



**AGENDA**

**LOWCOUNTRY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2016 6:30 P.M.  
POINT SOUTH, SOUTH CAROLINA**

Fellowship begins at 6:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order
  - 1.1. Pledge of Allegiance
  - 1.2. Invocation
  - 1.3. Introduction of Guests and Staff
  - 1.4. Welcome New Board Member Dan Wood, Bluffton Town Council
  - 1.5. Presentation to Retiring Board Member Lisa Sulka
  - 1.6. Proxies
  - Action 1.7. Approval of January 28, 2016 Minutes
  
2. New Business
  - Action 2.1. Section 5310 Rural/Small Urban Transit Project Funding – Sabrena Graham  
*Section 5310 Funds are available for local agencies serving elderly and disabled citizens. Funds can be used to purchase transportation service or to purchase a vehicle. There are not enough funds in the rural category to award every request. A prioritized list of projects has been recommended by the LCOG Transportation Committee for Board approval.*
  
3. Reports
  - 3.1. Finance Report for February 206 – Sherry Smith
  - 3.2. Workforce Development Report – Hank Amundson
  - 3.3. Community and Economic Development Report – Michelle Knight
  - 3.4. Director’s Report – Sabrena Graham
    - Action 3.4.1. Budget Calendar for FY2016-17
    - 3.4.2. Request for Dues Increase
    - 3.4.3. Yemassee Depot Project
    - 3.4.4. Local Government Fund
    - 3.4.5. Five Successes, Five Goals
  - 3.5. Planning Reports – Ginnie Kozak
    - 3.5.1. 208 Report – For information
    - 3.5.2. Regional Unemployment Chart – For information
    - 3.5.3. SCDOT Rural Officials Survey - 2016
  
4. Council Time
  
- Action 5. Adjourn

**Lowcountry Council of Governments**

PO Box 98 | 634 Campground Road  
Yemassee, South Carolina 29945  
P: 843.726.5536 F: 843.726.5165

[www.lowcountrycog.org](http://www.lowcountrycog.org)

*J. Stewart*

**CONCISE SUMMARY**

**LOWCOUNTRY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2016 6:30 P.M.  
POINT SOUTH, SOUTH CAROLINA**

1. Call to Order **The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Chairman Mann.**
  - 1.1. Pledge of Allegiance
  - 1.2. Invocation **The invocation was led by Evon Robinson**
  - 1.3. Introduction of Guests and Staff
  - 1.4. Welcome New Board Member Dan Wood, Bluffton Town Council **Dan Wood was welcomed to the LCOG Board of Directors.**
  - 1.5. Presentation to Retiring Board Member Lisa Sulka **Lisa Sulka was presented an appreciation plaque for her service on the LCOG Board.**
  - 1.6. Proxies **Bobby Bonds to Joe Flowers; Brian Flewelling to Alice Howard; Nat Shaffer to Chair.**
  - 1.7. Approval of January 28, 2016 Minutes **Approved as presented**
2. New Business
  - 2.1. Section 5310 Rural/Small Urban Transit Project Funding – Sabrena Graham  
*Section 5310 Funds are available for local agencies serving elderly and disabled citizens. Funds can be used to purchase transportation service or to purchase a vehicle. There are not enough funds in the rural category to award every request. A prioritized list of projects has been recommended by the LCOG Transportation Committee for Board approval. The prioritized list of projects was approved as recommended.*
3. Reports
  - 3.1. Finance Report for February 206 – Sherry Smith
  - 3.2. Workforce Development Report – Hank Amundson
  - 3.3. Community and Economic Development Report – Michelle Knight
  - 3.4. Director’s Report – Sabrena Graham **Report attached.**
    - 3.4.1. Budget Calendar for FY2016-17 **Approved**
    - 3.4.2. Request for Dues Increase **LCOG is requesting an increase in dues from .60 to .75 per capita per each of the four member counties. There has not been an increase in over 20 years.**
    - 3.4.3. Yemassee Depot Project **The town of Yemassee is raising funds to complete the train depot project. LCOG will provide financial management assistance.**
    - 3.4.4. Local Government Fund. **Letters were mailed in February to the SC Legislative Delegation members in the region seeking support of the Local Government Fund (LGF). The Friday report was distributed reporting that the House failed to provide additional funding to the LGF. This also included a list of how the legislators voted (attached).**
    - 3.4.5. Five Successes, Five Goals **The top five successes and goals of the LCOG from the past 50 years were submitted to the SC Association Regional Councils for its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration later this year.**

3.5. Planning Reports – Ginnie Kozak

3.5.1. 208 Report – For information

3.5.2. Regional Unemployment Chart – For information

3.5.3. SCDOT Rural Officials Survey – 2016 **SCDOT is conducting a survey to measure the effectiveness of the (10) Council of Governments as partners of SCDOT in the planning and programming of transportation improvements in rural areas. Surveys will be accepted until April 28, 2016. Please complete the survey and return it to the COG or directly to SCDOT.**

4. Council Time

Action 5. Adjourn **The meeting adjourned at 7:08pm**

LOWCOUNTRY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
January 28, 2016  
6:30 p.m.

**MINUTES**

	<u>PRESENT:</u>	<u>ABSENT:</u>
<b>BEAUFORT COUNTY:</b>	Phil Cromer Gerald Dawson Brian Flewelling Alice Howard Bill McBride	Marc Grant Herbert Glaze [proxy to Gerald Dawson] Mary Beth Heyward Joseph McDomick Jerry Stewart Lisa Sulka [proxy to Chair]
<b>COLLETON COUNTY:</b>	Esther S. Black Bobby Bonds Joseph Flowers Tommy Mann Crawford Moore Gene Whetsell	Evon Robinson
<b>HAMPTON COUNTY:</b>	Frankie Bennett Pete Hagood Travis Mixson Buddy Phillips	Nat Shaffer
<b>JASPER COUNTY:</b>	Henry Etheridge Joey Malphrus Gwen Johnson Smith	Henry Lawton Michael Sweeney

**GUESTS:** Bronco Bostick, Hardeeville; Jane Darby, Edisto Beach; Kenny Larimore, SCDOT; Celia Price, Colleton County; Scott Ready, Hardeeville; Joy Riley, SCDOT; Brad Samuel, SCANA; Paul Sommerville, Beaufort County; Lisa Wechsler, Crowley-Wechsler CPA

**STAFF:** Hank Amundson, Sabrena Graham, Ginnie Kozak, Michelle Knight, Kimberly Mullinax, Connie Schroyer, Jonathan Sherwood, Sherry Smith

1. **Call to Order** - Chairman Mann called the LCOG Board Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
  - 1.1. Pledge of Allegiance
  - 1.2. Invocation
    - Led by Pete Hagood
  - 1.3. Introduction of Guests and Staff
  - 1.4. Welcome New Board Member
    - Welcomed new board member Crawford Moore, elected official for the Town of Edisto Beach.
  - 1.5. Presentation to Retiring Board Member
    - Jane Darby was presented an appreciation plaque for her service on the LCOG Board.
  - 1.6. Proxies
    - Herbert Glaze to Gerald Dawson; Lisa Sulka to Chair; Henry Lawton and Michael Sweeney absent without proxy. The meeting proceeded with a quorum present.



1.7. Approval of October 22, 2015 Minutes

- MOVED by Joe Flowers, seconded by Brian Flewelling to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**2. Presentation**

2.1. Presentation of the New LCOG Website – Kimberly Mullinax and Jonathan Sherwood

- The LCOG Website has been redesigned under contract by Revize. Led by Mullinax and Sherwood, LCOG staff worked as a team on its design.
- The website is located at the same URL: [www.lowcountrycog.org](http://www.lowcountrycog.org).
- There has been a website editor appointed from each department to maintain up-to-date information.
- Contact LCOG if you have pictures, articles, announcements or calendar events to share from your area.

**3. Resolution**

3.1. Resolution SFY2015-2016 *authorizing the Executive Director to file application with the South Carolina Department of Transportation on the behalf of Hampton and Jasper County Councils on Aging for federal and/or state funding to assist in providing community and/or human services transportation services.* – Hank Amundson

- This resolution allows LCOG to receive and manage senior transportation funds for Hampton and Jasper Councils on Aging.
- MOVED by Gene Whetsell, seconded by consensus to accept Resolution SFY2015-2016. Motion carried unanimously.

**4. New Business**

4.1. SCDOT Project Progress Report – Joy Riley

- Joy Riley reported the status of the SCDOT road and bridge projects underway or pending for Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper Counties. A detailed report outlining projects by county was distributed.

4.2. Lowcountry Regional Development Corporation (LRDC) Regular Meeting – Sabrena Graham & Michelle Knight

- MOVED by Joe Flowers, and approved by consensus to call the LRDC Meeting to order. The meeting was called to order at 6:56 pm.

4.2.1. LRDC Annual Financial Report for the Years Ended September 30, 2015 and 2014 – Lisa Wechsler, CPA.

- The financial statements presented fairly and the changes in its net assets and cash flows ended in accordance with the generally accepted U.S. accounting principles.
- There were three major financial events in the year: 1) The outstanding Parish Market loan was paid in full. The money was returned to the revolving loan fund for future use. 2) The outstanding Star Trax Year Round Pool lease was paid in full. \$100,000 of this revenue was placed in a deferred revenue account for future use by Jasper County. 3) Funds held for the Palm Key project were taken by Jasper County for another project.
- The vacant building in Hampton County has been rented.
- Copies of the Financial Report were distributed.
- MOVED by Pete Hagood, seconded by Brian Flewelling to receive the report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

- MOVED by Gerald Dawson, seconded by Brian Flewelling to end the LRDC Meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting concluded at 7:04pm and the LCOG Board Meeting resumed.

## 5. Reports

### 5.1. Finance Report for December 2015 – Sherry Smith

- Sherry Smith reviewed the Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for the period ending December 2015.
- Copies of the monthly financial statement were distributed in agenda packets.
- Revenues over expenditures were \$14,173.
- 40% of the budget has been expended.

### 5.2. Community and Economic Development (C&ED) Report – Michelle Knight

- A \$2M EDA grant was approved for the Walterboro Water Treatment Plant
- Five of seven CDBG grant applications submitted last October were approved for funding.
- Copies of the monthly C&ED Report were distributed in agenda packets.

### 5.3. Director's Report – Sabrena Graham

- Beginning Jan. 1, 2016, The U.S. General Services Administration has reduced the mileage reimbursement rate from \$0.575 to \$0.54 per mile. LCOG will follow the same reduction.
- Between January through March, Needs Assessment hearings led by LCOG staff will be conducted at town and county council meetings. These hearings are the basis by which LCOG can assist local governments in identifying funds for community projects.
- LCOG received a Nat'l Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Innovation Award for facilitating the creation and development of the Lowcountry Regional Water System in Hampton County.
- On February 18, COG Directors will meet with SC Senator Hugh Leatherman, Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee seeking support for increasing the funds given to COGs.
- Input is requested in identifying the top five successes in the LCOG region over the past 50 years as well as the top five goals moving forward. This information will be used for the SC Association of Regional Councils (SCARC) 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration later this year.
- The Lowcountry Area Transportation Study (LATS) Committee has completed the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The documents now go to the SCDOT Commission for approval.
- The LCOG has formed a Citizen Participation Committee to cover civil rights issues at the COG. Rhonda Davis has been appointed as the Coordinator. If your agency is a recipient of federal funds it is required to implement a similar committee. LCOG can assist with implementation if needed.
- Jonathan Sherwood of the LCOG Planning Department is now a certified planner having passed the exam managed by the American Institute of Certified Planners.
- Technical College of the Lowcountry (TCL) president Dr. Richard Gough recently delivered the 2016 State of the College Report. One of the 2015/16 goals of the LCOG Board is to build a relationship with the TCL to help link education with workforce in the region. Copies of the report were distributed for information.

5.4. Planning Report – Ginnie Kozak

5.4.1. 208 Report

- The monthly 208 Water Quality Certification Report was distributed for information.

5.4.2. Regional Unemployment Chart

- The monthly Regional Unemployment Chart was distributed for information.

4. **Council Time**

- MOVED by Buddy Phillips, seconded by consensus for the Executive Director to write a letter urging delegation members to support full funding of the Local Government Fund (LGF). Motion carried unanimously.

5. **Adjourn**

- MOVED by Joe Flowers, seconded by consensus to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Mann adjourned the meeting at 7:20 pm.

Copies of the agenda and supporting documents were distributed prior to the meeting. A notice of the meeting was posted on the LCOG Website and bulletin board in accordance with the law.

Submitted by,

Connie Schroyer  
Board Clerk

## 5310 Applications-- Lowcountry COG Evaluation FY 2016-17

Recommended Prioritized List

Applicant/ Organization	Project Scope	Priority	Amount Requested	Local Match
<b>Rural</b>				
Colleton County COA	Purchase replacement van	1	\$50,000	\$8,883
Lowcountry Council of Governments for Hampton County COA	Purchase of Service	2	\$50,000	\$12,500
Lowcountry Council of Governments for Jasper County COA	Purchase of Service	3	\$50,000	\$12,500
Jasper County DSN	Continue one or two Purchase of Service Agreements with LRTA/Palmetto Breeze or continue one Purchase of Service route and purchase replacement van (??)	4	\$50,000	
Hampton County DSN	Replacement vehicle (cutaway van).	5	\$50,000	\$8,883
Colleton County DSN	Replacement of Capital Equipment-- 17 passenger cutaway; Operations-- preventative maintenance	6	\$50,000	\$8,883
Beaufort County DSN	Continue Purchase of Service Agreement with LRTA/Palmetto Breeze	7	\$50,000	\$12,500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$250,000</b>	<b>\$42,766</b>

### Small Urban Area

Beaufort County DSN	Purchase of Service for a new route in the Small Urban Area with LRTA/Palmetto Breeze	1	\$50,000	\$12,500
Senior Services of Beaufort County	Continue LRTA/Palmetto Breeze Purchase of Service Agreement and purchase van	2	\$50,000	\$12,500
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>



3/12/14  
Rec A. Larson, Alaska



U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Transit Administration

MAP-21  
Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century

**FACT SHEET:**  
**ENHANCED MOBILITY OF SENIORS AND INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES**  
**SECTION 5310**

	FY 2013 (in millions)	FY 2014 (in millions)
Formula Grants for the Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities	\$254.8	\$258.3

**Purpose**

This program is intended to enhance mobility for seniors and persons with disabilities by providing funds for programs to serve the special needs of transit-dependent populations beyond traditional public transportation services and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) complementary paratransit services.



**Statutory References**

49 U.S.C. Section 5310 / MAP-21 Section 20009

**Eligible Recipients**

- States (for all areas under 200,000 in population) and designated recipients.
- Subrecipients: states or local government authorities, private non-profit organizations, or operators of public transportation that receive a grant indirectly through a recipient.
- *(Large urban areas receives direct funding)*

**Eligible Activities**

- At least 55% of program funds must be used on capital projects that are:
  - Public transportation projects planned, designed, and carried out to meet the special needs of seniors and individuals with disabilities when public transportation is insufficient, inappropriate, or unavailable.
- The remaining 45% may be used for:
  - Public transportation projects that exceed the requirements of the ADA.
  - Public transportation projects that improve access to fixed-route service and decrease reliance by individuals with disabilities on complementary paratransit.
  - Alternatives to public transportation that assist seniors and individuals with disabilities.

**What's New?**

- Consolidates New Freedom Program and Elderly and Disabled Program.
- Operating assistance is now available under this program.

**Funding**

- Funds are apportioned for urbanized and rural areas based on the number of seniors and individuals with disabilities.
- Federal share for capital projects (including acquisition of public transportation services) is 80%.

(cont.)

## Formula Grants for the Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities

### Funding (cont.)

- Federal share for operating assistance is 50%.
- Adopts New Freedom funding allocations:
  - 60% to designated recipients in urbanized areas with a population over 200,000.
  - 20% to states for small urbanized areas.
  - 20% to states for rural areas.

### Ongoing Provisions

- Local share may be derived from other federal (non-DOT) transportation sources or the Federal Lands Highways Program under 23 U.S.C. 204 (as in former Section 5310 program).
- Permits designated recipients and states to carry out competitive process to select subrecipients.
- Recipients must certify that projects selected are included in a locally developed, coordinated public transit-human services transportation plan. The plan must undergo a development and approval process that includes seniors and people with disabilities, transportation providers, among others, and is coordinated to the maximum extent possible with transportation services assisted by other federal departments and agencies.
- Permits acquisition of public transportation services as a capital expense.
- Up to 10% of program funds can be used to administer the program, to plan, and to provide technical assistance.

---

For additional information on FTA and MAP-21, visit [www.fta.dot.gov/map21](http://www.fta.dot.gov/map21).

**Lowcountry Council of Governments  
Balance Sheet  
For the Period Ending February 2016**

**Assets**

Cash - Unrestricted	174,965	
Cash - Restricted TDR	255,496	
Accounts Receivable	1,330,596	
Prepaid Expenses	14,439	
Property, Building & Equipment	1,718,760	
Amount to be Provided for Debt	601,083	
<b>Total Assets</b>		4,095,339

**Liabilities & Equity**

*Liabilities*

Accounts Payable	\$224,774	
Accrued Liabilities	552,580	
Long-Term Debt	601,083	

*Total Liabilities*

\$1,378,437

*Fund Equity*

Investment in Fixed Assets	\$1,718,760	
Unassigned Fund Balance	\$961,492	
Restricted Fund Balance	\$0	
Nonspendable Fund Balance	\$15,301	
Revenues over Expenditures	21,349	

*Total Fund Equity*

\$2,716,902

**Total Liabilities & Equity**

\$4,095,339



**Lowcountry Council of Governments**  
**Statement of Revenues and Expenditures**  
**For the Period Ending February 2016**

	Actual YTD	Budget	Variance	%
<b>Revenues</b>				
Federal	\$2,534,198	4,257,999	(\$1,723,801)	.595
State Restricted	545,390	1,094,332	(548,942)	.498
State Unrestricted	28,443	54,169	(25,726)	.525
Local Restricted	277,758	618,066	(340,308)	.449
Local Unrestricted	106,909	148,195	(41,286)	.721
Other Sources	166,002	248,157	(82,155)	.669
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$3,658,700</b>	<b>6,420,918</b>	<b>(\$2,762,218)</b>	<b>.570</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>				
<i>Personnel and Related Costs</i>	1,336,143	\$2,143,481	(807,338)	.623
<i>Building and Related Costs</i>	153,940	259,965	(106,025)	.592
<i>Operating Costs</i>				
Advertising	9,135	\$15,600	(6,465)	.586
Contracts	1,911,150	3,563,368	(1,652,218)	.536
Depreciation	2,920	4,380	(1,460)	.667
Dues, Subscriptions & Publicat	10,657	16,200	(5,543)	.658
Equipment Maintenance & Lease	29,219	50,250	(21,031)	.581
Insurance & Bonding	6,868	11,500	(4,632)	.597
Meetings	4,256	12,100	(7,844)	.352
Miscellaneous	6,111	15,850	(9,739)	.386
Legal Fees	450	3,250	(2,800)	.138
Postage & Shipping	4,504	12,650	(8,146)	.356
Printing	13,459	33,500	(20,041)	.402
Supplies	19,943	38,200	(18,257)	.522
	2,018,672	3,776,848	(1,758,176)	.534
<i>Other Expenditures</i>				
Equipment & Software Purchases	51,763	\$65,700	(13,937)	.788
Travel Costs	54,224	102,763	(48,539)	.528
Auto Costs	22,609	37,000	(14,391)	.611
Bad Debt	-	-	0	
	128,596	205,463	(76,867)	.626
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>3,637,351</b>	<b>6,385,758</b>	<b>(2,748,406)</b>	<b>.570</b>
<b>Revenues over Expenditures</b>	<b>\$21,349</b>	<b>\$35,160</b>	<b>(13,811)</b>	<b>0.61</b>



# LCOG Workforce Department Report

Program Year Dates = July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015

<b>Metric</b>	<b>Group</b>	<b>Actual '13-'14</b>	<b>Actual '14-'15</b>
Total Adults Served	Adults-DW	461	533
Percent that received formal training	Adults-DW	32%	41.5%
Percent that gained employment	Adults	75.0%	78.4%
	DW	78.1%	81.4%
Percent that retained their job for 2 quarters	Adults	77.0%	89.1%
	DW	88.4%	90.0%
Average wage for 6 month measuring period	Adults	\$8,936	\$10,051
	DW	\$11,269	\$13,709
Total Youth Served	Youth	130	170
% Placed in employment or secondary ed.	Youth	56.0%	68.3%
% That obtained a degree or certificate	Youth	64.7%	63.6%
% That improved basic reading/math skills	Youth	60.3%	50.9%

<b>Return on Investment</b>	<b>13-'14</b>	<b>14-'15</b>
Adult-DW Annual Allocation	\$995,651	\$1,040,961
Adult-DW Annualized Reported Wages	\$3,475,922	\$4,305,769

<p><b>LOWCOUNTRY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS</b>  <b>COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES</b>  <b>CURRENT PROJECTS SUMMARY</b>  <b>MARCH 2016</b></p>
---

<b>ACTIVE PROJECTS:</b>	<b>NUMBER</b>	<b>DOLLAR VALUE</b>
CDBG Community Investment	24	\$ 11,844,184.00
CDBG Economic Development	0	\$ -
CDBG Ready To Go	0	\$ -
CDBG Planning Grants	1	\$ 50,000.00
EDA Public Works	4	\$ 4,670,500.00
EDA Planning Grants	1	\$ 58,500.00
RD Grants	2	\$ 86,435.00
RIA Grants	1	\$ 500,000.00
HOME	9	\$ 1,444,470.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>\$ 18,654,089.00</b>

Applications Requested	9	\$ 6,151,500.00
------------------------	---	-----------------

Note: EDA Title IX Loan Program Reports will be provided separately as received by Catawba Regional Planning Council.

Prepared by: Community and Economic Development

**CURRENT PROJECTS**

**CDBG - BEAUFORT COUNTY**

GRANTEE	PROJECT	STATUS	FUNDED AMOUNT	DRAWN TO DATE	BALANCE
Town of Bluffton	Buck Island-Simmons ville VR III	Sewer construction underway. Recert/bidding sidewalks.	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 212,161.00	\$ 287,839.00
City of Beaufort	NW Quadrant VR III	Closeout submitted.	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 500,000.00	\$ -
Town of Bluffton	Possum Point Sewer	Condemnation begun on those that have to be condemned.	\$ 320,000.00	\$ 20,400.00	\$ 299,600.00
<b>3</b>			<b>\$ 1,320,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 732,561.00</b>	<b>\$ 587,439.00</b>

**CDBG - COLLETON COUNTY**

GRANTEE	PROJECT	STATUS	FUNDED AMOUNT	DRAWN TO DATE	BALANCE
City of Walterboro	South Jefferies Streetscape	Construction underway.	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 175,013.00	\$ 324,987.00
City of Walterboro	Hampton St Water Line Ext	Construction underway.	\$ 750,000.00	\$ 389,164.00	\$ 360,836.00
City of Walterboro	Lemacks VR III	90% complete on trail design. Prepping to bid demos, clearing second round of Ext Rehab participants.	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 77,019.00	\$ 422,981.00
Colleton County	Bama Road Drainage	Awarded. Startup underway.	\$ 671,500.00	\$ -	\$ 671,500.00
Colleton County	Walterboro Booster Pump	Awarded. Startup done. Bid package being prepped.	\$ 438,000.00	\$ -	\$ 438,000.00
<b>5</b>			<b>\$ 2,859,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 641,196.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,218,304.00</b>

**CURRENT PROJECTS**

**CDBG - HAMPTON COUNTY**

GRANTEE	PROJECT	STATUS	FUNDED AMOUNT	DRAWN TO DATE	BALANCE
Town of Estill	Ruth Street Sewer Improvement	New engineer. Surveying 80% complete.	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 201,566.00	\$ 298,434.00
Town of Brunson	Water Tank Improvements	Programmatically closed.	\$ 347,474.00	\$ 347,474.00	\$ -
Hampton County	DHEC Health Clinic	Construction underway.	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 488,000.00
Hampton County	Brunson Gifford Water Connecti	Acquisition underway. Prepping bid package.	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 70,820.00	\$ 929,180.00
Town of Yemassee	Sewer Line Upgrade	Startup underway/RFP engineering/ERR underway.Project Amendment approved.	\$ 750,000.00	\$ -	\$ 750,000.00
Town of Hampton	Sewer Rehab	Construction bid opening 3/29.	\$ 666,814.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 659,814.00
Hampton County	2014 CDBG Regional Planning C	Startup ongoing.	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 33,400.00	\$ 16,600.00
Town of Hampton	Demolition	Startup done. Letters being prepped to property owners.	\$ 215,700.00	\$ -	\$ 215,700.00
Town of Varnville	Highway 278 Streetscape	Startup done. RFP engineering services due 3/9.	\$ 450,000.00	\$ -	\$ 450,000.00
Town of Furman	Neighborhood Revitalization	Startup underway. Procuring engineer.	\$ 318,983.00	\$ -	\$ 318,983.00
Town of Brunson	Neighborhood Revitalization	Startup underway. Procuring engineer.	\$ 319,180.00	\$ -	\$ 319,180.00
			\$ 5,118,151.00	\$ 672,260.00	\$ 4,445,891.00

10  
1 Planning



**CURRENT PROJECTS**

**CDBG - JASPER COUNTY**

GRANTEE	PROJECT	STATUS	FUNDED AMOUNT	DRAWN TO DATE	BALANCE
Jasper County	DHEC Addition	Closed, waiting on FAC.	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 488,795.00	\$ 11,205.00
Jasper County	Old Bailey Sewer Extension	Construction bid opening 3/10.	\$ 389,050.00	\$ 10,530.00	\$ 378,520.00
City of Hardeeville	Hardeeville Library	Contract signed. NTP to be issued mid-January.	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 488,000.00
Town of Ridgeland	Wise St. Pump Station Upgrade	Construction underway. Change Order #1 submitted.	\$ 433,483.00	\$ 114,512.00	\$ 318,971.00
City of Hardeeville	Drainage Focus Area 2	Wetlands delineation underway.	\$ 624,000.00	\$ -	\$ 624,000.00
Town of Ridgeland	Consolidated School Preservatio	Awarded. Startup underway.	\$ 150,000.00		
<b>6</b>			<b>\$ 2,596,533.00</b>	<b>\$ 625,837.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,820,696.00</b>
<b>CDBG TOTALS - ALL COUNTIES</b>			<b>\$ 11,894,184.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,671,854.00</b>	<b>\$ 9,072,330.00</b>

**CURRENT PROJECTS**

**REQUESTED**

GRANTEE	PROJECT	STATUS	AMOUNT REQUESTED
City of Walterboro (FEMA)	Fire truck (AFG)	Application submitted.	\$ 541,000.00
City of Walterboro (FEMA)	PPE Equipment (AFG)	Application submitted.	\$ 210,000.00
City of Walterboro (FEMA)	Fire Personnel (SAFER)	Submitting application.	\$ 150,500.00
Town of Smoaks (RIA)	Water System Improvements	Submitting application.	\$ 500,000.00
Town of Williams (CDBG)	Water Improvements	Application requested.	\$ 500,000.00
Town of Port Royal (CDBG)	Sewer Extension	Application requested.	\$ 750,000.00
Beaufort County (CDBG)	Sewer Extension	Application requested.	\$ 750,000.00
Colleton County (CDBG)	Ruffin Water Improvements	Application requested.	\$ 750,000.00
Jasper County (CDBG)	Infrastructure to Serve Business	Application development.	\$ 2,000,000.00
9			\$ 6,151,500.00

**CURRENT PROJECTS**

**EDA**

GRANTEE	PROJECT	STATUS	FUNDED AMOUNT	DRAWN TO DATE	BALANCE
Colleton County	Technical Training Center	GPRA Tracking completed for year 6.	\$ 1,252,500.00	\$ 1,252,500.00	\$ -
Hampton County	Job Training Center Renovation	Close out paper work submitted and approved. GPRA Reporting for year 6.	\$ 598,000.00	\$ 598,000.00	\$ -
Jasper County	LCOG/EDA Planning Grant	New award.	\$ 58,500.00	\$ -	\$ 58,500.00
Colleton County/City of Walterboro	Infrastructure to support company.	40% design completed	\$ 780,000.00	\$ -	\$ 780,000.00
City of Walterboro	WWTP Upgrade	Held startup meeting.	\$ 2,040,000.00	\$ -	\$ 2,040,000.00
			\$ 4,729,000.00	\$ 1,850,500.00	\$ 2,878,500.00

4  
1 Planning

**RD Grants**

GRANTEE	PROJECT	STATUS	FUNDED AMOUNT	DRAWN TO DATE	BALANCE
Hampton County	Town of Hampton Old Bank Demo	Completed.	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ -
Southern Carolina Alliance	Promise Zone Strategic Plan	Awarded.	\$ 36,435.00	\$ -	\$ 36,435.00
			\$ 86,435.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 36,435.00

2

**RIA Grants**

GRANTEE	PROJECT	STATUS	FUNDED AMOUNT	DRAWN TO DATE	BALANCE
City of Walterboro	WWTP Upgrade	Awarded.	\$ 500,000.00		\$ 500,000.00
			\$ 500,000.00	\$ -	\$ 500,000.00

1

**CURRENT PROJECTS**

**HOME - BEAUFORT COUNTY**

GRANTEE	PROJECT	STATUS	FUNDED AMOUNT	DRAWN TO DATE	BALANCE
LowCountry Habitat for Humanity	New Construction	4 units completed, waiting for invoices.	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 45,750.00	\$ 54,250.00
Town of Bluffton	Single Family Rehab	5 units completed.	\$ 151,381.00	\$ 151,381.00	\$ -
Beaufort Jasper Equal Opportunity Commission	Single Family Rehab	7 units completed.	\$ 186,914.00	\$ 186,914.00	\$ -
Beaufort County	Single Family Rehab	contract signed	\$ 114,070.00	\$ -	\$ 114,070.00
City of Beaufort	Single Family Rehab	1 unit completed.	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 42,830.00	\$ 107,170.00
5			\$ 702,365.00	\$ 426,875.00	\$ 275,490.00

**HOME - COLLETON COUNTY**

GRANTEE	PROJECT	STATUS	FUNDED AMOUNT	DRAWN TO DATE	BALANCE
Colleton County	Single Family Rehab #2	3 units completed	\$ 162,201.00	\$ 132,677.00	\$ 29,524.00
1			\$ 162,201.00	\$ 132,677.00	\$ 29,524.00



**CURRENT PROJECTS**

**HOME - HAMPTON COUNTY**

GRANTEE	PROJECT	STATUS	FUNDED AMOUNT	DRAWN TO DATE	BALANCE
Hampton County	Single Family Rehab	5 completed, 2 underway	\$ 285,397.00	\$ 258,509.00	\$ 26,888.00
1			\$ 285,397.00	\$ 258,509.00	\$ 26,888.00

**HOME - JASPER COUNTY**

GRANTEE	PROJECT	STATUS	FUNDED AMOUNT	DRAWN TO DATE	BALANCE
Jasper County	Single Family Rehab	5 units completed	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 143,666.00	\$ 6,334.00
1			\$ 150,000.00	\$ 143,666.00	\$ 6,334.00

**HOME - ALL COUNTIES**

GRANTEE	PROJECT	STATUS	FUNDED AMOUNT	DRAWN TO DATE	BALANCE
ALL COUNTIES	*REGION WIDE - Single Family Rehab	2 units completed, 1 unit out for bid	\$ 144,507.00	\$ 87,782.00	\$ 56,725.00
1			\$ 144,507.00	\$ 87,782.00	\$ 56,725.00

<b>HOME TOTALS</b>			<b>\$ 1,444,470.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,049,509.00</b>	<b>\$ 394,961.00</b>
--------------------	--	--	------------------------	------------------------	----------------------



Serving **Beaufort • Colleton • Hampton • Jasper Counties**

## MEMORANDUM

To: LCOG Board  
From: Sabrena Graham, Executive Director  
Subject: Director's Report  
Date: March 24, 2016

Spring has here! Flowers are blooming and pollen is everywhere. Welcome to the March meeting. Here are a few things to share with you.

1. **Budget Calendar** - The budget Calendar for the upcoming fiscal year 2016/2017 is attached for your review and approval. Executive Committee please check your calendars and confirm your availability for a budget work session on June 9 at 4:30pm. Let staff know as soon as possible if you have a conflict.
2. **Request for Dues Increase** - As part of the FY16/17 budget process, LCOG is requesting an increase in dues from the four member counties. The rate has not been changed in over 20 years. Currently each county pays a rate of 0.60 per capita. The request is an increase to 0.75 per capita. \$148,195 is the current amount. The increase will provide about \$37,048 of additional revenue to the current rate of \$148,198 for a total \$185,244 of local funding. Dues are the only local funds the COG receives.
3. **Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Grants** – LCOG Transportation Committee – The transportation Committee held two meetings with representatives from SCDOT Office of Public Transit and COG staff. The Committee was trained in their role in the 5310 grant award process, a process that was previously done solely by staff. The Committee submits its recommendation of a prioritized list of applications for board approval tonight. The approved board list will be forwarded to SCDOT for further approvals and processing. Many thanks to Lavern Glover, Program Manager, for training the committee.
4. **Yemassee Depot Project** – The Town of Yemassee has begun fundraising efforts for the purpose of completing the Depot Project. A Depot Restoration Committee has been appointed that is chaired by former Mayor JL Goodwin. Finance Director, Sherry Smith and I met with Mr. Goodwin and are certain LCOG can provide the requested financial management assistance for this project with minimal effort. Opportunities may exist in the future to seek CDBG funding for the project. If the COG manages a CDBG grant for the project a contractual agreement will be signed and appropriate fees assessed.
5. **Local Government Fund** – Support of Legislative Delegation. Letters seeking support of the local government fund were mailed to the SC Legislative Delegation members from the Lowcountry Region as unanimously approved by the COG board. Responses were received from Senators Brad Hutto, Margie Bright Matthews and John W. Matthews, Jr. pledging their support to “fully fund” the local government fund as proposed by Governor Haley. The SC Association of Counties is urging everyone to contact your House members seeking support of the local government fund.

**Lowcountry Council of Governments**

PO Box 98 634 Campground Road  
Yemassee, South Carolina 29945  
P: 843.726.5536 F: 843.726.5165

[www.lowcountrycog.org](http://www.lowcountrycog.org)

6. **FIVE successes – FIVE goals.** Attached is the list of top five successes in our region over the last 50 years as well as our top five goals moving forward that was submitted to SCARC (SC Association of Regional Councils) for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration this year. The SCARC president, Dr. Edward Lee asked each COG for this information. Thank you to staff and former director, Chris Bickley for input on this list.
  
7. **Other**

**Lowcountry Council of Governments**

PO Box 98 634 Campground Road  
Yemassee, South Carolina 29945  
P: 843.726.5536 F: 843.726.5165  
[www.lowcountrycog.org](http://www.lowcountrycog.org)



Lowcountry Council of Governments  
Budget Calendar  
Fiscal Year 2016/2017

March 24	Approve budget calendar
May 16	Budget packets distributed to Department Heads
May 16 – 20	Finance Director meets with Department Heads to review and discuss budget request. (Exec. Dir to attend.)
May 26	Budget requests due to Finance Director
May 26	FY15/16 Budget Revisions presented to LCOG Board
June 1	Draft Budget due to Executive Director
<b>June 9</b>	<b>Budget work session, goals review with Executive Committee – 4:30PM</b>
June 23	Budget presented to LCOG Board at regular meeting





Serving Beaufort • Colleton • Hampton • Jasper Counties

## MEMORANDUM

To: LCOG Board  
From: Sabrena Graham, Executive Director  
Subject: Request Dues Increase from Member Counties  
Date: March 24, 2016

As part of the FY16/17 budget process, LCOG is requesting an increase in dues from the four member counties. Currently each county pays a rate of 0.60 per capita. The request is an increase to 0.75 per capita. The rate has not been changed in over 20 years.

Dues are the only local funds the COG receives. \$148,195 is the current amount. The increase will provide about \$37,048 of additional revenue to the COG for a total of \$185,244.

Below are some other points that support the requested increase for your information. I have been in contact with the County Administrators from the four counties and appear to have the support of everyone. Some were more certain of their support than others.

I certainly seek your support of the dues increase as you deliberate and approve your County budgets.

Supportive points to the request:

1. Have not requested an increase in over 20 years. Only requesting because truly needed for region.
2. LCOG has the lowest per capita rate (along with Pee Dee) of 9 COGS. {Waccamaw does not use a per capita rate.}
3. Funds from dues are used as match for regional grants received at the COG and used to assist local gov't. These regional grants include: Aging Services, SCDOT Planning, and Economic Development Administration (EDA) Planning Grants. Match requirements are increasing.
4. When new grant opportunities are identified applications can be submitted if matching funds are available.
5. Support operational expenses at the COG, allowing us to keep rates for service in local government contracts reasonable.

Thank you for your support. Let me know if I need to attend budget workshops and make a presentation to your full councils.

**Lowcountry Council of Governments**

PO Box 98 634 Campground Road  
Yemassee, South Carolina 29945  
P: 843.726.5536 F: 843.726.5165

[www.lowcountrycog.org](http://www.lowcountrycog.org)



## MEMORANDUM

To: LCOG Board  
From: Sabrena Graham, Executive Director  
Subject: Support Town of Yemassee – Depot Project  
Date: March 14, 2016

The Town of Yemassee has begun fundraising efforts for the purpose of completing the Depot Project. A Depot Restoration Committee has been appointed that is chaired by former Mayor JL Goodwin.

Lowcountry Council of Governments is supporting this effort by providing financial management services for the project.

Finance Director, Sherry Smith and I have met with Mr. Goodwin and are certain we can provide the financial management assistance for this project with minimal effort. Opportunities may exist in the future to seek CDBG funding for the project. If the COG manages a CDBG grant for the project a contractual agreement will be signed and appropriate fees assessed.

---

**Lowcountry Council of Governments**

PO Box 98 634 Campground Road  
Yemassee, South Carolina 29945  
P: 843.726.5536 F: 843.726.5165

**[www.lowcountrycog.org](http://www.lowcountrycog.org)**





# TOWN OF YEMASSEE

101 Town Circle • P.O. Box 577

Yemassee, SC 29945

1-843-589-2565 Telephone

1-843-589-4305 Fax

*Home of the Annual Shrimp Festival*

---

February 19, 2016

Sabrena P. Graham,  
Executive Director  
PO Box 98  
Yemassee, SC 29945

Dear Sabrena,

The Town of Yemassee has established a Depot Restoration Committee with J.L. Goodwin appointed as the chairman of the committee. The town has authorized the committee to raise funds for the purpose of completing the Depot and has authorized the committee to work directly with the Lowcountry Council of Governments for banking and financial management services for the purpose of completing the Depot.

Sincerely,

Jerry Cook, Mayor

Peggy Bing O'Banner, Mayor Proten

Jordan J. Jinks, Councilman

Collin Moore, Councilman

Daniel Anderson, Councilman



## MEMORANDUM

To: LCOG Board  
From: Sabrena Graham, Executive Director  
Subject: Support of Local Government Fund  
Date: March 14, 2016

Letters seeking support of the local government fund were mailed to the SC Legislative Delegation members from the Lowcountry Region as unanimously approved by the COG board. Responses were received from Senators Brad Hutto, Margie Bright Matthews and John W. Matthews, Jr. pledging their support to "fully fund" the local government fund as proposed by Governor Haley.

The SC Association of Counties is urging everyone to contact your House members seeking support of the local government fund. See the March 11, Friday Report below.

### SCAC Friday Report

Issue 9-16 - March 11, 2016

Friday, March 11, 2016 9:00:00 AM

### State Budget and the Local Government Fund

It is vital that you contact your House members this week and ask for increased funding in the Local Government Fund (LGF). The Ways and Means Committee managed to appropriate an additional \$766 million in recurring funds and \$457 million in non-recurring funds this year (\$1.2 billion dollars!) without providing a dime in additional LGF property tax relief.

The Ways and Means Committee plan is for their citizens and yours to pay higher property taxes and receive fewer services. Many members of the General Assembly are demanding counties do more for their state agencies, but refuse to commit funds to pay for it.

This is not doing right by the taxpayers!

The Ways and Means Committee plan does have \$130 million for "tax relief." This "tax relief" appears to be currently **unobligated**. This tax relief should be committed to the LGF, which is property tax relief for ALL citizens! **Please ask your House member to sponsor and support an amendment fully funding the LGF out of this unobligated revenue.** Every county official should be calling their House members and asking for an increased appropriation to the LGF.

### Lowcountry Council of Governments

PO Box 98 634 Campground Road  
Yemassee, South Carolina 29945  
P: 843.726.5536 F: 843.726.5165

[www.lowcountrycog.org](http://www.lowcountrycog.org)



# Lowcountry

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Serving Beaufort • Colleton • Hampton • Jasper Counties

February 18, 2016

TO: Sen. Chip Campsen III                      Rep. Justin Bamberg                      Rep. Bill Herbkersman  
Sen. Tom Davis                                      Rep. Bill Bowers                              Rep. Kenneth Hodges  
Sen. C. Bradley Hutto                              Rep. Jeffrey Bradley                              Rep. Patsy Knight  
Sen. Margie Bright Matthews                      Rep. Robert Brown                              Rep. Wm. Weston Newton  
Sen. John Matthews                                      Rep. Shannon Erickson

RE: Full funding of FY2016-2017 Local Government Fund

Dear Madam and Sirs:

I write this letter on behalf of the governing board of the Lowcountry Council of Governments. The board is comprised primarily of elected officials from the 25 local governments, counties and cities, in the four counties of Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper that make up the region. The board voted unanimously to seek your support to "fully fund" the Local Government Fund as proposed by Governor Haley and as required by law.

The Local Government Fund is tax dollars that state statute requires legislators to return to counties and municipalities in exchange for providing state services. The law requires the state to divide 4.5 percent of the previous year's revenues among local governments. The state has given less than this amount since 2008.

The shortfall to the Lowcountry Region for the period FY2008 to FY2016 totals \$18,410,224. Per county the figures are as follows: Beaufort -\$11,736,165, Colleton - \$3,138,557, Hampton - \$1,706,907 and Jasper - \$1,828,595. The impact of the loss is felt equally among citizens irrespective of the county they reside in. Simply stated, our local governments cannot provide the level of services necessary to maintain quality of life for residents without the proper state funding.

On behalf of the local governments in the Lowcountry, the Lowcountry Council of Governments Board is asking you to support full funding of the Local Government Fund. Please let us know your position on this matter. A written reply will be greatly appreciated. You are invited to discuss this and other legislative matters during our regular board meetings that occur the fourth Thursday of each month at 6:00pm.

Thank you for service and support.

Sincerely,

Sabrena P. Graham, Executive Director  
Lowcountry Council of Governments

CC: LCOG Board of Directors                      ECC: Municipal & County Administrator in LCOG Region  
**Lowcountry Council of Governments**

PO Box 98 | 634 Campground Road  
Yemassee, South Carolina 29945

P: 843.726.5536 | F: 843.726.5165

[www.lowcountrycog.org](http://www.lowcountrycog.org)

## Brad Hutto

South Carolina Senate District 40  
Orangeburg, Allendale, Bamberg,  
Barnwell, Colleton and Hampton  
Counties

**Committees:**

Corrections and Penology  
Education  
Ethics  
Fish, Game and Forestry  
Judiciary  
Medical Affairs  
State Regulation of Public Utilities  
Review Committee  
Joint Citizens and Legislative  
Committee on Children



Senate Office Address:  
Suite 510 Gressette Senate Office  
Building  
Post Office Box 142  
Columbia, South Carolina 29202  
Telephone: (803) 212-6140  
Fax: (803) 212-6299  
Email: bradhutto@scsenate.gov

Home Office Address:  
Post Office Box 1084  
Orangeburg, South Carolina 29116  
Telephone: (803) 534-5218  
Fax: (803) 536-6298

February 23, 2016

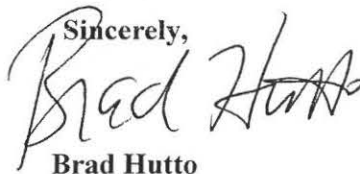
**Sabrena P. Graham, Executive Director  
Lowcountry Council of Governments  
Post Office Box 98  
Yemassee, SC 29945**

**Dear Ms. Graham:**

**Thank you for your letter regarding the Local Government Fund and the shortfall as it relates to the counties of Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper. As a representative in the Senate for several of these counties, please know that you can count on my support when the Senate debates the Appropriation Bill.**

**These numbers are very helpful, and while I am not on the Senate Finance Committee, I will certainly be in communication with my colleagues.**

**Thank you again for your contact and please feel free to do so at any time.**

Sincerely,  
  
Brad Hutto

FEB 24 2016

JOHN W. MATTHEWS, JR.  
SENATOR, ORANGEBURG  
BERKELEY, CALHOUN, COLLETON  
AND DORCHESTER COUNTIES  
SENATORIAL DISTRICT NO. 39

HOME ADDRESS:  
BOX 460  
BOWMAN, SC 29018  
(803) 829-2383  
(803) 829-2423 (FAX)



COMMITTEES:  
AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
BANKING AND INSURANCE  
EDUCATION  
ETHICS AND INVITATIONS  
FINANCE  
INTERSTATE COOPERATION

SENATE ADDRESS:  
SUITE 613  
GRESSETTE SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
P. O. BOX 142  
COLUMBIA, SC 29202  
(803) 212-6056  
FAX (803) 212-6299  
EMAIL: JOHNMATTHEWS@SCSENATE.GOV  
FACEBOOK.COM\SENATORJOHNMATTHEWS

March 1, 2016

Ms. Sabrena P. Graham  
Executive Director, LCOG  
Post Office Box 98  
Yemassee, SC 29945

Dear Ms. Graham:

I am in receipt of your recent letter asking for support to "fully fund" the Local Government Fund as proposed by Governor Haley. Please be assured that you can count on my support.

I hope you will not hesitate to contact me if I can assist you in any endeavor.

With best wishes and kind regards, I remain

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "JW", is written over the typed name "John W. Matthews, Jr.".

John W. Matthews, Jr.

JWMjr/dj

MAR 03 2016

MARGIE BRIGHT MATTHEWS  
SENATOR, ALLENDALE, BEAUFORT, CHARLESTON,  
COLLETON, HAMPTON, AND JASPER COUNTIES  
SENATORIAL DISTRICT NO. 45

HOME ADDRESS:  
P.O. BOX 499  
ALTERBORO, SOUTH CAROLINA 29488



COMMITTEES:  
CORRECTIONS AND PENOLOGY  
AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES  
GENERAL  
FISH, GAME & FORESTRY  
JUDICIARY

OFFICE ADDRESS:  
P.O. BOX 142  
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29202  
TELEPHONE (803) 212-6056  
FAX (803) 212-6299  
EMAIL: MARGIEBRIGHTMATTHEWS@SCSENATE.GOV

March 1, 2016

Sabrena P. Graham, Executive Director  
Lowcountry Council of Governments  
Post Office Box 98  
Yemassee, SC 29945

Dear Ms. Graham:

I am in receipt of your recent letter regarding the Local Government Fund. Please be assured that you can count on my support to "fully fund" the local government fund as proposed by Governor Haley. I attach herewith a copy of my letter seeking those funds.

I have asked my staff to include your fourth Thursday board meetings on my calendar. I look forward to joining you as soon as my schedule allows.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Margie Bright Matthews", written over a large, circular scribble.

Margie Bright Matthews

MBM/dj  
Attachment

MAR 08 2016



Thursday, March 24, 2016 1:58:00 PM Categories: [Budget Courts LGF Taxes](#)

Both the House and Senate are out of session this Thursday and next week for Easter break. The House will also be out of session the week of April 4th. Next week is a golden opportunity to have a conversation with your legislators about the issues before them which affect the citizens you represent. A discussion of the Local Government Fund with your senator is especially timely.

### State Budget and the Local Government Fund (LGF)

The House once again failed to provide any additional funding to the LGF. Not only did the House refuse to recognize this important property tax relief as a priority this year, House “Leadership” ensured that county property taxpayers would not see even a negligible increase in their LGF relief. This “Leadership” did prioritize additional mandates, like new DSS workers needing housing in county buildings, that will fall on county property taxpayers during the ensuing year.

The House hastily adopted the budget in a day and a half. The “Leadership” patted themselves on the back several times for their ability to jam through the most important legislation of the session in record time. If not for the requirement that every section have a roll call vote, the House likely could have adopted the budget in four or five hours. Most of the speed was a result of “Leadership’s” unwillingness to allow any member that is not on Ways and Means to meaningfully amend the budget. Of around 109 proposed amendments, only three adopted amendments were proposed by members who did not serve on Ways and Means.

During the debate many members attempted to provide full-funding of the LGF. The Speaker ruled these amendments “Out of Order” because they did not reference the page and line in the budget from which the \$100 million required to fully fund the LGF was coming.

As referenced in previous Friday Reports, money **was** available for full funding. Specifically, the Ways and Means Committee did not allocate \$130 million dollars of the \$8 billion budget. However, the Speaker’s ruling appears to indicate that once the Chairman spent the money earlier in the budget, amendments drawn to spend the money are out of order, **even if offered earlier and drafted off of the Ways and Means budget.**

Hopefully the people of South Carolina will elect clairvoyants to the House next year, because drafting amendments to the budget now requires members to know what amendments will be adopted (or not) before they even take up the floor debate.

**Please thank the following members for both sponsoring and taking the well in support of increased funding to the LGF: Reps. Ott, Southard, Atwater, Bamberg, King, and Cobb-Hunter.**

Also thank the following members for co-sponsoring amendments to increase LGF funding: Reps. George, Knight, Chumley, Hosey, Rivers, Crosby, Daning, W.J. McLeod, Kirby, Alexander, Yow, Gagnon, and Henegan.

**[A file with the two roll call sheets is available](#) so you may know how your House member stood on the LGF.**

**This issue is too important for our property taxpayers to give up. We must take the fight to the Senate!**

**Call your senator this week and talk to them about the importance of the LGF. Please remind them:**

- Many counties are cutting important services to their communities, especially in public safety, because of the limited options available for budget reductions. Some cuts are not based on priority or need, but rather if the General Assembly mandates the service or not.
- The General Assembly's failure to increase the LGF leads to artificial increases in millage rates. These increases often would not be necessary, or at least would be less, if the LGF was funded in accordance with the statute.
- Counties house state agencies, and pay for—but have no control over—the statewide court system, including the courthouse, magistrates, public defender, and solicitor. They also fund other state-controlled agencies, like the county election commission. These items must be paid out of property taxes, unless other revenue is provided.

## Local Government Fund (LGF)

After the amendment for full funding was ruled out of order, Rep. Todd Atwater proposed an amendment which would have provided a \$4.5 Million increase in the LGF. Rep. Brian White moved to table his amendment. The result of this vote is as follows: **A YEA VOTE MEANS THESE REPRESENTATIVES WOULD NOT SUPPORT A \$4.5 MILLION INCREASE IN THE LGF! A NO VOTE IS IN FAVOR OF AN INCREASE!**

Yeas 45; Nays 57

Those who voted not to increase the LGF are:

Bales	Bannister	Bedingfield
Bradley	Burns	Clary
Clemmons	Clyburn	Collins
H. A. Crawford	Delleney	Duckworth
Erickson	Felder	Finlay
Fry	Gagnon	Herbkersman
Hiott	Hixon	Howard
Johnson	Jordan	Limehouse
Loftis	Lowe	Lucas
McCoy	Merrill	V. S. Moss
Pitts	Riley	Ryhal
Sandifer	Simrill	G. M. Smith
G. R. Smith	Spires	Stavrinakis
Stringer	Taylor	Wells
White	Whitmire	Willis

**Total--45**

Those who voted to increase the LGF by \$4.5 million are:

Alexander	Anderson	Anthony
Atwater	Ballentine	Bamberg
Bingham	Bowers	G. A. Brown
Chumley	Cobb-Hunter	Cole
Crosby	Daning	Dillard
Douglas	Forrester	Funderburk
George	Gilliard	Goldfinch
Govan	Hamilton	Hardee
Hicks	Hill	Hodges
Hosey	Huggins	Jefferson
King	Kirby	Knight
Mack	McEachern	M. S. McLeod
Mitchell	D. C. Moss	Neal
Norman	Norrell	Ott
Parks	Pope	Putnam
Quinn	Ridgeway	Robinson-Simpson
Rutherford	J. E. Smith	Sottile
Southard	Tallon	Tinkler
Weeks	Whipper	Williams

**Total--57**

So, the House refused to table the amendment.

After the tabling motion failed, Chairman White spoke against the amendment, stating that he would delete FEMA match money in order to pay for any increase in the LGF. **This resulted in the following vote against even a \$4.5 million increase:**

Yeas 32; Nays 70

Those who voted to increase the LGF are:

Alexander	Anderson	Atwater
<b>Bamberg</b>	<b>Bowers</b>	G. A. Brown
R. L. Brown	Chumley	Crosby
Daning	Douglas	Funderburk
George	Gilliard	Hardee
Hicks	Hill	Hosey
King	<b>Knight</b>	McEachern
M. S. McLeod	Norman	Norrell
Putnam	Quinn	Ridgeway
Rivers	J. E. Smith	Southard
Tallon	Whipper	

**Total--32**

Those who voted not to increase the LGF are:

Anthony	Bales	Ballentine
Bannister	Bedingfield	<b>Bradley</b>
Brannon	Burns	Clary
Clemmons	Clyburn	Cole
Collins	H. A. Crawford	Delleney
Duckworth	<b>Erickson</b>	Felder
Finlay	Forrester	Fry
Gagnon	Goldfinch	Govan
Hamilton	Hayes	Henderson
Henegan	<b>Herbkersman</b>	Hiott
Hixon	<b>Hodges</b>	Howard
Huggins	Jefferson	Johnson
Jordan	Kirby	Limehouse
Loftis	Long	Lowe
Lucas	Mack	McCoy
Merrill	D. C. Moss	V. S. Moss
Murphy	Neal	Pope
Riley	Robinson-Simpson	Ryhal
Sandifer	Simrill	G. M. Smith
Sottile	Spires	Stavrinakis
Stringer	Taylor	Tinkler
Weeks	Wells	White
Whitmire	Williams	Willis
Yow		

**Total--70**

The amendment was then rejected.

## 2015 Population Estimates

Geography	April 1, 2010	Population Estimate (as of July 1)						Population Change 2010-2015
	Census	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	
Beaufort County	162,233	162,912	163,957	167,444	170,991	175,118	179,589	10.24%
Colleton County	38,892	38,909	38,484	38,227	37,802	37,776	37,731	-3.03%
Hampton County	21,090	21,052	20,777	20,727	20,389	20,422	20,049	-4.76%
Jasper County	24,777	24,920	25,406	25,918	26,580	27,019	27,824	11.65%
<b>Lowcountry Total</b>	<b>246,992</b>	<b>247,793</b>	<b>248,264</b>	<b>252,316</b>	<b>255,762</b>	<b>260,335</b>	<b>265,193</b>	<b>7.02%</b>

Source: US Census March 24, 2016



**Lowcountry Council of Governments**  
**Five Successes, Five Goals**  
2016

**Top 5 Successes**

1. Cherry Point Water/Sewer project in the Highway 170/278 corridor in southern Beaufort and Jasper Counties. EDA grant of \$1,000,000. The original project occurred 1994/95/96. Facilities constructed: 30" water line to Del Webb and other miscellaneous water and wastewater lines in the Cherry Point area. There were several subsequent projects dependent upon the infrastructure installed in the original project funded by investments from Beaufort Jasper Water Sewer Authority of \$52,000,000 and private investment of \$400,000,000+.
2. Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) program. A community-driven, cooperative, strategic planning process among Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort and Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island; Beaufort County, the City of Beaufort and the Town of Port Royal; the Lowcountry Council of Governments; the State of South Carolina. The purpose is to promote community development that is compatible with the military training, testing, and operational missions; and seek ways to reduce operational impacts on adjacent lands.

The first JLUS was completed by the LCOG planning department in 2004 and recommendations implemented. A second JLUS was completed in 2015, and funding has been provided by OEA to begin work on implementation.

3. Lowcountry Regional Water System is regionalism at its best and had a twenty-year gestation period. The system officially began its operations June 2013. The Lowcountry Regional Water System was formed as a joint water system and its members consist of the Towns of Brunson, Gifford, Hampton, Varnville, Yemassee and Hampton County.
4. LATS & MPO – The Lowcountry Area Transportation Study was established in 2013 to be responsible for the new Metropolitan Planning Organization, the first new MPO in South Carolina in more than 20 years. LCOG's planning department administers the planning process that determines how the area's federal transportation dollars will be spent.

This project shows what can happen when a COG maintains solid long-term relationships with its local governments. The partner jurisdictions are Beaufort and Jasper counties, the cities of Beaufort and Hardeeville, the towns of Bluffton, Hilton Head and Port Royal.

5. The Lowcountry Regional Affordable Housing and HOME Consortium. The HOME Consortium was established in 2006 by a local initiative and all the jurisdictions came together on it. The MOU now includes all localities except one small town. This consortium allows direct allocation of housing funds to be managed locally by LCOG. The primary



activities are single family rehab, new construction (through Community Housing Development Organizations) and down payment assistance. The annual allocation requires a 25% match provided by our four counties.

### **Honorable Mentions**

6. Infrastructure and building in Cypress Ridge Business-Industrial Park – a 360 acre park purchased by Jasper County in 1997. Infrastructure – water, sewer and roads initially \$1,300,000 were funded by grants from EDA - \$667,500, CDBG - \$396,000 the Coordinating Council - \$150,000 and local funds. The park is home to several business today. Subsequent projects dependent upon the infrastructure include a new elementary school and subdivision.
7. AAA - Comprehensive Assessment Program - In July of 2013, the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) embarked on implementing a region-wide, Comprehensive Assessment Program for the purpose of better serving our senior population with a full range of available services. This process enables the agency to truly undertake a “person-centered” approach to serving the senior population.

This system has led to increases in clients and services provided. This program is now being reviewed by the state’s Office on Aging for replication in all ten regions.

### **Top 5 Goals**

1. Jobs/Youth/Education - Develop a skilled workforce to increase the employability of the region’s citizens, particularly the youth.
2. Roads/transportation – Improve access to resources and services in the region
3. Aging and Disability Resource Services - Increase the awareness of resources and services offered in the region, and increase the number of seniors reached by the programs.
4. Housing/Home Improvements – Increase the number of citizens in the region living in safe, affordable homes
5. Take full advantage of the Promise Zone designation that impacts the region by working in partnership with the lead entity Southern Carolina Alliance to implement a strategic plan that supports growth and development in the region.

## 208 Plan Conformance Certifications - February 2016

Project	Description	Location	Wastewater Treatment Plant	Number of Lots	Date Certified	Conform	Fee Paid	Status
<i>Northern Beaufort County</i>								
Shadow Moss, Phase 8A	Sanitary sewer, pump station	Port Royal	PRWRF	28	2/19/2016	Yes	\$230	Approved
Shadow Moss, Phase 8	Sanitary sewer, pump station	Port Royal	PRWRF	45	2/22/2016	Yes	\$230	Approved
<i>Southern Beaufort County</i>								
Heritage at New Riverside, Phase 2B	Sanitary Sewer	Bluffton	Cherry Point WWTP	28	1/29/2016	Yes	\$230	Approved
Hampton Lakes, Phase 4	Sanitary Sewer	Bluffton	Cherry Point WWTP	49	2/25/2016	Yes	\$230	Approved
<i>Colleton County</i>								
<i>Hampton County</i>								
<i>Jasper County</i>								
Royal Live Oaks Academy	Sanitary Sewer	Hardeeville	Hardeeville WWTP	Charter School	2/2/2016	Yes	\$230	Approved

Lowcountry 208 Certifications: 2014 and 2015 Monthly Comparison

2014	208 Certifications	Number of Housing Units	Other Buildings	2015	208 Certifications	Number of Housing Units	Other Buildings	2016	208 Certifications	Number of Housing Units	Other Buildings
January	3	0	Industrial, Fire Station, Jelly Fish Processing	January	7	133	Medical Building	January	1	7	
February	2	0	USCB Rec Center, forest road	February	6	300	Dialysis Clinic	February	5	150	Charter School
March	1	0	Crystal Lake Park	March	3	302	Fire Station	March	0	0	
April	1	56		April	1	74		April			
May	4	100	School, Commercial Building	May	2		Commercial Projects	May			
June	3	46	System upgrade, jellyfish processing plant (conditional approval)	June	1	29		June			
July	10	266	Commercial buildings, school	July	7	264	Industrial	July			
August	1	48		August	6	112	Commercial Projects, Hotel	August			
September	2	39	High School	September	5	61	Commercial Projects, Fire Department	September			
October	5	267		October	1	0	System improvement	October			
November	1	15		November	3	69	Student Housing, charter school expansion	November			
December	1	273		December	3	288	Wal-Mart, shopping center expansion/renovation	December			
<b>Year-to-date</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>1110</b>		<b>Year-to-date</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>1632</b>		<b>Year-to-date</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>157</b>	

# Lowcountry Labor Force and Employment

	Jan-16			Dec-15			Jan-15	
	Labor Force	Employment		Labor Force	Employment		Labor Force	Employment
Beaufort County	70,417	66,746		67,909	64,570		68,450	64,109
Colleton County	16,815	15,712		17,412	16,368		16,883	15,578
Hampton County	8,117	7,524		8,563	7,976		8,610	7,783
Jasper County	11,502	10,945		11,236	10,732		11,203	10,590
<b>Lowcountry Total</b>	<b>106,851</b>	<b>100,927</b>		<b>105,120</b>	<b>99,646</b>		<b>105,146</b>	<b>98,060</b>

	Labor Force	Employment
<b>Lowcountry Percent Change January 2015-January 2016</b>	1.62%	2.92%

## Lowcountry Unemployment Rates

