

LOWCOUNTRY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
October 28, 2010  
6:30 p.m.

MINUTES

	<u>PRESENT:</u>	<u>ABSENT:</u>
<b>BEAUFORT COUNTY:</b>	Donnie Beer Gerald Dawson Bill Ferguson Brian Flewelling Herbert Glaze Mary Beth Heyward Bill McBride Joseph McDomick James Outlaw Jerry Stewart George Williams	Lisa Sulka
<b>COLLETON COUNTY:</b>	Esther S. Black Joseph Flowers Larry Hutto Vic Nettles Bill Young	Evon Robinson (Proxy to E. Black) Gene Whetsel
<b>HAMPTON COUNTY:</b>	Frankie Bennett Charles Boyles Henry Fields J. L. Goodwin Lloyd Griffith Pete Hagood Buddy Phillips	
<b>JASPER COUNTY:</b>	Gary Hodges Henry Lawton Gwen Smith	Sherry Carroll George Hood (Proxy to G. Smith)
<b>GUESTS:</b>	Celia Price, guest of Esther Black; Paul Sommerville, Beaufort County Council; Marjorie Thomas, DEW Beaufort Area Director; Landon Thorne, Lowcountry Workforce Investment Board Chairman; Peggy Torrey, DEW Deputy Executive Director	
<b>STAFF:</b>	Chris Bickley, Michelle Knight, Ginnie Kozak, Sherry Smith, Carol Stonebraker, Jamie Wood	

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Chairman Buddy Phillips called the October 28, 2010 Lowcountry Council of Governments regular board meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Gerald Dawson gave the invocation. Introduction of guests and staff followed. Minutes of the September 23, 2010 meeting were unanimously approved on motion by Henry Lawton with a second from Tootie Griffith. Proxies presented by the Executive Director included George Hood to Gwen Smith and Evon Robinson to Esther Black. Both were general proxies. The meeting proceeded after determining a quorum was present.

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Chairman Phillips called for Old Business and recognized Chris Bickley for information about One-Stop Center operations. A summary was mailed to board members prior to the meeting, and a copy was in meeting packets. The Board authorized staff at its May meeting to proceed with fact-finding and planning for new responsibilities resulting from changes at the Department of Employment and Workforce (DEW)—the new state agency created when the Workforce Division of the Department of Commerce merged with the Employment Security Commission (ESC). Chris gave a brief background of the COG's Workforce Development Program and updated the Board on DEW activity since the May meeting. He reported that DEW had determined it would no longer operate the One-Stops, and along with the Lowcountry Workforce Investment Board (LWIB), sought to designate responsibility for regional One-Stop administration to the COG. The COG was deemed a logical choice because it had administered the Workforce Development Program in the region for ten years, and most of its WIA staff was already located at the One-Stops. The proposed plan would have DEW employees and WIA staff at each One-Stop with continued responsibility for their respective services. However, the COG and its WIA Department would become administrative entity for the One-Stops with the objective of improved and streamlined services for both Lowcountry employers and employees. Chris said the COG would not proceed without written funding agreements and written budgets for each One-Stop. Noting that Workforce Development Director Jamie Wood, DEW Deputy Executive Director Peggy Torrey and Lowcountry WIB Chairman Landon Thorne were in attendance to answer questions, Chris said staff recommended that the Board authorize the COG to assume responsibility for running the regional One-Stops.

Joe Flowers made a motion that the COG proceed with plans to operate the One-Stops, and the motion was duly seconded. Chairman Phillips called for discussion, and Peggy Torrey responded to questions about One-Stop facilities. She confirmed DEW would continue its existing services at the One-Stops with its own staff, but an on-site COG employee would directly supervise all day-to-day One-Stop operations. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between DEW and LCOG was being developed. Ms. Torrey said that stronger requirements were being implemented and that DEW's major emphasis would be re-employment. After considerable discussion, the Board unanimously voted to approve Dr. Flower's motion.

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Chairman Phillips asked if there were other items of Old Business. Transportation Committee Chairman George Williams was recognized for comments about the COG's SCDOT Guideshare Projects List. A copy was in meeting packets. Mr. Williams said the projects had been approved by the Board months ago, and SCDOT was requesting that they be shown for 2011 instead of 2010. Following discussion, Mr. Williams made a motion to move the projects to 2011. Seconded by Bill Young, the motion carried with all in favor.

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The Chairman addressed New Business and recognized Michelle Knight to present Lowcountry Regional HOME Consortium Projects for consideration. Affordable Housing Manager Barbara Johnson was unable to attend. A summary was mailed to board members prior to the meeting, and copies were in meeting packets. Michelle presented one new request and two project amendments that she said had been reviewed and unanimously recommended for approval by email and phone survey with the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee: 1) Approve a new \$100K Down-Payment Assistance Program administered by LCOG that would assist 10 regional families; 2) Amend the Colleton County Habitat for Humanity project by reducing number of new units constructed from 4 to 2 and use remaining funds to rehabilitate 2 owner-occupied homes located in or near the Lemacks Street project area in Walterboro with LCOG to administer the rehab portion; 3) Amend the Hampton County Habitat for Humanity project by reducing the number of new units constructed from 4 to 3 and use remaining funds to rehabilitate 1 owner-occupied home in the Town of Yemassee with LCOG administering the rehab. After discussion, Frankie Bennett moved to approve the recommendations, and following a second by Mary Beth Heyward, the motion carried with all in favor.

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Sherry Smith was recognized for the September Finance Report. Copies were in meeting packets, and Sherry reviewed the information noting it represented 25% of the fiscal year. She reported that Operations continued near break-even due to heavy up-front program match expense and because budgeted depreciation on the facility expansion could not begin until the space is occupied. There was little activity in the Title IX RLF Program. The report was unanimously accepted as information on motion by Pete Hagood with a second from Mary Beth Heyward.

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Michelle Knight was recognized for the Community & Economic Development Report. Copies were in meeting packets. Michelle submitted the report as written and reported that five projects had been submitted during the fall CDBG funding round and that follow-on work was in progress. The report was unanimously accepted as information on motion by Joe Flowers with a second from Mary Beth Heyward.

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Chris Bickley submitted the Director's Report and commented on selected items. He reminded board members of the annual SCARC conference in November. Three recently announced business closings would result in the loss of 224 regional jobs. Facility expansion progress is about 60-90 days behind schedule. A bike rack was installed as part of LEED certification requirements. An updated "The People and the Economy of the Lowcountry: A Demographic Overview" prepared by the LCOG Planning Department was in meeting packets.

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During Council Time, Gary Hodges was recognized for information deferred from the previous meeting about a proposed USC Beaufort name change. Mayor Hodges read selections from USC documents about the proposed change. Discussion followed. Henry Lawton made a motion to support leaving the USCB name unchanged. Gerald Dawson seconded the motion. Discussion continued during which consensus was that the marketing study recommending the name change to Sea Islands was flawed and inadequate, Lowcountry being a highly recognizable and marketable region identifier, and in no case should a public university undertake the expense of a name change during these tough economic and state budget times. Chairman Phillips called for a vote on Mr. Lawton's motion, and the motion carried by majority. Gary Hodges then moved to adopt a resolution to strongly recommend the name remain USC Beaufort, but if it is changed, it should be USC Lowcountry. Jim Outlaw seconded the motion. The motion carried by majority with one opposing vote from Brian Flewelling. It was agreed the Executive Director would prepare a letter for signature by Chairman Phillips stating the Board's position to USCB Chancellor Dr. Jane Upshaw.

Also during Council Time, Donnie Beer invited everyone to the City of Beaufort's November 17<sup>th</sup> grand opening of its new Town Hall.

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With no additional business to address, and on motion duly made, seconded and approved, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 7:33 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