

## **Lowcountry Regional Transportation Authority Board Meeting**

September 28, 2011 – LRTA Board Minutes

Dick Stewart offered the Invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Jenny Carter called the meeting to order at 2:10 pm.

Roll: Jenny Carter, Chris Hutton, Fred Harvey, Dick Stewart and Ginnie Kozak.

Absent: Louise Pinkney, David Blauch.

Also in Attendance: Rochelle Ferguson and Paula Porter, Palmetto Breeze, SCDOT Commissioner Craig Forrest, Scott Donohue, Regional Program Manager; SCDOT, Penny Powell; Sea Island Ferry Transportation.

Ms. Ferguson states that Pastor Borum resigned. She also states that Mark McCain resigned due to a conflict of interest with another board he is on.

Ginnie Kozak asks if Commissioner Forrest will tell us the new way to answer the phones if you work in any SC State Agency. Ms. Ferguson states “it’s a great day in South Carolina” is the official way to answer the phones.

### **Approval of Minutes – July 27, 2011**

Ms. Carter states that there were some errors. Dick Stewart was listed as Dick Carter. There was another typo on page 2, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph. Chair Carter asks what a safety cook out means. Fred Harvey replies that if the drivers can go 90 days without an accident, we will cook them hamburgers.

Chair Carter states that she just finished the finance review and it was perfect.

Chair Carter states she had a problem with the Organization Development Committee report. Fred Harvey did the report and when he asked Louise Pinkney if she had anything to add, she said “No she is just getting into the swing of things”. What does this mean as she has been a board member for five years. Fred States because she has been out for so long. That she has missed so many meetings.

Motion to Accept Minutes was made by: Chris Hutton; Second Fred Harvey. Motion Carried.

### **Action Items:**

1. Ms. Carter asks if everyone received a copy of the revised agenda and could we vote on it. Motion to accept was made by: Dick Stewart; Second Chris Hutton. Motion Carried
2. Ms. Ferguson states we have a copy of the 5316 Job Access/Reverse Commute grant agreement from SCDOT. It needs to be signed and returned. It is in the amount of \$59,300 and we need to match it with \$59,300 in funds. Dick Stewart asks with what funds are we going to match it

with. Ms. Ferguson states with local and reserve funds. Chair Carter asks what is it for exactly. It has a lot to do with Mary Alice's Mobility Management project. It will provide transportation for low income individuals going to work, job training, education, child day care. Fred Harvey asks if it's more subsidizing for the rider. Ms. Ferguson said it's just another funding source for people going to work or work related programs. Chair Carter asks is there a 5316 application that's due again. Ms. Ferguson states that this is additional funding. Chair Carter asks if we can approve all the items at once instead of one at a time. Dick Stewart states it's the Chairs discretion.

3. Ms. Ferguson shows the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) award to everyone. She states that with the help of Wayne Promislow at Kevin Cain's CPA office we received this award of excellence in financial reporting. This is a highly coveted award that is not usually given out in the first year you apply for it. Chair Carter states it is the work of Rochelle Ferguson's in her annual report that helped us receive this especially in the first year. Dick Stewart says that we should do a press release. Ginnie Kozak states people only remember what happened 12 years ago. Ms. Ferguson states that we have a press release ready to go. Fred Harvey states we need to put it into Colleton County and Chair Carter states all of the counties. Dick Stewart asks if a letter came with it. Ms. Ferguson states that yes, a letter came with it before hand. Mr. Stewart suggests we send the letter to all County Council people. Ms. Kozak states we can show them the money is being managed well. Ms. Ferguson states the current auditor, Lisa Wechsler said we should think about where to hang the award and its possible we will have more of them so the Board should decide where to put it. Dick Stewart states where the public comes and goes.
4. Chair Carter states we have the substance abuse policy to approve. Ms. Ferguson states that we just received it back from SCDOT with their revisions. Those changes are highlighted even though we just revised it a few short months ago.
5. Chair Carter states we have the Daufuskie Island Ferry Administration agreement. Ms. Ferguson states that several months ago we worked with an attorney to come up with this agreement, which was given to the Board for discussion and review. Gary Kubic and Mr. Campbell sent us the signed agreement, but changed a few items which I highlighted and I would be happy to send that around as well. They removed a section that says whereas. They added a administration passenger complaint system which would require a 48 hour response after receiving the complaint. They deleted section A from 5 which is repair landings for embarkation and debarkation. They added the terms of agreement of not less than 60 days and notification of Beaufort County and LRTA. Mr. Kubic signed it. I have given you all the original to review. I spoke to Chris before the meeting and he recommended we review it before voting. There was a lengthy lapse since the Board has seen it and Mr. Kubic returned it to us and there are new Board members so you may want to review it first before you make a vote. Mr. Stewart asked if there was any urgency. Ms. Ferguson states not that I can see since it has gone on this long. Chris Hutton states the Board needs to be careful in handing over the operation. Mr. Stewart

states I didn't know we were taking over the operation and implementation for the same fee as administrating the ticket sales. I don't think that is a doable thing. I propose Madam Chair, we have to study this and vote later on it. We may be biting off more than we can chew. Chair Carter states she agrees. That's task the Daufuskie Ferry Committee with reviewing this document first. Mr. Stewart asks why is the County going in this direction. Ms. Ferguson states she just met with Mr. Kubic and Mr. Campbell and Mr. Thomas. Mr. Kubic asked about the status of it and I said there was no agreement signed and he then forwarded it to me a short time after. Mr. Stewart states taking over the complaints and upkeep of the landings and the maintenance of the landside facilities is significantly time consuming and expensive. We don't have the staff to take on the complaints nor have we agreed to any compensation for this. We did ask them to fund a study on Ferry service, did they respond to this request? Ms. Ferguson states no. Mr. Stewart states The Daufuskie Committee can look at this but I recommend it's time we sit down with the County. Chair Carter states we will give the committee two months to review it and meet with the County Council and then report back to the Board at the next meeting. Mr. Stewart asks when we vote on the action items this Daufuskie item will come out. Chair Carter says correct. We are voting only on SCDOT contract, The GFOA award and the Substance Abuse Policy.

Motion to accept was made by: Chris Hutton; Second Fred Harvey. Motion Carried

### **Informational Items:**

#### **Director's Report:**

Ms. Ferguson states that our newest employee is Shirley Jones. She was hired for the accounts payable position and replaces Meredith Hanley. She comes from Florida and has two grown children, who still reside in Florida.

The Financial Audit is under way with Crowley and Wechsler.

Blackbaud software is being used on its own since July 1<sup>st</sup>. However the tying in between Quickbooks and Financial Edge is still going on but it's going very well, with much thanks to the Finance Department.

We received new maintenance software but it has not been installed yet as we are waiting for the new computers and server. It will be installed on the old server.

In August, the State Accident Fund came and did a mock OSHA inspection. We received a report on it and Kyle Hamilton and Chris Rogers are addressing these issues.

The Mobility Management project with Mary Alice Springs is going very well. We have had 1 DSN trip and 1 COA trip and a few on a daily basis. It is slow going but is picking up speed and is going well. We have a press release going out announcing we are 1 in 4 organizations in the nation who received a grant award from Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA) for technical assistance with mobility management. It will include a consultant to work with us. Ginnie Kozak states that on October

18<sup>th</sup>, we will have the Mobility visioning exercise, and Ms. Ferguson states that anyone can take part in it if they care to. Dick Stewart asks the grant amount. Ms. Ferguson states around \$60,000. Ms. Kozak states that includes CTAA staff time and about \$28,000 for a consultant. We do not actually receive the money. Ms Ferguson states the grant was delayed a while because the funding comes from the USDA and they didn't want us to release it yet. Ms. Kozak states we thought we were getting the award 3 or 4 months ago, but we USDA wouldn't say for sure, so it was held back. Ms. Ferguson states it should happen any day now.

Ms. Ferguson states the upcoming period will be focused on the Grant applications, especially 5316 and 5317, JARC and New freedom. Voice over IP telecommunications went very smoothly and they will be up and running by the end of today. The new server and computers will be installed in the next two to four weeks. Beaufort County is going to set them up and install them. We will have an audit draft report shortly. We also are waiting for the Strategic Plan. We worked on this a year ago, but Jim Glasson who was working on it, his Mother is very ill and won't be recovering. Chair Carter states we are going to need another one since it was done so long ago. Do you think we should look at it and make any changes and then resend it? Ms. Ferguson said she will resend it. Chair Carter asks everyone to look it over and suggest changes. If we could just have something to use as a guide for our future planning, especially with Daufuskie Ferry people. Chair Carter asks Ginnie Kozak between now and the next Board meeting if she can look over the draft and make any changes. Ms. Kozak answers yes, she can. Please email me any suggestions and I will incorporate it and do a revised draft.

Ms. Kozak said Bus Livability is not dead. Mr. Kubic has wanted it. He called a meeting with SCDOT and FTA and local players on Tuesday October 4<sup>th</sup>. Rochelle will be away, can anyone else attend it. Chris Hutton said he will attend and Dick Stewart said he will try. Ms. Kozak states it's a meeting to get people to talk. The grant award was 1/8 of the size requested. Rob Merchant who is a Beaufort County Planner, did it very carefully and was approved. The guy from FTA was very excited about it. When it came back it was less than what we applied for. We went back and redid the scope etc and it was very carefully done. Then the FTA decided they didn't want to pay for some of these things, including planning. FTA didn't invite us to the meeting with SCDOT. Then we received a letter from FTA saying No, No, No, no room for discussion including the extension we asked for. Then Beaufort County planning called Doug Frate and asked to bring the scope down. Then Mr. Kubic said why don't we all get together to discuss it. No one asked Gary Kubic if he could get local match for this either. Dick Stewart asks if they disqualified gifts of land. Ms. Kozak replies except for construction. Not as a gift of land to be used as funds. Mr. Stewart asks that planning was removed? Ms. Kozak said yes and the extension past October 2012. You only have to obligate the money by then, not spend it. She is optimistic it will be worked out however. Chair Carter asks if it should be allowed to die. Ms. Kozak states the funding will not be available again. Mr. Stewart says that if the funds are for public transit, we would be happy to be the operator, and we know how to do that, so is that our position? Ms. Ferguson states she sees it as a Board issues, whether or not the Board wants to go forward with it. Mr. Stewart states that its not our job to decide if it will pass or fail. If the County wants it and Mr. Kubic finds the funds and they implement it, then isn't this the organization that should run it? Ms. Ferguson and Chair Carter states

yes. Mr. Stewart says that the only thing we have to represent is that. It is not our position to tell the County whether they should do that. No one has told me whether we can guarantee the success or failure. We operate routes all the time based on the availability of revenue. If it does fail due to lack of revenue, then we might have to bear the brunt of that. So before they implement it we may want to study that to see if it makes sense. If it doesn't make sense we need to raise those concerns. Ms. Ferguson agrees and Mr. Stewart said he will carry that message.

Ms. Ferguson states that we received a bid proposal for a Motor Coach Industries (MCI) coach from ARRA grant funds. I would like the Chair to select two Board members to review the proposals and then choose the best one. Chair Carter asks if David Blauch and Fred Harvey could review them. Mr. Harvey states yes, he could do that. Chair Carter asks Mr. Harvey if he will ask David Blauch and he states yes.

Ms. Ferguson states that she has new Board books for everyone. To save paper, there is a CD inside that includes a lot of documents. It's not 100% perfect as its missing SCDOT funding because we don't currently have that. The 2012 proposed meeting schedule is included. If you want to revise it please let me know. It's typical of the ones in the past. Chair Carter asks if we should do one in Beaufort. January 25<sup>th</sup> is agreed upon in Beaufort and Ms. Ferguson will distribute new schedules.

#### **Finance Director Report:**

Paula Porter presents the August statement of accounts and balance sheet. Ms. Ferguson states that the balances are high because of the large influx of cash from Hilton Head allocations and Colleton. Fred Harvey states, yes a whole \$5,000. We all agree that if they want extra services they have to pay more money. Chair Carter asks if it is a recurring payment from Colleton. Fred Harvey says they didn't specify that as it was taken off the agenda. Dick Stewart asks what is a million worth. Fred Harvey replies if we lose Edisto beach, a lot. Dick Stewart says you don't see that happening do you? Fred Harvey said no, but I didn't see County Council being as ignorant as they were about \$5,000. Dick Stewart asks how much did Beaufort County give us. Ms. Ferguson states \$247,500, or maybe it is \$240,000 now. Dick Stewart states it would be interesting if we could get 1 million out of all our County Allocations. Chair Carter states that would be very interesting but highly unlikely, especially Jasper and Hampton Counties. Fred Harvey states we have a good advocate over there now. Mr. Hayward is in charge of Colleton County development side. Ginnie Kozak states I think Kevin Griffin is a lot more enlightened also. Fred Harvey states we have some good people who want to move the County forward. Chair Carter states if we could only move Jasper County forward. George Hood is now their administrative assistant. He almost ruined the Board of Education when he was the Superintendent of Schools.

#### **Chairperson's Report:**

I talked to the Auditor who is currently doing the audit and she said everything looks good. She said all good things about Rochelle Ferguson and Paula Porter. She has a lot of clean up to do from the previous auditors but once that is done, it will be smooth sailing. In addition, transitioning to Blackbaud software was a huge job and everything is up to date and reconciled and working well. It is a pleasure to

have this organization up to date and working so well together. I wanted to say a special thank you for that.

I also wanted to say as a member of the transportation steering committee, I am attending the APTA conference in New Orleans next week.

I need to assign a chair to the policy and planning committee. I will appoint David Blauch as the chair of the committee.

#### Committee Reports

Fred Harvey asks how many days since the last accident? Ms. Ferguson states it hasn't been 90 days. It is a short time and very disappointing. Chair Carter asks what is that for? Fred Harvey states that once the drivers have gone 90 days without an accident, we will give them a barbecue. We are still waiting for the 90 days.

Rochelle Ferguson states Louis Pinkney called today to see if we received the signed Operations Review statements. I told her I did not and she said she would refax them. They still haven't come in.

Chris Hutton states he knows David Blauch did the Maintenance review but he has the report and he is not here.

Chair Carter states that she has asked the individual committees to include get their reviews and reports to Ms. Ferguson in time to be included in the Board reports so we can approve them as a Board. Please try and include them next time. I will include the Finance Review in the next Board report as I did it today.

Dick Stewart asks if Ginnie Kozak's report will be included next time. Chair Carter states yes and it will be part of the Organization Committee report.

Chair Carter asks Dick Stewart for the Daufuskie Island Committee report. Dick Stewart says that the Committee is called the Marine Division Study Committee. Dick Stewart hands out the report. He thanks the Chair, the Board and the Beaufort County Council for the opportunity to do this report. He states Morris Campbell and Chris Hutton have been very helpful, and then verbally reads the entire report. At the conclusion of the report, everyone thanks him and Chair Carter states it was very nicely done. Dick Stewart said we are happy to provide support for this initiative but we do not want an elected body to abdicate their responsibility for the project to us, and then not being able to do the job we are being asked to do. Chris Hutton states he agrees that we cannot accept abdication of the responsibilities. Dick Stewart said he booked 3,000 real estate units out of the air. Chris Hutton says 5,000 is a little closer. Dick Stewart said then if its 5,000 its closer to \$1200 a year.

Chair Carter asks if the report means we would hire someone in addition to Ms. Ferguson. Dick Stewart says we would have to hire someone who has ferry service experience. So yes, it would be in addition just for the Marine Division. First Transit isn't interested in ferry service. It would be an additional

Executive Director. Ms. Ferguson states there can only be one Executive Director. Mr. Stewart states we would have two people reporting to the Board, but we can change it to read we will hire sufficient employees.

Fred Harvey asks is there a planning committee for the residents and landowners of Daufuskie Island. Chris Hutton responds Beaufort County planning provides all that but as far as the island goes, no there isn't. Dick Stewart said Daufuskie is made up of a bunch of PUD, Planned Unit Developments. They all have their own government structure and their owning zoning laws. I feel that the reason the ferry service has been operating the way it has is that the PUD operate independently and do not see a cohesive strategy. If it operates as a utility then people will not be allowed to opt out. How many voters do we have? Mr. Hutton states 180 voters. Dick Stewart says we need 91 votes to pass. It may be hard to do as people say they already pay taxes. Chris Hutton said the way to describe how the government works on Daufuskie is ill defined. Dick Stewart felt there is an opportunity for private sector to help out because there are a more than a few property owners who would love to see the Ferry terminal developed, that way they would have all the restaurants and shops for the people coming over. Having the ability to negotiate arms length transactions seems the best to be handled by another party other than Beaufort County Council. Fred Harvey states he agrees with that. Chris Hutton states there have to be a private service to address the general needs that is a public service. Haig Point is the only service that is operating consistently and reliably. It was supposed to be a water taxi but now operates 80 percent capacity as a public ferry service. So the general consensus is we have to start as a private service with public access then LRTA can come in with primarily the capital applications, as that is what most public entities can do, provide capital. The operational end of it is there. It has been funded for 25 years, 100 percent privately until the County started buying seats. The 604,000 people who have been transported have paid 100% of their passage. If the private system starts and it is up and running so that it can become a private/public partnership. Dick Stewart states there is nothing preventing a private system from starting up. Chris Hutton agrees and says it's eminent.

Fred Harvey asks to get Federal funding for ferry service it has to be tied into a highway system. Does it have to have a minimum amount of vehicles? Can we just have 20 cars and allow service vehicles which would provide better service to the homeowner? Dick Stewart states the homeowners don't want cars coming and going. We could add it later after it's established and we could look at the federal funding requirements and there was a way we could add without creating a lot of problems that would be something we would want to do. If we present it now, a proponent would show pictures of 400 car ferries, I thought we should leave that to phase 2. He states that if there were car ferry service between Hilton Head and Savannah and Daufuskie didn't want it, they wouldn't stop there. One of the issues on my mind is that going to Savannah for cultural reasons is much different than it was 20 years ago as it has grown so much. I believe it would be very appealing to people. And for Hilton Head as well as it gives people in Savannah other beach options besides Tybee. Chair Carter asks if Commissioner Forest has something to add. Mr. Forest states it is a good report. Two issues he would like to bring up. One is that the LRTA has its own bonding authority so they could float bonds. Also, ticket sales usually go to operation costs instead of capital expenses. I would watch that mix of tickets sales for capital. Dick

Stewart responds I didn't offer bonds because what revenues would we pledge against them? If it's a good faith and credit of Beaufort County I think that makes it difficult to get that done. Second, if we were doing ferry service with tickets as the main revenue source, I think you have to do cars. That's where the revenue really is going to be. And Mr. Forrest responds and it's still a loser. Dick Stewart says right. But the utility aspect of this, in my mind, it's a convenience for those who live and work on Daufuskie. I think that if County Council says ok Daufuskie residents, here is what you wanted for years, here is how we can make it happen, I think we can get that to happen. From the standpoint of tickets and grants, I have no idea how many tickets need to be sold back and forth to Savannah. I do know you need to give a discount to residents. Once you get it up and running then you decide how the fees and tax structure shall be set up. On the \$450,000 of the school district and the County, I would like to get that in a bonding format. With today's interest rates we could do a fair amount of landside improvements. Mr. Forrest states someone will mention you are a bonding authority. Dick Stewart said I will respond I am not a bond lawyer and what revenues would I pledge? Chris Hutton states we don't know what we are bonding yet. It is a financing tool we have but needs to be much better defined. And it has to be marketable. Dick Stewart says if you bond a boat, how long do they last? If we are bonding a dock, that's a 15 year deal. I don't want current ridership to suffer. I don't want County Council to drop all financial responsibility on us. Mr. Forrest said he has a problem with a non-exclusive contract. We should not have competition. It's a loser but with competition, it's still more of a loser. Dick Stewart says if we have a property tax component funding it then you have operations stability. How many of the 180 votes are Haig Point residents because they won't give it up. Mr. Forrest states Haig Point has to remain for Haig Point only. I don't have a problem with water taxis bringing their clients to their property. What I have a problem with is water taxis bringing our customers to the island or have another entity start up and be in competition with non club members. That's what I mean exclusive. Dick Stewart says if we have exclusive for real estate based funding that would offset some of my concerns.

Chair Carter says that it's typically the naysayers, I have heard, who will say about any kind of arrangement with Daufuskie that you knew the deal when you bought the property. What's important is that they are closing schools in Beaufort County and we are asking for money. What you drove home and is a big part of it is that a major part of the funding would come from Daufuskie owners. That needs to be pushed and that has not really been the case. Up until I saw it in black & white, people don't see what they are spending. It is important to bring to the forefront the amount of money. Even though it is less money people don't see what they are spending to begin with. In this economic time, especially in Beaufort County with schools closing, it really needs to be brought to the forefront. If its not the first thing, people will think that funding has gone here when it could have gone other places, unless it is brought up first. Chris Hutton agrees and says the lions share needs to come from Daufuskie. Dick Stewart asks how the Board feels about it we can get sufficient funding coming in on a routine basis to cover operational costs, I feel pretty good about it. Chair Carter states she feels good about it. When have we ever made money in transportation? That's what scares me, what do we do when the money isn't there. Dick Stewart says it depends on how the ordinance is written so the contribution can escalate each year as based on property tax increases or something like that. Chair Carter states that



her major concern is Beaufort County will hand this all over to us. The proposal as written addresses that. I support this. Chris Hutton says can we turn to the County and say based on these proposals lets develop these options. Dick Stewart says we need to contract with someone to do that. Chair Carter says the proposal puts the ball in their court now. Dick Stewart states I will clean it up and then we will have a meeting with Gary Kubic and when they are ready to receive it, they will tell us how they would like the letter to read. Ms. Ferguson states she think they were trying to pull together a meeting. Dick Charter says he thinks this letter that states they want us to take over the complaints is just an invitation to tell them the price. Chair Carter states clean it up and arrange a meeting. Is it the consensus to move forward? Everyone agrees, yes. Chair Carter states very nice done to Dick Stewart. Ginnie Kosak agrees and states it includes issues we would never have thought of until you heard it. Nice job. Dick Stewart said thank you but it wasn't just me, it was Chris Hutton and Mark McCain also. Chair Carter said I think the calling card for this ferry project will be John Q. Public coming out of Savannah. Chris Hutton states Savannah Maritime Trade Center opens in April 2012. They are building this now. It will open as a ferry terminal in April. They are very anxious to get someone to come to slip 2 to offer a ferry service. Dick Stewart states that includes water taxi to River Street, it's all tied in. I don't want to build this based on tourism though. Fed Harvey says I agree, it's the residents of Daufuskie who have to support it. Chris Hutton states that Beaufort County will support it because if Daufuskie builds out they can go from 4.5 million in tax revenue to 45 million. Dick Stewart states that the ball will be in their court now and it will be a little push and pull for the next year.

**Old Business** – Dick Stewart asks Ginnie Kozak how do we study how much one million generates from each County. Ms. Kozak replies Chris keeps track of that. Dick Stewart said it would be helpful if we could get it on board so every year it's not contingent on the general fund. It would be hard to do, but it doesn't mean we shouldn't be asking for it every year. Ginnie Kozak said she will ask Chris. Dick Stewart said typically one County will pass it contingent on the other Counties. Beaufort County wants to put it on the tax bill.

Chair Carter states the Strategic Plan has been discussed. Ginnie Kozak will handle that.

### **New Business** –

Chair Carter states we have a letter of resignation from Pastor Borum due to obligations in his church. We are working on getting his replacement. A woman asked for the application actually. What's happening in Beaufort County? Dick Stewart said we can't find anyone. Chair Carter states what about that person that was on the list when Mark McCain received the position. Dick Stewart said I offered it to him the last time and he didn't get it, and he was very upset about it, so I am not offering it again. Ginnie Kozak said she will call him. Ms. Ferguson states it wasn't a reflection on him whatsoever why he wasn't chosen. Ginnie Kozak asks why Mark McCain had to leave. Chair Carter states he was on another Board. He found out on the Board training that he couldn't serve. Ms. Ferguson states as did a lot of other people who haven't stopped serving both Boards. Chair Carter says well we did the right thing.

### **Announcements**

Next meeting is November 30th at palmetto Breeze at 2:00 PM. Please get in agenda items by November 8<sup>th</sup>.

Dick Stewart asks shall we anticipate media will ask us about the Ferry project. Will it blow up a bit and get into the newspapers? Chris Hutton says Robert Townsend has gotten energized in the past but she has lost credibility. They have put the ferry thing with another woman who is a grant writer. They are going to be excellent in PR. Yes, they will come back with questions. Chair Carter states the policy states that inquiries are to be directed to The Chair of the Board or the Executive Director. Chris Hutton asks would it be wise to ask LRTA to have Rochelle follow up on these meetings until it compromises the land side of business. Dick Stewart states we should appear to not add any more responsibilities. The County Council will interpret it as it was always our responsibility. We should say we have this outboard group that is not part of our daily duties. We are responding to the request from the County and once we have the report ready we will put it up online. I am nervous about you (Ms. Ferguson) being the party responding because that implies we are responsible. Ms. Ferguson states the media policy states that all questions come to the Executive Director. We just had this happen in Colleton County with Fred Harvey. The newspaper called and asked me if it was okay to talk to Fred Harvey and then Fred called me to discuss what he will say. Because of previous issues we have had, they have to ask myself or the Chair. It leaves too much to interpretation. Dick Stewart states it is not an operating part of LRTA. We have a request from County Council that we are responding to. I don't want Rochelle to have to handle complaints. We don't have a ferry service; we don't run any ferry service. When the report is done, we will provide copies. Chair Carter states her only concern is that we are all saying the same answer. Ok if we are responding to a request by County Council. Dick Stewart says that's fine, let's just go a little further and state we don't operate a ferry service. We are happy to provide a ferry service if the County Council will provide us with the funds. I don't want Rochelle to be the go to person for all the problems of the ferry. Chair Carter asks Ms. Ferguson if that's okay with you and Ms. Ferguson states yes.

Motion to Adjourn: Chris Hutton. Fred Harvey seconds. Adjournment at 4:25 PM.