

LOWCOUNTRY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

April 25, 2013

6:30 p.m.

MINUTES

| | <u>PRESENT:</u> | <u>ABSENT:</u> |
|-------------------------|--|---|
| BEAUFORT COUNTY: | Brian Flewelling Marc A. Grant Billy Keyserling Bill McBride Joseph McDomick Jerry Stewart | Gerald Dawson Herbert Glaze (Proxy to B. McBride) Mary Beth Heyward Lisa Sulka (Proxy to Chair) Tabor Vaux (Proxy to B. Flewelling) |
| COLLETON COUNTY: | Esther S. Black Joseph Flowers Thomas (Tommy) Mann Gene Whetsell Bill Young | Larry (Babe) Hutto Evon Robinson (Proxy to E. Black) |
| HAMPTON COUNTY: | Frankie Bennett Charles Boyles, Jr. Lloyd Griffith James (Pete) Hagood Nat Shaffer | J. L. Goodwin Charles (Buddy) Phillips (Proxy to L. Griffith) |
| JASPER COUNTY: | Sherry Carroll Henry Etheridge Henry Lawton, Sr. Joey Malphrus Gwen Johnson Smith | |
| GUESTS: | Kraig Gordon, President, Gordon Construction; Bob Nanni, Hardeeville City Manager; Jim Outlaw, Retiring LCOG Board Member; Phil Richardson, Project Manager, SouthernCarolina Regional Alliance; Brad Samuel, SCANA C&ED & Local Government Representative | |
| STAFF: | Chris Bickley, Claire Glasson, Carol Stonebraker | |

Vice Chairman Gwen Johnson Smith presided in the absence of Chairman Herbert Glaze, who was out of town at a school function. She called the April 25, 2013 Lowcountry Council of Governments regular board meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Lloyd Griffith gave the invocation. Introduction of guests and staff followed. The Board sang *Happy Birthday* to Henry Lawton, who celebrated his 93rd birthday the day before. Minutes of the February 28, 2013 meeting were unanimously approved on motion by Bill Young with a second from Joe McDomick. Proxies presented by the Executive Director included Herbert Glaze to Bill McBride, Buddy Phillips to Lloyd Griffith, Evon Robinson to Esther Black, Lisa Sulka to the Chair and Tabor Vaux to Brian Flewelling. All were general proxies. The meeting proceeded after determining a quorum was present.

Vice Chairman Smith presented retiring board member Jim Outlaw with a plaque commemorating his almost twenty years service on the Board. Accepting the award, Mr. Outlaw spoke about the importance of supporting regionalism and his pleasure in seeing men and women from the four counties *come together* to work for the common good.

Vice-Chairman Smith opened the Public Hearing on the Regional HOME Consortium 2013 Annual Action Plan at 6:37 p.m. A summary was sent to board members prior to the meeting. The hearing was properly advertised in regional newspapers. Chris Bickley conducted the hearing for Barbara Johnson, who was out-of-town attending the Palmetto Housing Forum. Total HOME funds available for FY 13/14 are \$456,511 before local match of \$102,715 for a total of \$559,226. Proposed activities include Affordable Housing (single or multifamily/new construction/supportive activities) and Single Family Rehabilitation. Chris briefly reviewed decreases in funding levels and activities since the program began. He reported the Affordable Housing Committee met April 23 in Bluffton and recommended approval. There were no comments from the public. The hearing closed at 6:41 p.m.

Vice Chairman Smith reordered the Agenda to address New Business Item 1. and called for action on the Regional HOME Consortium 2013 Annual Action Plan. Joe McDomick moved to approve the plan as recommended by the Affordable Housing Committee, and following a second from Lloyd Griffith, the motion carried with all in favor.

LCOG Workforce Director Hank Amundson was recognized to present the new Lowcountry Workforce Development Service Model.

Hank briefed the Board on the new service delivery plan recently approved by the Lowcountry Workforce Investment Board. It will be implemented over the next several weeks. The new go-to-the-people approach will have Lowcountry Workforce Investment Area (LWIA) staff based at the COG where mobile teams will be set up to deliver highly-focused, cost-efficient services to the communities and businesses where they are needed. Three days each week, LWIA teams will conduct appointments, orientation and outreach at primary partner facilities and another day at an additional location. Teams will work the remaining day at the COG office planning activities, completing data entry, conducting enrollee reviews and participating in staff training. Technical College of the Lowcountry (TCL) has agreed to provide primary partner space in Colleton and Hampton Counties, and Adult Education has been contacted about using its facilities in Jasper County. Locations may change as need and effectiveness are evaluated. SCDEW remains an important partner. Each region must have at least one SC Works Center, and LWIA services will be provided at the Beaufort Center. Developed as a way to improve and assure services are available across the region, the plan is expected to reduce administrative expenses, and savings will be redirected to training dollars.

A major strategy shift is to focus on the needs of businesses. Hank spoke about the importance of outreach—educating individuals and businesses about the program—and how that will be accomplished. LWIA is working closely with businesses and regional economic development agencies to be a strong training and staffing asset for new or expanding companies. Discussion followed. Chris Bickley reemphasized that the new business-directed workforce development plan trains individuals for jobs in the region instead of using training dollars for occupations unlikely to become available locally. Hank added that LWIA wants to help people get jobs in regional business segments that are growing.

There were no items of Old Business on the Agenda or additional New Business. Vice Chairman Smith called for Reports and recognized Chris Bickley. Sherry Smith was unable to attend and Michelle Knight was at a required affordable housing training with Barbara Johnson. Chris submitted the reports as written and commented on selected items.

The March Finance Report represented end of third quarter fiscal year. Operations are better than budget. Accounts Receivable is largely outstanding reimbursements for the Aging and WIA programs and is also affected by state restrictions regarding when grant draw-downs can occur. Brian Flewelling asked

about the Bad Debt line item. Specific details were not immediately available but will be reported at the next meeting.

The Community & Economic Development Report included 51 active projects and six in the application process. Three CDBG applications were submitted April 15.

Chris reviewed several items in the Director's Report. The Aging Program will soon see significant changes requiring additional administrative work and documentation. Lt. Governor Glenn McConnell has secured additional funding for aging services; within a few years, state funding is expected to exceed federal. Two companies are interested in contracting with the AAAs about performing some managed care and client services for them on a state Medicare-Medicaid dual-enrolled pilot project. More details have been requested, and final decisions require Board approval. The State plans to emphasize home-delivered meals rather than group dining. It will require documentation on all clients, including confirmation that the neediest are being served. Some regional senior centers unable to serve the required 25 minimum clients may have to close if waivers are eliminated. Center directors are working to improve their numbers. Sherry Carroll asked about centers having waivers, and Chris said the Aging Plan will be before the Board at the next meeting, and the information will be included. It is hoped no centers will close.

SouthernCarolina Regional Development Alliance will hold its annual meeting at the COG next week. The joint LCOG-LRTA/Palmetto Breeze regional mobility management project received a NADO Excellence in Regional Transportation Award. Ginnie Kozak was in Greenville accepting the award. The Executive Director submitted a public comment to SCDOT recommending the replacement US 17 Back River Bridge have four lanes instead of two, because the Georgia side already has four lanes and funds to widen the highway in SC have been approved. Chris invited LCOG Board members to attend the SCARC Board meeting in Columbia May 15 where Lt. Governor Glenn McConnell will speak on senior issues in South Carolina.

Other meeting handouts included 208 certification reports, updated building permit data, and labor force and unemployment information, which is trending down in the Lowcountry.

During Council Time, Bill Young invited everyone to the Rice Festival in Walterboro that weekend.

With no additional business to address, and on motion duly made, seconded and approved, Vice Chairman Smith adjourned the meeting at 7:23 p.m. Copies of the agenda were distributed prior to the meeting. A notice of the meeting was posted on the LCOG bulletin board at least twenty-four hours prior to the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

L. Chriswell Bickley, Jr.
Executive Director

Attachments