

LOWCOUNTRY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
October 27, 2016
6:30 p.m.

MINUTES

	<u>PRESENT:</u>	<u>ABSENT:</u>
BEAUFORT COUNTY:	Phil Cromer Gerald Dawson Brian Flewelling Herbert Glaze Mary Beth Heyward Alice Howard Bill McBride Joseph McDomick	Marc Grant Jerry Stewart Dan Wood
COLLETON COUNTY:	Esther S. Black Bobby Bonds Tommy Mann Evon Robinson Gene Whetsell	Joseph Flowers / proxy to Gene Whetsell Crawford Moore
HAMPTON COUNTY:	Frankie Bennett Pete Hagood Ronald Mixson Pete Mixson Nat Shaffer	Buddy Phillips / proxy to Nat Shaffer
JASPER COUNTY:	John Carroll Tom Johnson Henry Lawton Joey Malphrus	Gwen Johnson Smith

GUESTS: Celia Price, Colleton County; Michael Pitts, SCDOT; Dalton Tresvant, Congressman Clyburn's office; Lisa Wechsler, Crowley-Wechsler & Assoc.; Craig Winn, SCDOT

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

1. Call to Order Chairman Dawson called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm
 - 1.1. Pledge of Allegiance
 - 1.2. Invocation
 - Led by Evon Robinson.
 - 1.3. Introduction of Guests and Staff
 - 1.4. Proxies
 - Buddy Phillips to Nat Shaffer; Joe Flowers to Gene Whetsell; Crawford Moore absent.
 - 1.5. Approval of September 22, 2016 Minutes
 - Action - MOVED by Brian Flewelling, seconded by Evon Robinson to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
 - 1.6. Approval of the 2017 Meeting Schedule
 - Action - MOVED by Pete Hagood, seconded by Brian Flewelling to approve the 2017 Meeting Schedule. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Presentations

2.1. Dalton Tresvant, District Director for Congressman James Clyburn

- Rep. Clyburn serves the 6th Congressional District comprised of 16 counties including Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper.
- Recent activities include referral assistance for hurricane relief, legislation introduced to extend the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor, support of the 10-20-30 provision in the Stimulus Bill, and legislation proposed to establish a National Park Monument recognizing the Reconstruction Era in Beaufort County.
- The 10-20-30 provision designates rural development loans to aid persistent poverty counties: whereas 10% of the United States' rural development funds have to be spent in counties where 20% poverty rates have been recorded for the past 30 years. Hampton and Jasper counties fall under this provision. The Stimulus Bill with the 10-20-30 provision is expected to pass but at present it is still under review in the House and the Senate.

Q: Who should Hampton and Jasper contact to apply for 10-20-30 funds?

A: After the bill has passed, contact your local Rural Development Office.

Q: Who makes the final decision about the National Monument?

A: The Department of Interior.

Q: Where will the Monument be?

A: The sites of Darah Hall at Penn Center, Brick Church, Emancipation Oak at the Beaufort Naval Hospital, Robert Smalls house in Beaufort, and the Old Beaufort Firehouse have been proposed to collectively represent the Monument. Historic markers will be placed at each site. A visitor's center, staffed by the National Park system, may be placed at Darah Hall.

2.2. Presentation of the LCOG Agency Audit for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2016 – Lisa Wechsler

- A detailed financial status report was given. No internal control findings or questionable costs were found. Copies of the report were distributed during the meeting.
- Per the implementation of GASB 45, the unfunded liability of future pensions was included in the report. The state retirement system as a whole has a \$20B liability. LCOG's liability is \$3.2M.

Q: How is the LCOG's portion of the liability calculated?

A: From a ratio of all participants and individual employer contributions who contribute to the plan.

Q: Are there any financial concerns to look out for in the future?

A: Yes. There are two concerns. 1) The financial reporting of retirement liability. The state treasurer anticipates a change in policy and laws in the next 5 years. 2) As grant funding becomes more competitive, sources are requiring more local match as a commitment towards program sustainability.

2.3. SCDOT Progress Report – Craig Winn

- A progress report of the SCDOT road & bridge projects for the region was given. Copies of the report were distributed during the meeting.

Q: What is the status of Hwy 321 in Jasper County?

A: Letting for this rehabilitation project is scheduled in January 2017. Construction should begin 3-4 months after that.

Q: What is the status of Hwy 303 in Colleton County?

A: The rehabilitation of Hwy 303 is on a contract that includes multiple roads. It is the contractor who determines the order in which the roads are repaired. Completion of the contract is slated for June 2017. Status of this project was not included in the report.

3. Resolution

3.1. Resolution 2016-03 – Phil Cromer

A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Lowcountry Council of Governments in support of designating a new unit of the National Park Service in Beaufort County to recognize its importance to Reconstruction.

Action

- A copy of the resolution was distributed during the meeting. By consensus, the resolution shall be changed to include the names of the (5) sites that will represent the monument: Darah Hall at Penn Center, Brick Church, Emancipation Oak at the Beaufort Naval Hospital, Robert Smalls house in Beaufort, and the Old Beaufort Firehouse.
- MOVED by Bill McBride, seconded by Brian Flewelling to approve the resolution with changes. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Department Reports

4.1. Finance Report for September 2016 – Sherry Smith

- Due to Hurricane Matthew, aging contractors were late in billing the COG for monthly services. Therefore, the *Contracts* line item does not accurately report the percent of budget spent. For this reason, “Draft” has been notated on the report and the expenses will be accurately represented in the January 2017 report.
- A draft copy of the monthly financial statement was distributed in agenda packets.

4.2. Community and Economic Development Report

- Copies of the C&ED report were included in agenda packets for information.

4.3. Director’s Report – Sabrena Graham

- No storm damage was incurred at the LCOG offices.
- Building relationships between the LCOG Board, State and U.S. Representatives is important as we embark on economic development opportunities in our future.
- See Sabrena Graham, Sherry Smith or Lisa Wechsler for answers to any questions about the audit.
- SCE&G recently donated \$62,500 to the Lowcountry Aging program. The donation will help reduce the waiting list and wait times of seniors who are in the home delivered meals program.
- Met recently with members of the Edisto Beach Town Government. The Bluffton visit has been rescheduled.
- Recently attended the NADO Annual Training Conference and received some valuable training.
- The SCARC Conference is Nov. 20-22 in Myrtle Beach. Mrs. Graham is now serving as the SCARC Treasurer.
- This is the last board meeting of the year. Happy Holidays and enjoy the gift from LCOG.

4.4. Planning Reports – 208 Report & Regional Unemployment Chart

- Copies of the 208 Report & Regional Unemployment Chart were distributed in agenda packets.

5. Council Time

- There were no reports.

6. Adjourn

Action

- MOVED by Phil Cromer, seconded by Bill McBride to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:33pm.

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.