

LOWCOUNTRY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
June 24, 2010
6:30 p.m.

MINUTES

	<u>PRESENT:</u>	<u>ABSENT:</u>
BEAUFORT COUNTY:	Gerald Dawson Bill Ferguson Brian Flewelling Herbert Glaze Mary Beth Heyward Bill McBride Jerry Stewart Lisa Sulka George Williams	Donnie Beer (Proxy to B. Flewelling) Joseph McDomick James Outlaw (Proxy to G. Dawson)
COLLETON COUNTY:	Esther Black Joseph Flowers Vic Nettles	Burley Lyons Evon Robinson (Proxy to E. Black) Gene Whetsel George White Bill Young (Proxy to V. Nettles)
HAMPTON COUNTY:	Frankie Bennett Charles Boyles, Jr. Henry Fields, Jr. Lloyd Griffith Pete Hagood Buddy Phillips	J. L. Goodwin
JASPER COUNTY:	Sherry Carroll George Hood Henry Lawton Gwen Smith	Gary Hodges (Proxy to Chair)
GUESTS:	SCDOT Commissioner Craig Forrest; Celia Price, guest of Esther Black; U. S. Census Bureau Partnership Specialist Terry Seabrook; City of Hardeeville Planning Director Brana Snowden	
STAFF:	Chris Bickley, Ginnie Kozak, Sherry Smith, Carol Stonebraker, Jamie Wood	

Chairman Hood called the June 24, 2010 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. Hardeeville City Council Member Sherry Carroll was welcomed to the LCOG Board. Introduction of guests and staff followed. Minutes of the May 27, 2010 meeting were unanimously approved on motion by Henry Lawton with a second from Brian Flewelling. Proxies presented by the Executive Director included Donnie Beer to Brian Flewelling, Jim Outlaw to Gerald Dawson, Evon Robinson to Esther Black, Bill Young to Vic Nettles and Gary Hodges to Chairman Hood. All were general proxies. The meeting proceeded after determining a quorum was present.

Chairman Hood recognized Terry Seabrook with the U.S. Census Bureau for an update on the 2010 Census. Summaries were distributed. Ms. Seabrook reported significant improvement in South Carolina Census participation rising from 49th in 2000 to 23rd in 2010. South Carolina has a 73% Census form mail-back response, and in our region, Beaufort County is at 72%, Colleton County 71%, Hampton County 66% and Jasper County 65%. Home visits to count those that did not mail back their forms are near completion. During discussion, Ms. Seabrook said there still is time to be counted, and anyone that did not receive a form or a home visit should call the regional U.S. Census Bureau office in Beaufort (843-982-5400). Final numbers should be announced at the end of the year. Ms. Seabrook thanked LCOG staff and board members for their help in promoting a successful 2010 Census count in South Carolina.

There were no items of Old Business on the Agenda. Chairman Hood addressed New Business and recognized Nominating Committee Chairman Bill McBride to present a slate of officer candidates for FY 10/11. Mr. McBride reported that the Nominating Committee unanimously recommended Buddy Phillips as Chairman; Bill Young, Vice-Chairman; Herbert Glaze, Secretary and Gwen Smith, Treasurer from Hampton, Colleton, Beaufort and Jasper County respectively. Henry Lawton moved to accept the Nominating Committee recommendations, and following a second from Mary Beth Heyward, the motion carried with all in favor.

The Chairman recognized Chris Bickley and Sherry Smith to present the proposed FY 10/11 Agency Budget. The draft budget was mailed to board members prior to the meeting, and copies were in meeting packets. Chris Bickley said the Executive Committee met June 16 for an in-depth review of the budget and recommended approval. He reported a decrease of \$1.3M from the current budget, as revised last month, and reviewed causal factors and plans to address reductions. Additionally, no cost-of-living employee salary increase was requested again this year. Chris also reviewed revenue sources, expenditures, and work programs funded in the LCOG budget. Discussion followed, after which Vic Nettles moved to approve the budget as presented. Joe Flowers seconded the motion and it carried with all in favor.

Sherry Smith was recognized for the May Finance Report. Copies were in meeting packets. Sherry reviewed the information and noted the numbers reflected budget adjustments approved at the previous meeting. The year-end report will include cost to replace one COG vehicle. Discussion followed and Sherry responded to questions. She said two programs—WIA and Aging—require large COG payouts that are later reimbursed by State, and Accounts Receivable increased in May primarily due to Memorial Day delaying those reimbursements until June 2nd. A Building Expansion Project line item was added to the Finance Report. Chris Bickley responded to a question from George Williams and said issues on construction front-end delay have not been resolved. The report was unanimously accepted as information on motion by Gerald Dawson with a second from Mary Beth Heyward.

Chris Bickley was recognized for the Community and Economic Development Report. C&ED Director Michelle Knight was unable to attend the meeting. Copies of the report were in meeting packets, and Chris submitted the report as written. It was unanimously accepted as information on motion by Frankie Bennett with a second from Esther Black.

Chairman Hood asked Chris Bickley to continue with the Director's Report. Copies were in meeting packets and Chris reviewed several items. The report included an SCDOT Guideshare Scenario Summary. Chris said SCDOT staff had proposed to the SCDOT Commission that the guideshare allocation formula be changed to give vehicle miles traveled (VMT) equal weight with population. He recommended that the COG and local jurisdictions submit comments supporting the formula change. Joe Flowers made a motion authorizing Chris Bickley to send a letter to SCDOT in support of the funding formula change.

Jerry Stewart seconded the motion and it carried with all in favor. SCDOT Commissioner Craig Forrest said he expected the matter to be on the SCDOT Commission's July meeting agenda. Chris agreed to send copies of the letter to local governments.

Chris continued with information about SCDOT's proposal to establish a \$50M federal match fund for locally-funded projects stalled by cost overruns. He recommended that local jurisdictions obtain more information about the program. Discussion followed and it was agreed COG support of establishing the federal match fund would be included in the Executive Director's letter to SCDOT.

Chris reported that the State cut \$126K from the Aging program allocation for contracted home-delivered meals in the four counties. The Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan covering Colleton, Hampton and Jasper Counties has been approved by FEMA pending plan adoption by each county. Approval of the Beaufort County Plan is expected soon. Vacancies on COG committees will be addressed at the next meeting. The 208 Report and Wage and Unemployment Rate charts were in meeting folders. Chris announced that board members would caucus by county following the meeting to select at-large Executive Committee members and participants at the annual NADO training conference.

Chairman Hood called for a motion to enter Executive Session to receive information about a personnel matter. Beth Heyward moved to enter Executive Session, and following a second from Henry Lawton, the motion carried with all in agreement. The meeting returned to Open Session with no action taken.

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 7:19 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

ADDENDUM:

Board members caucused by county after the meeting and selected FY 10/11 at-large Executive Committee members: Bill McBride, Beaufort County; Esther Black, Colleton County; Lloyd Griffith, Hampton County and George Hood, Jasper County.

Also at the caucuses, Mary Beth Heyward, Joe Flowers, Frankie Bennett and Sherry Carroll were selected to attend the NADO annual training conference in August. (NOTE: Esther Black later replaced Joe Flowers, who could not attend due to a scheduling conflict.)