

LOWCOUNTRY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
September 24, 2015
6:30 p.m.

MINUTES

PRESENT:

ABSENT:

BEAUFORT COUNTY:

Phil Cromer
Gerald Dawson
Brian Flewelling
Alice Howard
Bill McBride
Joseph McDomick

Herbert Glaze [proxy to Gerald Dawson]
Marc Grant
Mary Beth Heyward [proxy to Brian Flewelling]
Jerry Stewart
Lisa Sulka [proxy to Chair]

COLLETON COUNTY:

Esther S. Black
Jane Darby
Joseph Flowers
Tommy Mann
Gene Whetsell

Bobby Bonds [proxy to Gene Whetsell]
Evon Robinson

HAMPTON COUNTY:

Pete Hagood
Travis Mixson
Nat Shaffer

Frankie Bennett
Buddy Phillips [proxy to Pete Hagood]

JASPER COUNTY:

Henry Etheridge
Henry Lawton, Sr.
Gwen Johnson Smith

Joey Malphrus [proxy to Chair]
Michael Sweeney

GUESTS: Jeffrey Barker, Jasper County Planning Dept; Bronco Bostick, Mayor of Hardeeville; Celia Price; Harold Shapiro, Catawba Regional COG; Harry Williams, Hardeeville Councilman; Jennifer Youmans, Hampton County Grants Coordinator.

STAFF: Hank Amundson, Sabrena Graham, Barbara Johnson, Michelle Knight, Ginnie Kozak, Connie Schroyer, Sherry Smith

1. **Call to Order** - Chairman Tommy Mann called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

1.1. Pledge of Allegiance

- Led by Pete Hagood

1.2. Invocation

- Led by Pete Hagood

1.3. Introduction of Guests and Staff

1.4. Approval of June 27, 2015 Minutes

- MOVED by Joe Flowers and Henry Lawton, seconded by Joseph McDomick to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

1.5. Proxies

- Bobby Bonds to Gene Whetsell; Herbert Glaze to Gerald Dawson; Beth Heyward to Brian Flewelling; Buddy Phillips to Pete Hagood; Joey Malphrus & Lisa Sulka to Chair. The meeting proceeded after determining a quorum was present.

2. Public Hearing

2.1. Lowcountry Regional HOME Consortium Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER)

- MOVED by Henry Lawton, seconded by Brian Flewelling to open the public hearing to receive comments as properly advertised in regional newspapers. Motion carried unanimously and the public hearing opened at 6:36 pm.
- Barbara Johnson conducted a review of the 2014-2015 affordable housing activity as presented in the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report. Advanced copies of the report were distributed in agenda packets.
- Activities were conducted in Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper counties. Progress includes the completion of (33) rehab units and (1) down payment assistance. Funds were also expended for new construction of units which have not yet been completed.
- There were no public comments. MOVED by Henry Lawton, seconded by Esther Black to close the public hearing. Motion carried unanimously. The public hearing closed at 6:42 pm

3. Presentation

3.1. Presentation of the DHEC Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund

- Harold Shapiro from the Catawba Regional COG distributed information and gave a presentation of the Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund (BCRLF). The BCRLF is available to finance environmental cleanup and removal activities at Brownfields sites across the state. Brownfields are abandoned, polluted industrial sites. The Catawba Regional COG is the fund manager for the program.
- Superfund sites are not BCRLF eligible.
- While individual voluntary clean-up contracts are required one per site, it may be possible to bundle multiple contracts per entity for loan forgiveness.

4. New Business

4.1. Lowcountry Regional HOME Consortium Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report

- MOVED by Joe Flowers, seconded by Brian Flewelling to approve the 2014-2015 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report for the Lowcountry Regional HOME Consortium as recommended by the Beaufort County/Lowcountry Regional HOME Consortium Advisory Committee and as presented during the earlier public hearing. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Reports

5.1. Finance Report for August 2015

- Sherry Smith reviewed the Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for the period ending July 2015. Advanced copies of the report were distributed in agenda packets.
- Revenues over expenditures are \$9,914.
- The auditors were on site last week. The FY 2014-2015 Audit Report will be presented at the next board meeting.

5.2. Community and Economic Development (C & ED) Report

- Copies of the C & ED Report were distributed in agenda packets and submitted as written.

- Eight CDBG grants and one RIA Grant have been submitted. A total of (20) CDBG grant applications were received by Department of Commerce statewide. Three other applications are being reviewed or further information has been requested.
- Site visits will occur in the first two weeks of October.

5.3. Director's Report

- The Annual SC Association of Regional Councils (SCARC) Conference will be held at the Embassy Suites in Myrtle Beach November 22-24. Thanks to Brad Samuel and SCANA for a generous \$5,000 sponsorship.
- Travel information has been distributed to board members traveling to New Orleans for the NADO conference.
- Employee performance evaluations will be completed for all employees by November 30.
- The Lowcountry Regional Development Corporation closed on the sale of the Year Round Pool property on September 22, 2015.
- The new Lowcountry Workforce Board held its second meeting on September 23rd. During the meeting, Hank Amundson shared last year's performance report which met one and exceeded all other measures of state standards. The report will be presented to the LCOG Board at a later date.
- The Aging Dept. will be presenting its assessment methods to the Lt. Governor's Office on Oct. 1st. LCOG's method is being considered as a model for the state.

5.4. Planning, Mitigation Survey

- Ginnie Kozak reported that work is underway with counties to update the Pre-disaster Mitigation Plan. A Household Survey was distributed for board members to fill out.

5.5. 208 Report

- Copies of the 208 Report were distributed in agenda packets and submitted as written.

5.6. Regional Unemployment Chart

- Copies of the Unemployment Chart were distributed at the meeting and submitted as written.

6. Council Time

- There were no reports.

7. Adjourn

- MOVED by Brian Flewelling, seconded by Nat Shaffer to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Mann adjourned the meeting at 7:25 pm.

Copies of the agenda and supporting documents 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.

Submitted by,

Connie Schroyer
Executive Assistant