

LOWCOUNTRY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

August 26, 2010

6:30 p.m.

MINUTES

	<u>PRESENT:</u>	<u>ABSENT:</u>
BEAUFORT COUNTY:	Gerald Dawson Bill Ferguson Herbert Glaze Mary Beth Heyward Bill McBride Joseph McDomick James Outlaw	Donnie Beer (Proxy to B. Flewelling) Brian Flewelling Jerry Stewart (Proxy to B. McBride) Lisa Sulka (Proxy to Chair) George Williams (Proxy to Chair)
COLLETON COUNTY:	Esther Black Joseph Flowers Larry Hutto Evon Robinson Gene Whetsell	Vic Nettles (Proxy to B. Young) George White
HAMPTON COUNTY:	Frankie Bennett Charles Boyles Henry Fields J. L. Goodwin Lloyd Griffith Pete Hagood Buddy Phillips	
JASPER COUNTY:	Sherry Carroll Gary Hodges George Hood Henry Lawton Gwen Smith	
GUESTS:	Brad Samuel, Community/Economic Development and Local Government Representative with SCANA Corporation; Brana Snowden, City of Hardeeville AICP Planning Director	
STAFF:	Chris Bickley, Michelle Knight, Ginnie Kozak, Sherry Smith, Carol Stonebraker, Jamie Wood	

Chairman George Hood called the August 26, 2010 Lowcountry Council of Governments regular board meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Evon Robinson gave the invocation. Chairman Hood welcomed new Edisto Beach Council Member Larry (Babe) Hutto to the LCOG Board. Introduction of guests and staff followed. Minutes of the June 24, 2010 meeting were unanimously approved on motion by Henry Lawton with a second from Mary Beth Heyward. Proxies presented by the Executive Director included Donnie Beer to Brian Flewelling, Vic Nettles to Bill Young, Jerry Stewart to Bill McBride, and Lisa Sulka and George

Williams to the Chair. All were general proxies. The meeting proceeded after determining a quorum was present.

Chairman Hood installed FY10/11 Officers: Chairman Buddy Phillips, Hampton County; Vice Chairman Bill Young, Colleton County; Secretary Herbert Glaze, Beaufort County; and Treasurer Gwen Smith, Jasper County. New Executive Committee members include Bill McBride, Esther Black, Lloyd Griffith and George Hood representing Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper County respectively. Chairman Hood turned the gavel over to Chairman Phillips, who in turn presented the outgoing Chairman's plaque to Dr. Hood. Chairman Phillips thanked Dr. Hood for doing such a good job as COG Board Chairman as he had done for many years with the school districts. Dr. Hood replied that he would continue working for the good of the Lowcountry and has no plans to return to North Carolina.

Chairman Phillips recognized Brad Samuel, Community/Economic Development and Local Government Representative with SCANA Corporation. Mr. Samuel hosted the COG's fellowship period earlier that evening. He expressed his appreciation for all the LCOG Board does for its communities and region.

The Chairman recognized LCOG Planning Director Ginnie Kozak for a presentation on the Northern Beaufort County Bus Livability Grant Project. A summary was in meeting packets, and Ginnie reviewed the information. The project will provide transportation choices through fixed route transit service linking a majority of northern Beaufort County residents to major employers, shopping areas and services in the region; a multiuse trail on the former Port Royal-Yemassee railroad right-of-way; and additional or improved sidewalks and multiuse pathways. Beaufort County met population density requirements to qualify for the grant. Ginnie said planning continues on approaches to public transit in other areas of the region where low population density has been an issue in securing funding. The Northern Beaufort County project could become a cornerstone effort with the goal of expanding services throughout the region. It was the only project of its type awarded in South Carolina and already receiving national attention for the region—Ginnie recently presented at the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO)/American Public Transit Association (APTA) Conference in Seattle where the project received considerable interest. Following discussion, Chairman Phillips accepted the report as information and congratulated Beaufort County on the project.

Chairman Phillips called for Old Business and recognized Chris Bickley to review Committee vacancies. A roster of committees and vacant seats was distributed at the previous meeting, and copies were included in meeting packets. Several appointments were unanimously made:

- Aging Advisory Committee: Martha Davis and Deborah Walsh were appointed to represent provider/community support agencies on a motion by Joe Flowers seconded by Bill McBride; Ervena Faulkner and Margie Fennell were appointed senior Beaufort and Jasper County representatives on motion by Gerald Dawson seconded by Mary Beth Heyward, and a Colleton County nominee will be presented later; Tammy Washington was appointed to fill a health care provider vacancy on motion by Henry Lawton seconded by Mary Beth Heyward; and Pete Hagood was appointed Hampton County at large representative on motion by Lloyd Griffith seconded by Mary Beth Heyward.
- Affordable Housing Advisory Committee: Bill McBride nominated Morris Campbell to fill a Beaufort County technical membership vacancy, which was approved following a second

from Mary Beth Heyward. Andy Fulghum was appointed Jasper County technical membership representative on motion by George Hood seconded by Gwen Smith.

- Loan Review Committee appointments were delayed until RLF program changes are known.

Chairman Phillips addressed New Business and recognized Sherry Smith to present the COG's Accounting Policies and Procedures. Draft copies were mailed to board members prior to the meeting and included in meeting packets. Sherry presented the document noting that it consolidates and formalizes accounting policies and procedures followed by LCOG. Chris Bickley said the only change was that all requests for payment forms (green sheets) would no longer require Executive Director approval. Requirement for department director approval and review of payment requests for accuracy and completeness by the Finance Director prior to payment remains unchanged. Joe Flowers moved to adopt the LCOG Accounting Policies and Procedures, and following a second from Jim Outlaw, the motion carried with all in favor.

The Chairman recognized Michelle Knight for information about the Title IX Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Status and Future. A summary was in meeting packets, and Michelle reviewed the information. She reported portfolio performance improvement had been difficult primarily due to some older defaulted loans and that the RLF fund has a cash asset balance of \$715K. Michelle presented three possible options for the program's future and explained what each would require. The options were to keep the RLF, terminate it for convenience, or transfer it to a suitable successor grantee. Considerable discussion followed and Chris Bickley said he would send more information about a possible successor grantee to the board members. The matter will come before the Board for action at its next meeting.

Sherry Smith was recognized for the June and July Finance Reports. Copies were in meeting packets. Sherry noted the June report represented end of fiscal year and is subject to adjustment pending audit results. She reviewed the reports. End of June operations were slightly better than budget and Title IX was on target. July operations showed a small loss from budget because the first few months of each fiscal year require match payouts that soon level out. Accounts Receivable are being monitored closely. Both reports were unanimously accepted as information on motion by Pete Hagood with a second from Mary Beth Heyward.

Michelle Knight was recognized for the Community and Economic Development Report. Michelle submitted the report as written and commented on current activity. She reported that four of the six projects submitted during the spring funding round had been approved, and projects for the fall round would be submitted in September. The report was unanimously accepted as information on motion by Henry Lawton with a second from Pete Hagood.

Chris Bickley was recognized for the Director's Report. Copies were in meeting packets and Chris commented on several items. The Aging Program took a second cut, this one due to reduced state Medicaid funding, but expects to add a temporary senior wellness program. The COG will be a lead member with the Chatham-Savannah Metro Planning Commission on a HUD Sustainable Communities planning grant application.

Chris suggested utilizing Council Time at board meetings to discuss regional issues and unique local projects because more regional officials meet together more often at the COG than any other place. Expanded interaction between the board members could benefit the counties and

municipalities. Several recommendations were made during discussion, and it was agreed the Board would hear an update on the Jasper Port at its next meeting. The latest US Census Lowcountry Population Estimates chart was in meeting packets.

Chairman Phillips called for a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter and a contractual item. Mary Beth Heyward moved to enter Executive Session, and following a second by Jim Outlaw, the motion unanimously carried. The meeting returned to Open Session with no action taken.

There were no comments during Council Time. Without additional business to address, and on motion duly made, seconded and approved, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 8:10 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