

LOWCOUNTRY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2017 6:30 P.M.  
POINT SOUTH, SOUTH CAROLINA

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:**

**ABSENT:**

**BEAUFORT COUNTY:**

Michael Covert  
Phil Cromer  
Gerald Dawson  
Brian Flewelling  
Herbert Glaze  
York Glover  
Alice Howard  
Joseph McDomick  
Dan Wood

Marc Grant  
Mary Beth Heyward

**COLLETON COUNTY:**

Bobby Bonds  
Joseph Flowers  
Tommy Mann  
Evon Robinson  
Gene Whetsell

Esther Black, proxy to Evon Robinson  
Crawford Moore

**HAMPTON COUNTY:**

Pete Hagood  
Ronald Mixson  
Pete Mixson  
Buddy Phillips  
Nat Shaffer

Frankie Bennett

**JASPER COUNTY:**

John Carroll  
Tom Johnson  
Henry Lawton  
Joey Malphrus  
Gwen Johnson Smith

**GUESTS:** Reba Campbell, MASC; Al Jenkins, Sen. Scott's Office; Kenny Larimore, SCDOT; Bill McBride, Former LCOG board member; Brad Samuel, SCANA

**STAFF:** Hank Amundson, Mike Butler, Jessica Dailey, Rhonda Davis, Sabrena Graham, Ginnie Kozak, Michelle Knight, Connie Schroyer

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 Herbert Glaze
  - 1.3. Introduction of Guests and Staff
  - 1.4. Presentation to retiring board members Bill McBride & Jerry Stewart
    - Beaufort County Councilman Bill McBride was given an engraved desk clock and respectfully recognized for 39 years of service on the LCOG Board. Beaufort County Councilman Jerry Stewart, who could not be present, also received a clock and recognized for 7 years on the board.
  - 1.5. Proxies
    - Esther Black to Evon Robinson, Crawford Moore absent.

- Action 1.6. Approval of January 26, 2017 Minutes
- MOVED by Pete Hagood, seconded by Brian Flewelling to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
2. **Presentations**
- 2.1. Status report of the Business License and Insurance Tax Bill
- MASC Deputy Executive Director, Reba Campbell gave an update of the Business License Standardization Bills, H3650 and H2651. The bills were introduced to the House on Feb. 2, 2017 and are currently residing in the House Committee on Labor, Commerce and Industry.
  - Discussions continue mainly to determine which agency will manage the payment portal; The Secretary of State's office or the Municipal Association of SC.
  - The bill will need to pass in the House by April 6<sup>th</sup> to continue on in the current session.  
Q: Will these bills happen?  
A: If it passes this year, it will not pass in the form it originated in.  
Q: If a business is based out of one municipality but delivers goods to another municipality, which municipality collects the fees?  
A: The bill does not currently answer that question. Ms. Campbell will take the point back to the committee for further discussion.
- 2.2. Overview of Neighborhood Projects – Michelle Knight
- Michelle Knight explained the Neighborhood Revitalization Program including a powerpoint presentation of the North Lemacks Neighborhood Project in the city of Walterboro.
  - The program takes a comprehensive approach in addressing multiple needs of withering neighborhoods. Qualifying neighborhoods lie in a tightly defined area within a reasonable walking distance to downtown or business centers.
  - Core communities are a valuable resource to build on and the objective is to increase the stability of the areas.
  - Eligible activities of the program include infrastructure, public facilities, housing, demolition and clearance, and public service.
  - Neighborhood Revitalization Projects in the Lowcountry have been completed in Bluffton, Beaufort, Walterboro, Brunson, Furman and Colleton County.
  - The most successful projects have local government support and community buy-in and take a self-help approach. Local groups provide volunteers, organize community events and help keep the community informed.
3. **New Business**
- 3.1. SCDOT Guideshare Program – Sabrena Graham
- After an extended federal audit of their programs, SCDOT is considering changing the formula/process used to distribute transportation guideshare funds and is seeking local input.
  - A handout of a powerpoint presentation from a recent DOT meeting was distributed. The information serves only as a starting point for discussion of potential changes to the program.
  - A state-wide committee has formed to determine what changes, if any, are needed. Sabrena Graham will sit on the committee as a representative of the COGs.
  - The next meeting of the committee has not been yet been scheduled.
- 3.2. LCOG Area Agency on Aging Policy and Procedures Manual – Hank Amundson
- Formatting, language and updates to mirror changes in federal and state policies were made to the local AAA Policy and Procedures Manual.
  - The updated manual is available for review on the LCOG website.
- Action 3.23.17 MINUTES LCOG Board Meeting  
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- MOVED by Evon Robinson, seconded by Joe Flowers to accept the proposed updates to the AAA Policy and Procedures Manual. Motion carried unanimously.

3.3. Section 5310 Rural/Small Urban Transit Project Funding – Ginnie Kozak

- Section 5310 Funds are available for local agencies serving elderly and disable citizens. A prioritized list of projects, as recommended by the LCOG Transportation Committee, was distributed to board members for review.
- Action - MOVED by Joe Flowers, seconded by Herbert Glaze to accept the proposed distribution of 5310 funds. Motion carried unanimously.

**4. Department Reports**

4.1. Finance Report for February 2017 – Sherry Smith

- The Finance Report distributed in agenda packets was received as information.

4.2. Community and Economic Development Report – Michelle Knight

- The spring round of CDBG requests are due April 14. Two applications will be submitted. CDBG requests for the fall round are due mid-August; the full deadline in mid-September. Contact the C&ED Department soon with any potential projects.
- The SC Dept. of Commerce will be at the LCOG on May 9 for a planning session of future community and economic development projects. All municipalities and counties are welcome and encouraged to attend.

4.3. Director's Report – Sabrena Graham

- Tonight's meeting presentations served as the monthly report.

4.4. Planning Reports

- The 208 Report was distributed in agenda packets for information. The Regional Unemployment Chart was not available as the 2017 statistical information has not yet been released by the state.

**5. Council Time**

- Chairman Dawson thanked the board for their support of the Reconstruction Era National Monument which received a Presidential Proclamation on Jan. 12, 2017.

**6. Adjourn**

- Action - MOVED by Pete Hagood, seconded by consensus to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Caucus Counties chose attendees for the September NADO Conference in Anchorage, AK: (B) G. Dawson (C) E. Robinson (H) N. Shaffer (J) Undecided

*Copies of the agenda and supporting documents were distributed prior to the meeting. Notice of the meeting was posted at [www.lowcountrycog.org](http://www.lowcountrycog.org) and on the office bulletin board in accordance with the law.*

*Minutes submitted by Connie Schroyer*