

LOWCOUNTRY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

August 25, 2016
6:30 p.m.

MINUTES

PRESENT:

ABSENT:

BEAUFORT COUNTY:

Gerald Dawson
Brian Flewelling
Herbert Glaze
Mary Beth Heyward
Bill McBride
Jerry Stewart
Dan Wood

Phil Cromer / proxy to Chair
Marc Grant
Alice Howard / proxy to Chair
Joseph McDomick

COLLETON COUNTY:

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

HAMPTON COUNTY:

Frankie Bennett
Pete Hagood
Ronald Mixson
Travis Mixson
Buddy Phillips
Nat Shaffer

JASPER COUNTY:

John Carroll
Tom Johnson
Henry Lawton
Joey Malphrus
Gwen Johnson Smith

GUESTS: Michael Pitts, SCDOT; Celia Price, Colleton County; Joy Riley, SCDOT; Brad Samuel, SCEG; Craig Winn, SCDOT.

STAFF: Sabrena Graham, Ginnie Kozak, Michelle Knight, Connie Schroyer, Jonathan Sherwood, Sherry Smith

1. Call to Order Chairman Mann called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm
 - 1.1. Pledge of Allegiance
 - 1.2. Invocation
 - Led by Nat Shaffer
 - 1.3. Installation of 2016-2017 Officers & Executive Committee Members

Officers

Chairman – Gerald Dawson (B)
Vice Chair – Tom Johnson (J)
Secretary – Pete Hagood (H)
Treasurer – Bobby Bonds (C)

Executive Committee

Brian Flewelling (B)
Joey Malphrus (J)
Nat Shaffer (H)
Gene Whetsell (C)

- Chairman Mann read the names of the incoming Officers & Executive Committee and passed the gavel to Chairman Dawson

- Action
- MOVED by Henry Lawton, seconded by Frankie Bennett to install the 2016-17 Officers & Executive Committee Members. Motion carried unanimously.
- 1.4. Presentation of Chairman's Plaque
- Chairman Dawson presented a service plaque to outgoing Chairman, Tommy Mann.
- 1.5. Introduction of Guests and Staff
- 1.6. Welcome New Board Member
- John Carroll, Hardeeville City Council, was welcomed to the board.
- 1.7. Proxies
- Phil Cromer & Alice Howard to the Chair
- 1.8. Approval of June 23, 2016 Minutes
- Action
- MOVED by Brian Flewelling, seconded by Mary Beth Heyward to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Presentations

2.1. Revolving Loan Fund Report

- Randy Pellisero, Senior Lending Loan Officer with Catawba COG gave a report of the loan activity in LCOG region. Catawba Regional Development Corporation offers several lending programs in four different COG regions to help area businesses.
- Funds from the Revolving Loan Fund Program (RLF) or the SBA 504 Loan Program, combined with bank financing, can be a powerful economic development tool. These funds are available to new and expanding businesses for the purpose of increasing the local tax base and creating jobs. Business loans are generally financed with 50% from a bank, 40% RLF or SBA and 10% equity.
- The loan programs managed by Catawba COG can provide additional lending power as active partnerships are maintained with a variety of banks, and by open communication with economic development entities to identify opportunities.
- A report of the loan activity in the Lowcountry region was distributed in agenda packets.

2.2. SCDOT Project Progress Report

- An update of the SCDOT road & bridge projects in the region was given. Craig Winn will be taking Joy Riley's place as the SCDOT Program Manager for the Lowcountry.
- Copies of the Project Status Report were distributed during the meeting.
- Concern was raised with the hazardous road conditions on Hwy 68 between the industrial park complex and Almeda in Hampton County. There are troughs worn in the pavement that puddle with water when it rains.

Q: Will the Harbor River Bridge in Beaufort County be a swing bridge?

A: No. It will be a fixed bridge.

Q: Is there a Hwy 321 project in Jasper County?

A: Yes. A C-Program resurfacing project has been awarded. Craig Winn will check on the status.

Q: Has the Mt. Carmel Road project in Colleton County stalled?

A: Yes. The project has had a late start but is still scheduled for completion in late November, early December.

2.3. Reintroduction of Planning Services – Ginnie Kozak

- Planning services at reasonable rates are now being offered in-house by the LCOG Planning Department. The types of services include: economic and market studies, custom mapping, survey design & admin, and other community planning type assistance.
- A flyer was distributed in agenda packets for information.

3. Reports

3.1. Finance Report for July 2016 – Sherry Smith

- Revenues over expenditures were \$1,833.
- 7% of the budget has been expended.
- A copy of the monthly financial statement was distributed in agenda packets.
- The auditors will be conducting their field work at the LCOG the week of Sept. 6th. The results of the audit will be shared at the October board meeting.

3.2. Community and Economic Development Report – Michelle Knight

- Four CDBG grant applications will be submitted on September 16. One rural infrastructure fund application is also being prepared.
- The Lowcountry Regional Water System and the EDA met recently about possible water/waste water infrastructure projects.
- A FEMA grant has been awarded to Walterboro.

3.3. Director's Report – Sabrena Graham

- The staff & Director are working hard to re-define the LCOG, its relationships and services in the region. What can the COG be for your community?
- LCOG staff has been focused on “finding more ways to say yes” in our service delivery. Current programs, policies & procedures are being looked at and updated as needed.
- A main goal is to become the “convener of the region” by taking a lead role in regional conversations.

3.3..1. Bills passed by the General Assembly in 2016

- A report, prepared by the Municipal Association of SC, was distributed in agenda packets summarizing the bills passed by the General Assembly in 2016.

3.4. Planning Reports

- 208 Report & Regional Unemployment Chart were distributed in agenda packets for information.

4. Council Time

- There were no reports

5. Adjourn Chairman Dawson adjourned the meeting at 7:27 pm

Copies of the agenda and supporting documents were distributed prior to the meeting. A notice of the meeting was posted at www.lowcountrycog.org and on the office bulletin board in accordance with the law.

Minutes submitted by Connie Schroyer.