

**LOWCOUNTRY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
September 22, 2011  
6:30 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:**

**ABSENT:**

**BEAUFORT COUNTY:**

Gerald Dawson  
Brian Flewelling  
Herbert Glaze  
Bill McBride  
George Williams

Bill Ferguson  
Mary Beth Heyward (Proxy to B. McBride)  
Joseph McDomick  
James Outlaw  
Jerry Stewart (Proxy to B. McBride)  
Lisa Sulka (Proxy to Chair)

**COLLETON COUNTY:**

Esther S. Black  
Joseph Flowers  
Gene Whetsell  
Bill Young

Larry (Babe) Hutto  
Evon Robinson (Proxy to E. Black)

**HAMPTON COUNTY:**

Frankie Bennett  
Charles Boyles  
J. L. Goodwin  
Lloyd Griffith  
Pete Hagood  
Buddy Phillips  
Nat Shaffer

**JASPER COUNTY:**

Sherry Carroll  
Gary Hodges  
Henry Lawton  
Gwen Smith

LeRoy Blackshear

**GUESTS:**

Hardeeville City Councilman Sal Arzillo, Beaufort City Councilwoman Donnie Beer, SCANA C/ED & Local Government Representative Brad Samuel

**STAFF:** Chris Bickley, Michelle Knight, Ginnie Kozak, Sherry Smith, Carol Stonebraker, Marvile Thompson

---

Chairman Bill Young called the September 22, 2011 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. The Chairman called for action on the August 25, 2011 minutes, and following a correction by Brian Flewelling to remove "who represented Donnie Beer at the meeting" (P.1, Para.1, Line 3), the minutes were unanimously approved as corrected on motion by Henry Lawton with a second from Joe Flowers. Proxies presented by the Executive Director included Mary Beth Heyward and Jerry Stewart to Bill McBride, Evon Robinson to Esther Black and Lisa Sulka to the Chair. All were general proxies. The meeting proceeded after determining a quorum was present. Chairman Young presented a service plaque to retiring member Donnie Beer in recognition of her support of regionalism and service on the LCOG Board. Retiring member Vic Nettles was unable to attend. Chairman Young recognized his long-term service on the board.

---

Chairman Young opened a Public Hearing on the Lowcountry Regional HOME Consortium (LRHC) Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER). The HUD-required public hearing had been properly advertised in regional papers to solicit public comment on regional affordable housing activities for the past fiscal year. Summaries were mailed to board members prior to the meeting, and the final version with minor changes was in meeting packets. Michelle Knight conducted the hearing for Affordable Housing Manager Barbara Johnson, who was unable to attend. Michelle reviewed program results that included completion of 16 housing rehabilitation units and 15 new construction units. The program provided down payment assistance on 4 units, tenant-based rental assistance for 60 units and exterior rehabilitation of 42 apartment complex rental units. LRHC leveraged \$1,615,064 in additional private funds for the program. Chairman Young called for public comments and there were none, and he closed the hearing.

---

With no Old Business brought forward, Chairman Young addressed New Business and requested board action on the LRHC CAPER presented during the public hearing. Staff recommended approving the report. Brian Flewelling made a motion to approve the CAPER for submittal to HUD as presented. Following a second from Gwen Smith, the motion carried with all in favor.

---

Chairman Young recognized Marvile Thompson to present the Lowcountry Area on Aging (AAA) FY11/12 Budget. The budget had been delayed due to waiting for final federal decisions; last year's numbers carried over for the first quarter. Marvile reported the Aging Advisory Committee met earlier in the week and recommended approval. The primary focus of the AAA is to help seniors live in their homes for as long as possible, and the program seeks to meet that goal through the services it provides and as identified in the needs assessment. Marvile reviewed AAA services noting that participation in contracted group dining services is lagging in all but Jasper County, and effort to improve units served in the other counties is underway. That service category has reduced funding for FY 11/12.

Sherry Smith continued with financial details of the proposed AAA budget. A summary was mailed to board members prior to the meeting. Sherry presented comparisons of FY 10/11 and FY 11/12 funding allocations, which showed a decrease for the new year, although some of the difference was because FY 10/11 began higher with carry-over funding from the previous year. Funding for FY 11/12 in-house programs will decrease in most categories, increase in some, with others remaining at the same level. Sherry reviewed proposed funding for regional contracted services. Unit rates did not increase. Discussion followed during which Sherry explained how provider funding is based on a proportional formula except for home care, which is divided evenly among the counties. Allocations are reviewed in the tenth month of each fiscal year and adjustments made as warranted. Contracted services go out for proposals every four years, and all interested providers may submit proposals. Esther Black moved to approve the AAA Budget as presented. Lloyd Griffith seconded the motion and it carried with all in favor.

---

Chairman Young recognized Transportation Committee Chairman George Williams for Transportation Project Recommendations. The committee met earlier that week. Copies of the Lowcountry Transportation Project Decision-Making Matrix—FY 2012-2015 were in meeting packets. Mr. Williams reported that the committee delayed its recommendations to allow additional work by SCDOT to provide required data on each project's purpose/need and eligibility for guideshare funding. The committee will meet again in October. Emphasizing that the project list is preliminary and subject to change, Mr. Williams requested that board members review it prior to discussion at next month's meeting when the matter would again come before the board.

---

Sherry Smith was recognized for the August Finance Report. Copies were in meeting packets. Sherry said the COG's auditor had conducted its review, and the audit report will be presented at the next meeting. Operations include higher up-front required match from local funds on two of the COG's grants. There were no questions.

---

Michelle Knight was recognized for the Community & Economic Development Report. Copies were in meeting packets and submitted as written. Michelle reported three project applications had been submitted during the fall funding round and that announcements could be expected in late November or early December. Responding to a question, Michelle said the Hampton County economic development project application is waiting for input from the engineer. The project is for rail expansion at Elliott Sawmill.

---

Chris Bickley was recognized for the Director's Report. Copies were in meeting packets, and Chris commented on two items. He reviewed openings on the HOME Advisory Committee and reminded everyone about SCARC conference registration.

---

During Council Time, Gary Hodges invited everyone to the upcoming Gopher Hill Festival, which will honor veterans this year.

---

Chairman Young called for a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss a contractual matter. Joe Flowers moved to enter Executive Session, and following a second by Henry Lawton, the motion unanimously carried. The meeting returned to Open Session with no action taken.

---

With no additional business to address, and on motion duly made, seconded and approved, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 7:25 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