

**LOWCOUNTRY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

July 26, 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
George Williams

Bill Ferguson (Proxy to Chair)
Jerry Stewart
Lisa Sulka (Proxy to Chair)

COLLETON COUNTY:

Joseph Flowers
Larry Hutto
Thomas Mann
Evon Robinson
Gene Whetsell
Bill Young

Esther S. Black (Proxy to E. Robinson)

HAMPTON COUNTY:

J. L. Goodwin
Pete Hagood
Buddy Phillips
Nat Shaffer

Frankie Bennett
Charles Boyles
Lloyd Griffith (Proxy to Chair)

JASPER COUNTY:

LeRoy Blackshear
Sherry Carroll
Henry Lawton
Gwen Smith

Joey Malphrus (Proxy to Chair)

GUESTS:

Russell Berry, Region 8 Director, SC DHEC; Bob Nanni, Hardeeville City Manager;
Ed Saxon, Assistant General Manager, BJWSA

STAFF:

Chris Bickley, Michelle Knight, Ginnie Kozak, Jonathan Sherwood, Sherry Smith, Carol Stonebraker

Chairman Bill Young called the July 26, 2012 Lowcountry Council of Governments regular board meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. He extended condolences to Pete Hagood on the recent loss of his wife. The Chairman then led the Pledge of Allegiance and Bill McBride gave the invocation. Introduction of guests and staff followed. Minutes of the May 24, 2012 meeting were unanimously approved on motion by Henry Lawton with a second from Mary Beth Heyward. Proxies presented by the Executive Director included Bill Ferguson, Lloyd Griffith, Joey Malphrus and Lisa Sulka to the Chair. Evon Robinson reported that Esther Black asked him to serve as her proxy. All were general proxies. The meeting proceeded after determining a quorum was present.

Chairman Young opened the Public Hearing on the Lowcountry Regional Water Quality Management (208) Plan at 6:34 p.m. and recognized Ginnie Kozak. An executive summary was mailed to board members prior to the hearing. Ginnie reported that the public hearing had been properly advertised in

regional newspapers. (The ad included the COG's website where the full document may be viewed.) It was noted that no members of the public were in attendance. Ginnie gave a brief background of the program and plan and why it is being updated. Comments, suggestions and changes from EPA, DHEC and the 208 Committee have been incorporated. Some technical corrections—e.g. discharges—by DHEC are expected that will not change the plan's substance or recommendations. The plan would then be submitted to DHEC and EPA. Ginnie said the 208 Committee recommended approval subject to the technical corrections.

Discussion followed. Brian Flewelling said he would like more time to review the complete plan, and Joe Flowers said he would like to see a cost/benefit analysis. Other discussion included comments that the plan presents recommendations, not regulations; DHEC must be sure our region meets existing DHEC/EPA regulations; the COG has no authority to adopt water quality regulations; local governments determine what, if any, regulations they adopt in addition to those already required by DHEC and EPA; DHEC contracts with the COG for 208 project review and certification.

Brian Flewelling made a motion to delay action on the plan for 30 days. Following a second by Nat Shaffer, the motion carried with all in favor. Chris Bickley said staff will look at how to measure costs. Chairman Young closed the hearing at 6:54 p.m.

The Chairman called for Old Business and recognized Chris Bickley to present the COG's FY 2012-2013 Agency Budget. Copies were mailed to board members prior to the meeting. Chris reported that the Executive Committee met in June, as authorized during the previous meeting, and unanimously adopted the budget. Although total budget is slightly lower than current year, there were funding increases/decreases in different programs. The budget provides for a 2% employee cost-of-living increase, the first since 2008. Chris requested that the Board confirm the Executive Committee's action. Henry Lawton moved to approve the request and Mary Beth Heyward seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried. Chairman Young suggested that preliminary budget review by the Executive Committee be moved to May.

New Business Item 1. Board Action on the Lowcountry Regional Water Quality Management Plan, subject of the public hearing held at the beginning of the meeting, was deferred by motion during the hearing. It will be on next month's agenda.

Chairman Young recognized Nominating Committee Chairman Buddy Phillips to present the committee's officer nominations for the new fiscal year: Chairman – Herbert Glaze/Beaufort County, Vice Chairman – Gwen Smith/Jasper County, Secretary – Lloyd (Tootie) Griffith/Hampton County, and Treasurer – Tommy Mann/Colleton County. Henry Lawton moved to elect as nominated, and following a second from Mary Beth Heyward, the motion carried with all in favor.

Chris Bickley and Michelle Knight were recognized to conduct the Lowcountry Regional Development Corporation (LRDC) Annual Meeting. A summary of Annual Meeting Items, Background of LRDC and Status of Projects was included in meeting packets. Chris reviewed the information. LRDC is the COG's private, non-profit affiliate organization used to promote and develop business within the region. LRDC board members and officers are the same as those for LCOG. Chris Bickley serves as Managing Agent, and Michelle Knight is the Recording Secretary. Currently LRDC is relatively inactive and generating little income, but is available for any local government that needs a private non-profit typically to act as landlord to carry out a development project. Chris reviewed current LRDC projects and discussion followed. No action was needed by the Board.

Chairman Young called for Reports and recognized Sherry Smith for the End-of-Year Finance Report. Draft copies were in meeting packets. Sherry said the report is subject to the COG's upcoming

annual audit. She reviewed two unique items occurring in June: long-delayed negotiations with SCDEW regarding a resource-sharing agreement for center manager salaries and operating expenses that was signed only a few days before the fiscal year ended; and, transfer of the RLF program to Catawba COG. Both were under consideration for some time, but with outcomes uncertain, could not be included in current budget. Sherry reported that Operations are near budget, Title IX Revenues over Expenditures is at zero due to the program's transfer, and the Building Project will continue showing a negative until the funds are expended. There were no questions.

Michelle Knight was recognized for the Community and Economic Development Report, which was in meeting packets. Michelle reported that two CDBG projects entered during the spring funding round were approved. The EDA project submitted in June was not approved because no funds were available, but it can be resubmitted in the next round. Michelle reviewed project categories for the fall round, which has an August 17 request deadline, and asked that local governments contact her soon if interested in submitting project applications.

Chris Bickley was recognized for the Director's Report. Copies were in meeting packets and he reviewed selected items. The COG's EDA Title IX Revolving Loan Fund Program (RLF) was successfully transferred to Catawba Regional COG. Three written-off loans deemed uncollectable were not accepted by Catawba, and LCOG will review how to handle them. Chris presented a request from Lowcountry Economic Alliance to use the COG's Loaned Employee Program. Jim Outlaw made a motion to approve the request, and seconded by Henry Lawton, the motion carried with all in favor. Chris reviewed information about the new greater Hilton Head area MPO. Affected local governments—Hilton Head Island, Bluffton and Beaufort County, as well as Beaufort, Port Royal, Hardeeville and Jasper County—have been meeting to set MPO boundaries and determine how it will be organized. HOME Consortium match requirements will increase from 12.5% to 25%. Resolution of COG building contractor issues is expected soon.

Chris drew attention to other handouts in the meeting packets including the unemployment chart, population projections and 208 certifications. He requested that board members caucus by county following the meeting to select one At-Large Executive Committee member and one member to attend the NADO annual training conference in October.

During Council Time, Evon Robinson said additional nominations from the floor should have been requested when officers were elected earlier in the meeting. Consensus during discussion was that additional nominations will be requested as part of the agenda item for future elections.

Chairman Young announced the Municipal Association of South Carolina will hold a Regional Advocates meeting in Walterboro August 30.

With no additional business to address, and on motion duly made, seconded and approved, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 7:30 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

LCOG Board members caucused by county following the meeting and appointed new fiscal year Executive Committee members Brian Flewelling, Evon Robinson, Nat Shaffer and LeRoy Blackshear representing Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper county respectively.

Bill McBride, Bill Young, Nat Shaffer and Sherry Carroll were selected to attend the 2012 Annual NADO Conference in October. Esther Black is the Colleton County alternate.