

**LOWCOUNTRY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
September 27, 2012
6:30 p.m.**

MINUTES

	<u>PRESENT:</u>	<u>ABSENT:</u>
BEAUFORT COUNTY:	Gerald Dawson Brian Flewelling Herbert Glaze Mary Beth Heyward Bill McBride Joseph McDomick Jerry Stewart Lisa Sulka	Bill Ferguson (Proxy to Chair) James Outlaw (Proxy to B. Flewelling) George Williams (Proxy to Chair)
COLLETON COUNTY:	Esther S. Black Joseph Flowers Larry (Babe) Hutto Thomas (Tommy) Mann Evon Robinson Gene Whetsell	Bill Young (Proxy to G. Whetsell)
HAMPTON COUNTY:	Frankie Bennett Charles Boyles Lloyd Griffith Pete Hagood Buddy Phillips Nat Shaffer	J. L. Goodwin
JASPER COUNTY:	LeRoy Blackshear Joey Malphrus Gwen Smith	Sherry Carroll Henry Lawton
GUESTS:	Celia Price, guest of Esther Black	
STAFF:	Chris Bickley, Michelle Knight, Ginnie Kozak, Sherry Smith, Carol Stonebraker	

Chairman Herbert Glaze called the September 27, 2012 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 August 23, 2012 meeting were unanimously approved on motion by Joe McDomick with a second from Mary Beth Heyward. Proxies presented by the Executive Director included Jim Outlaw to Brian Flewelling, Bill Young to Gene Whetsell and Bill Ferguson and George Williams to the Chair. All were general proxies. The meeting proceeded after determining a quorum was present.

Chairman Glaze opened a Public Hearing on the Lowcountry Regional HOME Consortium (LRHC) Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) at 6:33 p.m. The hearing was properly advertised in regional newspapers; a summary was mailed to board members prior to the meeting;

and copies were available to the public on request. Michelle Knight was recognized to present the information. LRHC expended \$650,606 in HOME funds and contributed 12.5% local match during Program Year 2011-2012, its sixth year of operation. The program completed 17 owner-occupied rehab units, 3 new construction units, 5 down-payment assistance units, and assisted 36 families with tenant-based rental assistance.

Michelle reviewed a proposed Town of Bluffton six-unit housing rehabilitation project to assist six low-to-moderate income families with repairs and improvements. HOME funds requested total \$114,127 with a local match contribution of \$28,531.75, a 25% match. Local match has increased from 12.5% to 25% for the 2012-1013 program year. Michelle said the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee met and recommended approving the project. Tootie Griffith asked what type units would be included, and Michelle responded they are owner-occupied, stick-built units and that applications will be considered in the order they are received. Chairman Glaze called for public comments and there were none. He closed the hearing at 6:36 p.m.

Noting there were no items of Old Business on the Agenda, Chairman Glaze addressed New Business and called for action on the proposed Regional HOME Consortium Town of Bluffton project presented during the public hearing. Gerald Dawson moved to approve, and following a second from Mary Beth Heyward, the motion unanimously carried. Afterward, Michelle briefed the Board regarding discussions with the Town of Bluffton about administering its \$50K mobile home minor repair program. The project uses Town funds and not those of the HOME program. It will help about ten families.

Chairman Glaze announced the Transportation Committee meeting scheduled earlier that day had been rescheduled for next month, and the Committee will present its report at the next Board meeting.

The Chairman called for Reports and recognized Sherry Smith for the August Finance Report. Copies were in meeting packets. Sherry said the report covers about 16% of current fiscal year, and Operations are on budget. Building Project funds were sent to the attorney to be held in escrow as part of settlement with the building contractor. Sherry had no comments on the Balance Sheet. The COG's independent auditor will present its annual audit report at the next Board meeting. Chairman Glaze called for questions and there were none.

Michelle Knight was recognized for the Community and Economic Development Report. Copies were in meeting packets. Michelle reported that a number of projects are out for bid with several expected to close by end of year. Village Renaissance projects automatically qualify for \$500K renewal. Three CDBG projects were submitted during the fall funding round. Chairman Glaze called for questions and there were none.

Chris Bickley was recognized for the Director's Report. Copies were in meeting packets, and Chris commented on selected items. The seven local governments in the new MPO (Metropolitan Planning Organization) urban area of Beaufort and Southern Jasper Counties adopted resolutions to participate in the MPO and designated LCOG to operate the program. The COG's Workforce Program and SCDEW are working to provide services and benefits to recently laid-off employees of Parker-Hannifin in Beaufort. SCDEW has invited counties to participate in the Certified Work Ready Initiative, which will develop an inventory of worker skill sets by location that can be used for business recruitment or expansion. The COG is available to assist the counties with the effort. Chris also noted information about the SCARC Annual Conference was mailed to board members and registration deadline is September 28. He drew attention to

other meeting packet documents: the unemployment chart, 208 Certification Report and a revised Board Roster.

There were no comments during Council Time. With no additional business to address, and on motion duly made, seconded and approved, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 6:50 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