

LOWCOUNTRY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

May 24, 2012

6:30 p.m.

MINUTES

PRESENT:

ABSENT:

BEAUFORT COUNTY:

Gerald Dawson
Brian Flewelling
Herbert Glaze
Mary Beth Heyward
Bill McBride
Joseph McDomick
James Outlaw
Lisa Sulka
George Williams

Bill Ferguson (Proxy to Chair)
Jerry Stewart

COLLETON COUNTY:

Esther S. Black
Joseph Flowers
Larry Hutto
Thomas Mann
Evon Robinson
Gene Whetsel
Bill Young

HAMPTON COUNTY:

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

JASPER COUNTY:

LeRoy Blackshear
Sherry Carroll
Henry Lawton
Joey Malphrus
Gwen Smith

GUESTS:

Sandy Fowler, Hampton County Economic Development Director; Bob Nanni, Hardeeville City Manager; Celia Price, guest of Esther Black; Frank Wanicki, URS Project Engineer

STAFF:

Chris Bickley, Ginnie Kozak, Sherry Smith, Carol Stonebraker, Marvile Thompson

Chairman Bill Young called the May 24, 2012 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. Without objection, Chairman Young requested that discussion of next month's meeting be added to the Agenda following submission of proxies. Introduction of guests and staff followed. Minutes of the April 26, 2012 meeting were unanimously approved on motion by Henry Lawton with a second from Mary Beth Heyward. The Executive Director presented one general proxy from Bill Ferguson to the Chair. The meeting proceeded after determining a quorum was present. Chairman Young reported a conflict between the scheduled June 28 board

meeting and the Municipal Association of South Carolina Annual Conference that many of the board members attend. With agreement of the Executive Committee, Chairman Young requested a motion to cancel the June 28, 2012 board meeting and that the Executive Committee meet in June and be authorized to act on behalf of the board regarding preparation/review of the FY 2012/2013 budget, subject to board confirmation in July. Jim Outlaw moved to approve the request, and following a second from Mary Beth Heyward, the motion unanimously carried.

Chairman Young opened the Lowcountry Areawide Water Quality Management (208) Plan, Amendment 27, Public Hearing at 6:35 p.m. and recognized Ginnie Kozak. An Executive Summary of the Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) was mailed to board members prior to the meeting and included in meeting packets. The public hearing had been properly advertised in appropriate regional media. Ginnie said the amendment was requested by the Hampton County Economic Development Commission and Town of Yemassee for proposed expansion of the Town of Yemassee Waste Water Treatment Facility (WWTF) to benefit economic growth and development in Hampton County. Responding to a question from Evon Robinson, Ginnie said the hearing announcement appeared in the Hampton County Guardian and Beaufort Gazette covering the geographic areas served by the facility. Hampton County Economic Director Sandy Fowler was available to answer questions regarding benefits to economic development. Ginnie turned the hearing over to URS Project Engineer Frank Wanicki.

Mr. Wanicki reviewed the proposed expansion and improvement of the Yemassee WWTF to accommodate a flow of 0.99 million gallons per day (MGD) and for modifications to accommodate an eventual flow of 1.5 MGD. The current plant capacity is 0.50 MGD. 208 Certification is required prior to submitting the PER to DHEC. The facility currently discharges to secondary standards. The improved facility would treat to tertiary standards, which would produce significantly cleaner affluent than currently discharged. Pollutant entering the Combahee River would not increase, regardless of flow increase, and would likely decrease due to use of new technology. Various options were considered. The selected alternative includes expansion of the existing DPMC lagoon system with the addition of intermittent sand filters, which is most cost effective and low maintenance. Mr. Wanicki requested Board approval to allow potential expansion of the Yemassee WWTF up to 1.5 MGD. He opened the hearing to questions.

George Williams asked about how new industry would affect the facility and loading on the river. Mr. Wanicki responded that, depending on characteristics of the discharge, the discharger may be required by the Town of Yemassee to meet additional pretreatment requirements to help reduce loading before it enters the town's wastewater treatment system. The town's facility must meet stringent concentration limits in order to keep loading equal or less than permitted. As proposed, concentration limits are less, but overall loading is the same; as flow increases, the effluent must be cleaner. Chairman Young called for public comments and there were none. He closed the hearing at 6:42 p.m.

Pete Hagood made a motion to approve Amendment 27. Gene Whetsell seconded the motion. Without objection, Chairman Young moved to New Business Item One on the Agenda, and the motion carried with all in favor.

The Chairman addressed Old Business and recognized Sherry Smith to present FY 2011/2012 Agency Budget Revisions. Copies were mailed to board members prior to the meeting. Sherry reviewed the information. Budget totals decreased approximately \$70K from original budget. The operating funds contingency decreased mostly due to a DOT grant requiring a higher 20% match; Title IX fund contingency increased because of an old loan payoff. Building project contingency funds will continue showing a negative until loan proceeds posted in 2010 are expended. Sherry reviewed changes in Revenue Sources and Expenditures. She responded to questions and said the DOT Bike and Pedestrian project grant required higher match. Joe Flowers moved to approve the budget revisions as presented. Joe McDomick seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Chairman Young addressed New Business and recognized Marvile Thompson and Sherry Smith to present the FY 2012/2013 Lowcountry Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Budget. An Executive Summary of 2011/2012 Area Plan Activities and proposed new budget were mailed to board members prior to the meeting. Marvile Thompson said it covers the last year in a multi-year plan approved in 2009, and there are no changes in the types of services and programs offered at the COG. She reviewed activities staff undertook to carry out goals of the Area Plan during 2011/2012 as well as those planned for the upcoming program year. The AAA will participate in a statewide needs assessment prior to procurement of services for the 2013/2014 program year. The COG contracts home delivered meals, transportation, health promotion, group dining meals and home care services. It provides health insurance counseling, information assistance and referral, family caregiver, long term care ombudsman and evidence based health promotion services in house. Federal Older Americans Act funds decreased, and State funding cuts are expected unless reinstated by the South Carolina Legislature. The AAA Advisory Committee met earlier and recommended approval.

Sherry Smith presented details of the AAA fiscal year 2012/2013 budget. Allocations for Regional Services (contracted services) and LCOG AAA (in-house programs and administration costs) are cut. The State budget has not passed, but the Lt. Governor's Office on Aging has indicated one of its top priorities will be to replenish the cuts. Sherry reviewed proposed units served by contractor in each county. Fewer units are proposed due to less funding, however, transportation unit cost (amount COG pays providers) increased because of higher fuel costs—the first increase in three years. During discussion Chris Bickley said staff responsibility adjustments are being considered, and contract providers may have to do the same. Henry Lawton moved to approve the budget, and following a second from Mary Beth Heyward, the motion unanimously carried.

Chairman Young appointed a Nominating Committee to present a slate of Officers for the new fiscal year: Buddy Phillips/Hampton County, Committee Chairman; Bill McBride/Beaufort County; Gene Whetsell/Colleton County and Leroy Blackshear/Jasper County. Buddy Phillips asked committee members to meet following the board meeting.

Sherry Smith was recognized for the April Finance Report. Copies were in meeting packets. Statement of Revenues and Expenditures included data views before budget revisions and one that was contingent on approval of revisions. Sherry reviewed the latter, since revisions were approved earlier in the meeting. After posting to the revised budget, Operations is at .937% of budget for the period ending April 2012. During the last two months of the fiscal year, the COG expects to use remaining local funds for (grant) matching and will procure budgeted equipment purchases. Accounts Receivable have improved and staff continues working to keep the funds turning over. There were no questions.

Chris Bickley presented the Community and Economic Development Report for Michelle Knight, who was attending a meeting in Columbia. Copies were in meeting packets. Chris submitted the report as written noting there are 53 active projects and another 4 in the application process.

Chairman Young asked Chris Bickley to continue with the Director's Report. Copies were in meeting packets and submitted as written. Chris requested that the Executive Committee meet before June 22nd to consider the proposed FY 2012/2013 budget. Members agreed to meet at the COG Thursday June 21st at 5:30 p.m. Chris reported that Workforce Development Director Jamie Wood is leaving to join the BCD COG in the same capacity.

Chairman Young called for a motion to enter Executive Session to conduct the Executive Director's performance evaluation and to hear information about a contractual matter. The motion was made by Joe Flowers, properly seconded, and unanimously approved. The meeting returned to Open Session. Henry Lawton

made a motion to approve an evaluation for the Executive Director in the exceptional range. Mary Beth Heyward seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Chris responded that he enjoyed working at the COG and thanked the Board for its success.

There were no comments during Council Time, and with no additional business to address, and on motion duly made, seconded and approved, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 7:22 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:

The Nominating Committee met after the meeting and agreed to present the following slate of 2012/2013 Officers:

Herbert Glaze/Beaufort County – Chairman
Gwen Smith/Jasper County – Vice Chairman
Tootie Griffith/Hampton County – Secretary
Tommy Mann/Colleton County – Treasurer