROM LOWCOUNTRY COG.



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October 23, 2014

Chairman Nat Shaffer
Lowcountry Council of Governments
Yemassee, South Carolina

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is to submit my resignation to the COG Board effective January 5, 2015. You know my retirement plans, and this is my last regular board meeting. It has been a good twenty-one years for me and, I think, for the COG and the Lowcountry Region overall. Please know that I appreciate the strong support I've received from the many board members over these years.

I'm proud of the work the COG does and of the employees who do it. Thank you for providing the policy leadership on which the COG's success is based.

Let me know if there is anything I can do to assist in the future, and thank you for the opportunity to lead this organization.

Sincerely, ' /

L. Chriswell Bickley, Jr.
Executive Director

cc: LCOG Board Members

Lowcountry Council of Governments
Statement of Revenues and Expenditures
For the Period Ending September 2014

	Actual YTD	Revised Budget	Variance	%
Revenues				
Federal	\$1,140,818	4,155,283	(\$3,014,465)	.275
State Restricted	218,895	1,417,245	(1,198,350)	.154
State Unrestricted	10,666	42,664	(31,998)	.250
Local Restricted	273,799	813,792	(539,993)	.336
Local Unrestricted	37,125	148,195	(111,070)	.251
Other Sources	16,604	82,638	(66,034)	.201
Total Revenues	<u>\$1,697,907</u>	<u>6,659,817</u>	<u>(\$4,961,910)</u>	<u>.255</u>
Expenditures				
<i>Personnel and Related Costs</i>	604,293	\$2,541,362	(1,937,069)	.238
<i>Building and Related Costs</i>	47,622	245,865	(198,243)	.194
<i>Operating Costs</i>				
Advertising	1,230	\$26,100	(24,870)	.047
Contracts	943,550	3,459,360	(2,515,810)	.273
Depreciation	1,095	4,380	(3,285)	.250
Dues, Subscriptions & Publicat	9,612	10,950	(1,338)	.878
Equipment Maintenance & Lease	11,229	29,750	(18,521)	.377
Insurance & Bonding	2,785	11,500	(8,715)	.242
Meetings	801	14,275	(13,474)	.056
Miscellaneous	1,581	24,900	(23,319)	.063
Legal Fees	454	2,750	(2,296)	.165
Postage & Shipping	2,720	11,500	(8,780)	.237
Printing	10,003	21,500	(11,497)	.465
Supplies	9,823	24,400	(14,577)	.403
	<u>994,883</u>	<u>3,641,365</u>	<u>(2,646,482)</u>	<u>.273</u>
<i>Other Expenditures</i>				
Equipment Purchases	8,020	\$34,000	(25,980)	.236
Travel Costs	22,508	101,083	(78,575)	.223
Auto Costs	8,075	35,522	(27,448)	.227
Bad Debt	-	-	0	
	<u>38,602</u>	<u>170,605</u>	<u>(132,003)</u>	<u>.226</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>1,685,401</u>	<u>6,599,196</u>	<u>(4,913,796)</u>	<u>.255</u>
Revenues over Expenditures	<u>\$12,506</u>	<u>\$60,621</u>	<u>(48,115)</u>	<u>0.21</u>
Operations	<u>\$12,506</u>	<u>\$60,621</u>	<u>(48,115)</u>	<u>0.21</u>

Balance Sheet
For the Period Ending September 2014

Assets

Cash - Unrestricted	306,455	
Cash - Restricted TDR	254,236	
Accounts Receivable	1,127,710	
Prepaid Expenses	21,276	
Property, Building & Equipment	1,660,115	
Amount to be Provided for Debt	676,868	
Total Assets		<u><u>4,046,659</u></u>

Liabilities & Equity

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$352,302	
Accrued Liabilities	473,747	
Long-Term Debt	676,868	

Total Liabilities \$1,502,917

Fund Equity

Investment in Fixed Assets	\$1,660,115	
Unassigned Fund Balance	\$614,751	
Restricted Fund Balance	\$253,099	
Nonspendable Fund Balance	\$3,272	
Revenues over Expenditures	12,506	

Total Fund Equity \$2,543,742

Total Liabilities & Equity \$4,046,659

<p>LOWCOUNTRY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES ACTIVITY REPORT SUMMARY October 23, 2014</p>

ACTIVE PROJECTS:

CDBG Community Investment	20
CDBG Economic Development	1
CDBG Ready to Go	0
CDBG Planning Grants	1
EDA Public Works	3
EDA Title IX Loans	24
RD Grants	1
 TOTAL NUMBER OF ACTIVE PROJECTS	 50

DOLLAR VOLUME OF ACTIVE PROJECTS

CDBG Community Investment	\$ 10,336,224
CDBG Economic Development	\$ 165,000
CDBG Ready to Go	\$ 0
CDBG Planning Grants	\$ 50,000
 TOTAL CDBG PROJECTS	 \$ 10,551,224
EDA Title IX Loans	\$ 2,374,192
RD Grants	\$ 50,000
EDA Public Works	\$ 2,392,700
TOTAL DOLLAR VOLUME OF ACTIVE PROJECTS	\$ 15,368,116

Total Number of Projects in Application Process -

3

Total Dollar Volume of Projects in Application

\$2,205,000

Lowcountry Council of Governments
 Community and Economic Development Activities
 Activity Summary Report-October 2014

Beaufort County

<u>GRANTEE</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>PURPOSE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>LMI</u>	<u>AWARD</u>		<u>CONTACT</u>
					<u>DATE</u>	<u>STATUS</u>	
<u>CDBG Investment Projects:</u>							
Beaufort County	4-C1-11-002	Burton Water	\$405,000		Jul-11	Programmatically closed.	M. Knight
Town of Bluffton	4-V-12-007	Buck Island - Simmonsville Village Renaissance III	\$500,000		Apr-13	Startup cleared. Working on acquisition.	M. Knight
City of Beaufort	4-V-12-004	Northwest Quadrant Renaissance III	\$500,000		Apr-13	Contract approved.	B. Johnson
Town of Bluffton	4-C1-14-002	Possum Pt. Sewer	\$320,000			Startup cleared/working on acquisition.	M. Knight
<u>CDBG Economic Development:</u>							
<u>EDA Public Works</u>							
Penn Center	04-01-05665	Purchase & renovation of hotel/restaurant	\$544,700		Jan-06	Closeout complete. Gov. Performance Results Act tracking.	M. Knight
<u>Title IX Loans:</u>							
	5		\$400,000	41 jobs			M. Knight
<u>Grant Applications Requested/in Process</u>							
Beaufort County		Stuart Point Water	\$750,000			Application declined.	M. Knight

Colleton County

<u>GRANTEE</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>PURPOSE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>LMI</u>	<u>AWARD</u>		<u>CONTACT</u>
					<u>DATE</u>	<u>STATUS</u>	
<u>CDBG Investment Projects:</u>							
City of Walterboro	4-V-11-007	Lemacks St. VR Phase II	\$500,000		Jan-12	Programatically closed.	M. Knight
Colleton County Demolition	4-W-12-004	Demolition of Two Buildings	\$285,300		Nov-12	Programatically closed.	M. Knight
City of Walterboro	4-W-13-005	South Jefferies Streetscape	\$500,000		Nov-13	Startup underway / ERR cleared.	M. Knight
City of Walterboro	4-C1-14-020	Walterboro Looping	\$750,000		Jun-14	Startup approved. Acquisition in process.	K. Bryan
City of Walterboro	4-V-14-002	Lemacks VR Phase III	\$500,000		Aug-14	Awarded/startup underway. Housing guidelines being reviewed.	M. Knight
<u>CDBG Economic Development:</u>							
<u>EDA - Public Works:</u>							
Colleton County-EDA	04-01-05665	Technical Training Center	\$1,252,500			GPRA Tracking completed.	M. Knight
<u>Title IX Loans:</u>							
		1	\$75,000	8 jobs			M. Knight
Grant Applications							
<u>Requested/In Process</u>							
Colleton County		Bama Rd Drainage	\$705,000			Application declined.	M. Knight

Lowcountry Council of Governments
 Community and Economic Development Activities
 Activity Summary Report-October 2014

Hampton County

GRANTEE	NUMBER	PURPOSE	AMOUNT	LMI	AWARD		CONTACT
					DATE	STATUS	
<u>CDBG Investment Projects:</u>							
Town of Varnville	4-CI-10-029	Water Looping	\$500,000		Jul-10	Programmatically closed.	M. Knight
Town of Estill	4-CI-11-010	Ruth St. Sewer Improvement	\$500,000		Jul-11	Construction completed. Project Amendment being worked on.	M. Knight
Town of Varnville	4-CI-11-033	Mill Pond Pump Station Upgrades	\$190,000		Jul-11	Programmatically closed.	M. Knight
Town of Brunson	4-CI-12-004	Water Tank Improvements	\$347,474			Phase I contract under review.	B. Johnson
Hampton County	4-W-13-002	DHEC Health Clinic	\$500,000		Nov-13	Design/permitting.	K. Bryan
Hampton County	4-C1-14-009	Brunson-Gifford Water Connection	\$1,000,000		Jun-14	Startup underway/RFP-engineering/ERR.	K. Bryan
Town of Yemassee	4-C1-14-024	Sewer Line upgrade	\$750,000		Jun-14	Startup underway/RFP-engineering.	M. Knight
<u>CDBG Economic Development Projects:</u>							
Hampton County	4-CD-11-001	Econ Dev Project/Rail Expansion	\$165,000			Contract under review.	M. Knight
<u>JEDA Projects:</u>							
<u>CDBG Planning Grant:</u>							
Hampton County	4-RP-13-005	2013 Regional Planning Grant	\$50,000			Awarded.	M. Knight
<u>RD Grants</u>							
Town of Hampton		Old Bank Demolition	\$50,000			Awarded.	M. Knight
<u>EDA</u>							
Hampton County	04-01-06151	Jobs Training Center Renovation - EDA	\$598,000		Jul-09	Closeout paperwork submitted & approved. GPRA Reporting.	M. Knight
<u>Home Program Projects:</u>							
<u>Title IX Loans:</u>							
	11		\$559,192				M. Knight
<u>Grant Applications</u>							
<u>Requested/In Process</u>							

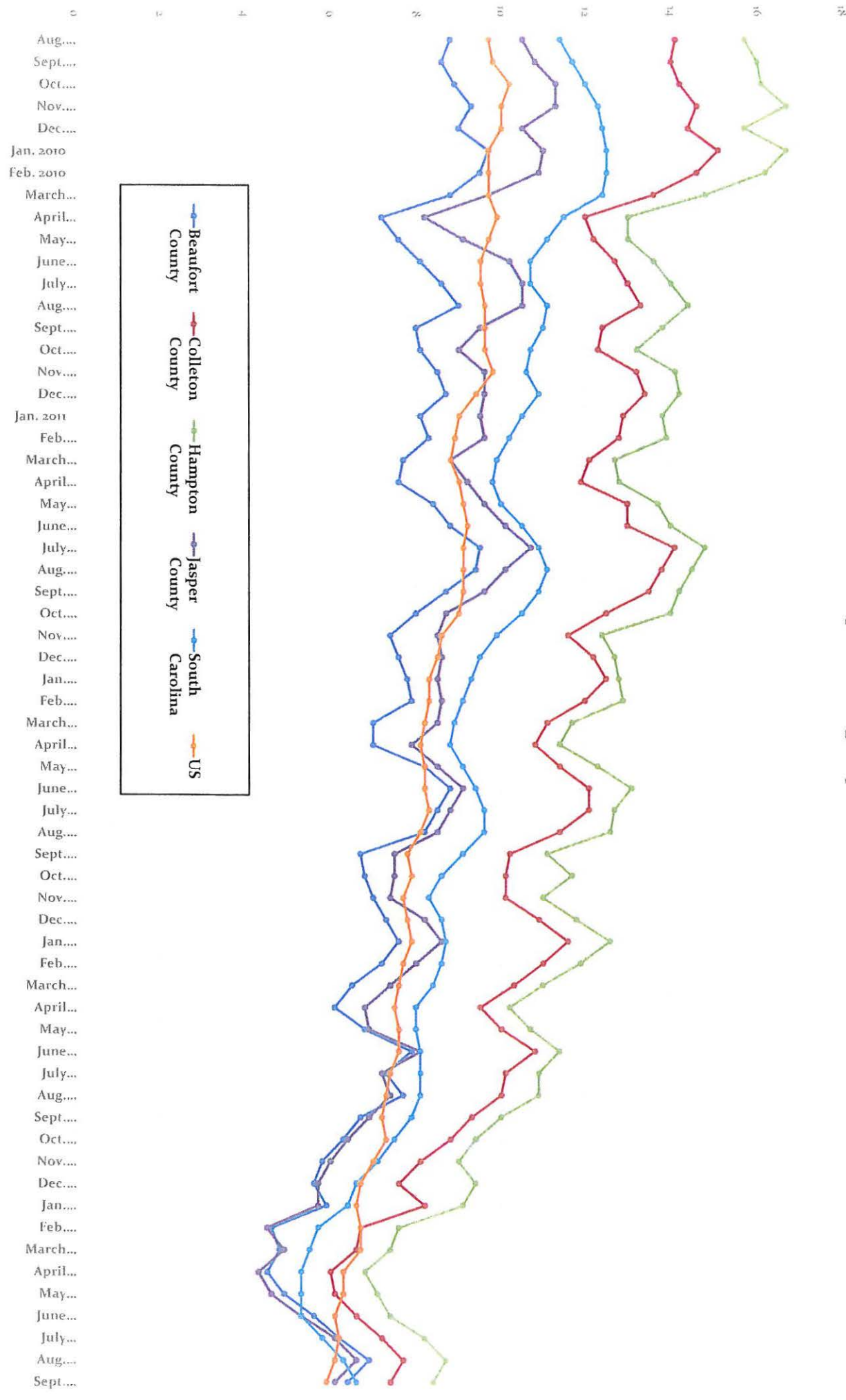
Jasper County

<u>GRANTEE</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>PURPOSE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>LMI</u>	<u>AWARD</u>		<u>CONTACT</u>
					<u>DATE</u>	<u>STATUS</u>	
<u>CDBG Investment Projects:</u>							
City of Hardeeville	4-CI-11-014	Drainage	\$500,000		Jul-11	Programmatically closed.	B. Johnson
Town of Ridgeland	4-CI-12-023	First Avenue PS upgrade	\$500,000		Jul-12	Programmatically closed.	B. Johnson
Jasper County	4-W-12-006	DHEC Addition	\$500,000		Nov-12	Construction underway/Project Amendment proposed.	M. Knight
Jasper County	4-CI-13-001	Old Baileys Sewer Extension	\$389,050		Jul-13	Design underway. Acquisition.	K. Bryan
City of Hardeeville	4-W-13-003	Hardeeville Library	\$500,000		Nov-13	Design underway.	B. Johnson
Town of Ridgeland	4-C1-14-017	Wise Street Pump Station Upgrade	\$399,400		Jun-14	Startup cleared. Design underway.	B. Johnson
<u>EDA Public Works</u>							
LCOG/EDA Planning Grant	04-05-11077-99	Fund LCOG Economic Dev. Activities	\$58,500		Jan-13	New Award.	M. Knight
Title IX Loans:	15		\$1,340,000	205 jobs			M. Knight
<u>Grant Applications</u>							
<u>Requested/In Process</u>							
City of Hardeeville		Hardeeville Drainage 2014	\$750,000			Application not funded.	B. Johnson

208 Plan Conformance Certifications - October 2014

Project	Description	Location	Wastewater Treatment Plant	Number of Lots	Date Certified	Conform	Fee Paid	Status
<i>Northern Beaufort County</i>								
Ashley Pointe Apartments	Gravity Sewer System	Beaufort	Port Royal	56 Apartments	10/14/2014	Yes	\$230	Approved
<i>Southern Beaufort County</i>								
May River Village Apartments Phase 2	Gravity Sewer System	Bluffton	Cherry Point	40 Apartments	9/29/2014	Yes	\$230	Approved
The Haven Block 4A	Gravity Sewer System	Bluffton	Cherry Point	52	10/2/2014	Yes	\$230	Approved
Buck Island Road CDBG-Possum Point Sewer Extension		Bluffton	Cherry Point	39	10/21/2014	Yes	\$230	Approved
<i>Colleton County</i>								
<i>Hampton County</i>								
<i>Jasper County</i>								
* Del Web - Argent 2 Block 9	Gravity Sewer System	Jasper County	Cherry Point	52	9/10/2014	Yes	\$230	Approved
* Del Web - Argent 2 Block 9	Gravity Sewer System	Jasper County	Cherry Point	28	9/10/2014	Yes	\$230	Approved
							\$1,380	
* Added after Sep Board Meeting								

Lowcountry Unemployment Rates



Lowcountry Labor Force and Employment

	Sep-14			Aug-14			Sep-13	
	Labor Force	Employment		Labor Force	Employment		Labor Force	Employment
Beaufort County	65,844	61,660		65,754	61,235		65,294	60,975
Colleton County	17,018	15,756		16,944	15,640		17,006	15,485
Hampton County	7,708	7,057		7,650	6,982		7,623	6,886
Jasper County	10,638	9,994		10,624	9,924		10,595	9,882
Lowcountry Total	101,208	94,467		100,972	93,781		100,518	93,228

	Labor Force	Employment
Lowcountry Percent Change September 2013 - September 2014	0.69%	1.33%



Lowcountry Council of Governments

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Lowcountry Regional Development Corporation • Lowcountry Workforce Investment Area
Lowcountry Economic Development District • Lowcountry Regional HOME Consortium
Lowcountry Aging & Disability Resource Center / Area Agency on Aging
Lowcountry Area Transportation Study

MEMORANDUM

TO: LCOG Board
FROM: Chris Bickley/Executive Director
SUBJECT: Director's Report
DATE: October 23, 2014

1. About a dozen of you plan to attend the SCARC (S. C. Assn. of Regional Councils) annual conference next month in Myrtle Beach. Please check the attached attendance roster and let Carol know if your information isn't correct. Also, let her know if your plans change. Note that Sabrena will join us.
2. Pick up your COG Christmas gift on your way out tonight.
3. This is a loose end I'm glad to see taken care of before I leave: Chris Campbell brought in a \$190K check this week to close out his USDA loan through our development corporation (LRDC) on his Gardens Corner development—originally Piggly-Wiggly, now Family Dollar. We are contacting USDA to determine how these funds can be used.
4. Another loose end: the HOME Program match rate doubled last year from 12.5% to 25%. We're fine through the end of this fiscal year, because match for this program can include more than cash, but this is an issue to be dealt with early next year.
5. Another loose end wrapped up: we just received our LEED Certificate for the COG building renovation and expansion, which completely closes out that project.
6. The Workforce Program is receiving additional funds from the state to hire two new employees to serve the Nevamar layoffs in Hampton County.
7. The COG's employment agreement with Sabrena Graham was executed on September 29th.
8. You may recall that two years ago we, along with Lower Savannah COG in Aiken and Santee-Lynches COG in Sumter, merged our revolving loan fund (RLF) program into the S. C. RLF operated by Catawba COG in Rock Hill. It's report of activity in the four Lowcountry counties from 8/2013-9/2014 is as follows:
 - Worked with 9 different businesses during this time, of which:
 - 1 old loan from our portfolio was paid off with full recovery of principal.
 - 3 are still in the active prospect stage.
 - 3 got full financing by a bank.
 - 1 got full financing through SBA.
 - 1 was declined by the bank.
 - These businesses are located in Hardeeville, Beaufort, Jasper County, Hilton Head Island and Walterboro.
 - Banks involved are South State Bank, Palmetto State Bank, Bank of N. C., Ameris Bank, BB & T and Bank of Walterboro.
 - S. C. RLF staff made 9 trips to meet with Lowcountry bankers. Also met with bankers at meetings arranged by Hilton Head-Bluffton Chamber and SouthernCarolina Alliance.

Attachment

7



Returning?
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Editorial: Improve accident alley

Posted: October 22, 2014 - 9:51pm | Updated: October 23, 2014 - 7:53am



[MANAGE ACCOUNT](#) [ACTIVATE](#)

Just across the Savannah River in South Carolina, officials from four counties are scheduled to meet today to discuss something that's extremely important to residents on both sides of the state line — overdue improvements to U.S. 17.

The Lowcountry Council of Governments — a group that includes elected officials from Jasper, Beaufort, Hampton and Colleton counties — is expected to try to come up with a funding plan so this heavily-traveled artery just north of Savannah can be widened from two lanes to four lanes.

It won't be easy or painless. But the Council faces a Nov. 17 deadline set by the South Carolina Department of Transportation to come up with a financing blueprint. If the group fails to meet that target, there's no telling when — if ever — much needed road relief is in sight.

That must not happen.

Otherwise, the losers won't be limited to the many travelers in South Carolina and Georgia who regularly use this busy north-south highway, with white knuckles firmly attached to steering wheels. Few people walk away from head-on collisions on this accident alley.

In addition, South Carolinians and Georgians committed to a jointly operated port with Georgia on the Jasper County side of the Savannah River will lose as well.

The Jasper port project needs a modern road system to get off the ground. It makes no sense to build a facility to load and offload large numbers of containers if getting to and from the docks is a traffic nightmare.

It's not as if this improvement project popped up yesterday. It has been in the works for at least 20 years. The missing ingredient has been committed, unselfish leadership.

Unfortunately, this project comes with a huge physical handicap — poor soil.

The plan calls for widening about four miles of U.S. 17 from the Georgia state lane to S.C. 315 to four lanes. But the soil at this site, flanked by wide expanses of salt marsh, contains compressible soft clays, peat and silt. It can't support a road bed. To prevent massive settling, something has to be done. Whatever that something is, it's not cheap. Thus construction estimates have more than doubled from about \$20 million to \$53 million.

County officials in South Carolina are understandably reluctant to commit so much of their future road revenue to a single project. It can be politically easier for council members to support multiple smaller projects in individual counties. So the can keeps getting kicked down the road, year after year.

But officials can't ignore at least two realities. If they keep kicking that can, inflation will eventually put this project out of reach. Then the vision of a Jasper port vanishes with it.

"It's kind of train wreck," one unnamed local official told reporter Sarita Chourey of Morris News Service. "If nobody is driving this, it's likely to fail."

Lowcountry Council members can't let that happen.

They must check their individual political agendas at the door and agree to work as a team on U.S. 17. That means coming up with a funding plan, being committed to it and then driving it home by the mid-November deadline.



