

LOWCOUNTRY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

March 24, 2016

6:30 p.m.

MINUTES

PRESENT:

ABSENT:

BEAUFORT COUNTY:

Phil Cromer
Gerald Dawson
Herbert Glaze
Mary Beth Heyward
Alice Howard
Bill McBride
Joseph McDomick
Dan Wood

Brian Flewelling [proxy to Alice Howard]
Marc Grant
Jerry Stewart

COLLETON COUNTY:

Esther S. Black
Joseph Flowers
Tommy Mann
Crawford Moore
Evon Robinson
Gene Whetsell

Bobby Bonds [proxy to Joe Flowers]

HAMPTON COUNTY:

Pete Hagood
Travis Mixson
Buddy Phillips

Frankie Bennett
Nat Shaffer [proxy to Chair]

JASPER COUNTY:

Henry Etheridge
Henry Lawton
Joey Malphrus
Gwen Johnson Smith
Michael Sweeney

GUESTS: Tom Johnson, Jasper County; Celia Price, Colleton County; Gloria Robinson, Colleton County; Lisa Sulka, Bluffton

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

1. **Call to Order** - Chairman Mann called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
 - 1.1. Pledge of Allegiance
 - 1.2. Invocation
 - Led by Evon Robinson
 - 1.3. Introduction of Guests and Staff
 - 1.4. Welcome New Board Member
 - Welcomed new board member Dan Wood, elected official for the Town of Bluffton.
 - 1.5. Presentation to Retiring Board Member
 - Lisa Sulka was presented an appreciation plaque for her service on the LCOG Board.
 - 1.6. Proxies
 - Bobby Bonds to Joe Flowers; Brian Flewelling to Alice Howard; Nat Shaffer to Chair.
- The meeting proceeded with a quorum present.

1.7. Approval of January 28, 2016 Minutes

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

2. New Business

2.1. Section 5310 Rural/Small Urban Transit Project Funding – Sabrena Graham

- Section 5310 Funds are available for local agencies serving elderly and disable citizens. Funds can be used to purchase transportation service or to purchase a vehicle. These are federal funds administered through the state.
- There are separate categories for rural and small urban projects and \$150,000 available per category in the LCOG region. A local match is required and is the responsibility of the requesting agency.
- There are not enough funds in the rural category to award every request. The LCOG Transportation Committee, Ginnie Kozak and Laverne Glover from SCDOT met on Mar. 2 and Mar. 10 for training and discussion. A prioritized list of projects was developed and recommended for Board approval. Utilizing reserve funds, agencies 1-4 in the rural category will mostly likely receive funding. If more funding becomes available, other projects could be included from the list. Funding is available for the two projects in the small urban category.
- MOVED by Joe Flowers, seconded by Alice Howard to approve the prioritized list of Section 5310 funding requests. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Reports

3.1. Finance Report for February 2016 – Sherry Smith

- Sherry Smith reviewed the Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for the period ending February 2016. Copies of the monthly financial statement were distributed in agenda packets.
- Revenues over expenditures were \$21,349.
- 61% of the budget has been expended.

3.2. Workforce Development Report – Hank Amundson

- Hank Amundson gave a Powerpoint presentation of the Workforce Development activities for Program Year (PY) 2014-2015.
- Over 700 individuals were served through the SC Work Centers and satellite offices located in Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper Counties. Job seeker services included career planning, workshops on resume and interviewing skills, job training and help in finding employment. 80% of adults in the program were placed in a job.
- Workforce Development also helps employers find and train employees and serves as a mobile H.R. for new businesses.
- The program received \$1,040,961 in federal funds during PY 2014-2015. LCOG was one of only 4 COGS that met the 35% of funding spent directly on training. 27% was spent on salaries and operating costs.
- Challenges in the current year include a reduction in funding and LCOG is now a part of a larger Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Region.

Q: What type of jobs is the focus of training?

A: Manufacturing, Technology, Transportation/Logistics and Medical

Q: Was funding reduced as a result of lower unemployment rates?

A: Yes, lower unemployment rates plus the state retains a bigger portion of WIOA funds; up from 5% to 15%.

Q: Does the state use Workforce to fill jobs?

A: They are supposed to. Posting and filling jobs is the responsibility of the SC Department of Workforce.

3.3. Community and Economic Development (C&ED) Report – Michelle Knight

- Project applications for Smoaks and Walterboro have been submitted.
- Received waiver to request the maximum grant amount of \$1M for a project in Beaufort.
- All CDBG applications are due April 15th.
- Neighborhood surveys are being conducted in Beaufort.
- Copies of the monthly C&ED Report were distributed in agenda packets.

Q: Is CDBG tied with Promise Zone?

A: No. While CDBG are federal funds administered by the state, it is not one of the 12 departments or 37 programs with Promise Zone designation. The most common Promise Zone qualified applications submitted by LCOG are for rural development and EDA funds.

Q: Are there grant monies to fund a Stormwater Study for the Town of Hampton?

A: CDBG funds can be pursued for a Master Drainage Plan if communities are over 51% low to moderate income. Hampton is approximately 42%.

3.4. Director's Report – Sabrena Graham

- 3.4.1. Budget Calendar for FY2016-17 MOVED by Bill McBride, seconded by Henry Lawton to approve Budget Calendar. Motion carried unanimously.
- 3.4.2. Request for Dues Increase LCOG is requesting an increase in dues from .60 to .75 per capita per each of the four member counties. There has not been an increase in over 20 years.
- 3.4.3. Yemassee Depot Project The town of Yemassee is raising funds to complete the train depot project. LCOG will provide financial management assistance.
- 3.4.4. Local Government Fund Letters were mailed in February to the SC Legislative Delegation members in the region seeking support of the Local Government Fund (LGF). The Friday report was distributed reporting that the House failed to provide additional funding to the LGF. This included a list of how the legislators voted.
- 3.4.5. Five Successes, Five Goals The top five successes and goals of the LCOG from the past 50 years were submitted to the SC Association Regional Councils for its 50th anniversary celebration later this year.

3.5. Planning Report – Ginnie Kozak

- 3.5.1. 208 Report The monthly 208 Water Quality Certification Report was included in agenda packets for information.
- 3.5.2. Regional Unemployment Chart The monthly Regional Unemployment Chart was included in agenda packets for information.
- 3.5.3. SCDOT Rural Officials Survey 2016 SCDOT is conducting a survey to measure the effectiveness of the (10) Council of Governments as partners of SCDOT in the planning and programming of transportation improvements in rural areas. Surveys will be accepted until April 28, 2016. Please complete the survey and return it to the COG or directly to SCDOT.

4. Council Time

5. Adjourn

- MOVED by Joe Flowers, seconded by Henry Lawton. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Mann adjourned the meeting at 7:08 pm.

Copies of the agenda and supporting documents were distributed prior to the meeting. A notice of the meeting was posted on the LCOG Website and bulletin board in accordance with the law.

Submitted by,

Connie Schroyer
Board Clerk