

LOWCOUNTRY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
August 27, 2009
6:30 p.m.

MINUTES

PRESENT:

ABSENT:

BEAUFORT COUNTY:

Gerald Dawson
Bill Ferguson
Brian Flewelling
Herbert Glaze
Mary Beth Heyward
Bill McBride
Joseph McDomick
James Outlaw
Jerry Stewart
George Williams

Donnie Beer (Proxy to B. McBride)
Lisa Sulka (Proxy to B. Heyward)

COLLETON COUNTY:

Esther Black
Joe Flowers
Burley Lyons
Vic Nettles
Gene Whetsell
George White
Bill Young

Evon Robinson (Proxy to E. Black)

HAMPTON COUNTY:

Frankie Bennett
Jimmy Bilka
Lloyd Griffith
Pete Hagood
Buddy Phillips
Nat Shaffer

J. L. Goodwin

JASPER COUNTY:

Gary Hodges
George Hood
Henry Lawton
Gwen Smith

Roy Powell

GUESTS:

Terri Crosby, Town of Cottageville

STAFF:

Chris Bickley, Michelle Knight, Ginnie Kozak, Sherry Smith, Carol Stonebraker

Chairman Heyward called the August 27, 2009 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 June 25, 2009 meeting were unanimously approved on motion by Henry Lawton with a second from Joe McDomick. Proxies presented by the Executive Director included Donnie Beer to Bill McBride, Lisa Sulka to Mary Beth Heyward and Evon Robinson to Esther Black. All were general proxies. The meeting proceeded after determining a quorum was present.

Chairman Heyward conducted installation of 2009-2010 Officers: Chairman George Hood, Vice-Chairman Buddy Phillips, Secretary Bill Young, Treasurer Herbert Glaze and Executive Committee members Donnie Beer, Vic Nettles, Pete Hagood and Gary Hodges. Chairman Heyward turned the gavel over to new Chairman George Hood, who then presented her with a plaque honoring her service as LCOG Board Chair.

Chairman Hood recognized Transportation Committee Chairman George Williams for information about Intersection Improvement Projects. A summary was in meeting packets. Mr. Williams reported that site visits with SCDOT staff had been conducted and that a full report with proposed project rankings would be presented for the Board's consideration at its next meeting. Discussion followed with concerns expressed about the list not having projects in all four counties. Mr. Williams explained that, since the effort began about a year ago, some projects dropped from the list because they had already been completed or otherwise funded. He thought it important to have a comprehensive report before the Board took action. Ginnie Kozak said DOT required that consideration be based on documented intersection accidents, and the report would reflect that information. Chris Bickley clarified that county identifiers on the summary were: Beaufort #7, Colleton #15, Hampton #25 and Jasper #27. Henry Lawton asked if other counties had been contacted regarding road width reductions. None had. Chairman Hood received the comments as information and said the Board would address intersection improvement projects at its next meeting.

The Chairman recognized Chris Bickley for an update on LCOG Building Expansion Plans. A summary was in meeting packets. Chris reviewed progress of funding efforts and revised cost estimates. The architect had recommended conducting pre-qualification for prospective general contractors, which was underway. Construction bids would be before the Board for consideration at its next meeting. Following discussion, Joe Flowers moved to proceed with expansion and renovation plans as presented. Mary Beth Heyward seconded the motion, and it carried with all in favor.

Chairman Hood recognized Michelle Knight to review SC Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Applications. A draft summary had been mailed to board members prior to the meeting and was in meeting packets. The Lowcountry has an allocation of \$287,000. Michelle reported that ten communities responded with letters of intent and six actually submitted applications. Staff reviewed each application based on program scoring criteria that included return on investment, other funds leveraged, potential job creation and reduction in fossil fuels consumption. The list would be sent to State where each project would undergo review and consideration for funding. Following discussion, Joe Flowers moved to approve the list for submission to the State. Mary Beth Heyward seconded the motion, and it carried with all in favor.

Chairman Hood recognized Chris Bickley to present the Agency Confidentiality Policy. Chris reviewed paragraph two, which had been added after draft copies were mailed to board members. In addition to its employees, the policy applies to COG board and committee members, volunteers and consultants. The policy would become part of the recently-updated personnel policy. Jim Outlaw moved to adopt the policy as revised, and following a second by Joe McDomick, the motion carried with all in favor.

Sherry Smith was recognized for Finance Reports. She submitted the draft June report noting it covered end of fiscal year reporting and was subject to independent audit, which had begun. July Operations showed a negative amount that Sherry explained was due to upfront budgeted expenditures that would soon level out. Both reports were received as information.

Michelle Knight was recognized for the Community and Economic Development Report. Michelle submitted the report as written. She reported that five spring projects had been funded through CDBG and that thirty days remained to submit applications for the fall funding round. Michelle announced that the Title IX Loan Committee would meet in September to review new loan applications. The report was received as information.

Chris Bickley was recognized for the Director's Report. Copies were in meeting packets, and Chris commented on selected items. SCDOT had obtained additional federal funds to complete the last construction phase of the US 17 widening project in Colleton County from near the Combahee River Bridge to Jacksonboro. The Town of Smoaks recently joined the Regional HOME Consortium. Chris recommended that the Board provide a letter in support of a Beaufort County, Town of Port Royal and City of Beaufort application for a USDOT TIGER mass transit grant for service in northern Beaufort County. Nat Shaffer made a motion to support the project. Mary Beth Heyward seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Chris reported there had been slight improvement in regional unemployment.

There were no comments during Council Time. With no additional business to address, and on motion duly made, seconded and approved, Chairman Hood adjourned the meeting at 7:30 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