

LOWCOUNTRY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
September 22, 2016
6:30 p.m.

MINUTES

PRESENT:

ABSENT:

BEAUFORT COUNTY:

Phil Cromer
Gerald Dawson
Brian Flewelling
Herbert Glaze
Alice Howard
Bill McBride
Joseph McDomick
Dan Wood

Marc Grant
Mary Beth Heyward
Jerry Stewart

COLLETON COUNTY:

Esther S. Black
Joseph Flowers
Tommy Mann
Crawford Moore
Gene Whetsell

Bobby Bonds
Evon Robinson

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: David Head, Sen. Graham's Office; Sarah Kimball, Rep. Sanford's Office

STAFF: Hank Amundson, Mike Butler, Sabrena Graham, Barbara Johnson, Michelle Knight, Connie Schroyer, Sherry Smith

1. Call to Order Chairman Dawson called the meeting to order at 6:41 pm
 - 1.1. Pledge of Allegiance
 - 1.2. Invocation
 - Led by Pete Hagood
 - 1.3. Introduction of Guests and Staff
 - 1.4. Proxies
 - Evon Robinson to Esther Black
 - 1.5. Approval of August 25, 2016 Minutes
 - MOVED by Brian Flewelling, seconded by Bill McBride to approve the minutes as presented.
Motion carried unanimously.
- Action 2. Public Hearing
 - 2.1. Lowcountry Regional HOME Consortium Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) - Barbara Johnson
 - The public hearing opened at 6:46 pm.
 - Program year July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016 was Beaufort County/Lowcountry Regional HOME

Consortium's (LRHC) tenth year of funding through the US Department of Housing and Urban Development HOME Investment Partnerships Program.

- A review of last year's affordable housing program activity was reported as presented in the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report. A total of \$631,957 in HOME funds were expended and \$105,071 in local match. [*The dollar amounts were updated by the auditor from the original handout distributed in agenda packets.*]
- A total of (16) rehab units were completed: Beaufort County (6), Colleton County (4), Hampton County (6), Jasper County (0). Two new construction units were completed by the Lowcountry Habitat for Humanity.
- Public comments:
 - Q: Why wasn't there any activity in Jasper County?
 - A: There was a decrease in calls from Jasper County residents compared to past years. Those who did inquire did not qualify mostly due to heirs' property or lack of homeowners insurance. A meeting will be set up with the county administrator to address issues of non-qualification and identify ways to better reach the community.

3. Presentations

3.1. Sarah Kimball, Field Representative for Congressman Mark Sanford

- There is a local office based in Beaufort to serve residents in Beaufort and Colleton Counties. Basic constituent services include help with federal agencies, a place to voice concerns with activities in congress, and passport services.

3.2. Daniel Patrick Head, Lowcountry Regional Director for Senator Lindsey Graham

- There is a local office based in Mt. Pleasant to serve residents in Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper Counties. Basic constituent services are offered through the office. Mr. Head encouraged citizen interaction with the Senator's office all federal issues and concerns.

4. Reports

4.1. Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Annual Report – Hank Amundson

- A statistical report on the past year's accomplishments of the ADRC was presented. There were 1,536 in-home comprehensive assessments done; 8,141 contacts made for information referral and assistance; 1,485 people were served with insurance counseling; \$278,357 was awarded to 369 family caregivers; \$73,758 was expended through the home safety program; 8,740 hours of in-home services were funded; \$4,513 in legal fees paid for seniors; 2,000 nursing home residents served; and 170,183 were meals served.
- A main goal for the upcoming year is to grow the program. Aging is currently utilizing the GIS services of the Planning Department to identify pockets of seniors who are not being served or being underserved. Volunteers to help with the insurance program are also being sought.
 - Q: Can Aging's Legal Services help those in Jasper County with heirs' property issues relating to the HOME Program?
 - A: Yes. Legal Services is working closer with both the HOME and Minor Home Repair Programs to help clients qualify when possible.
 - Q: Does your department help with repairs needed to mobile homes?
 - A: No. The ADRC serves a different role than the HOME program. Our department can assist with safety needs and improvements. Structural or efficiency needs are referred to the HOME program and elsewhere.
- A copy of the presentation was distributed during the meeting.

4.2. Finance Report for August 2016 – Sherry Smith

- Revenues over expenditures were \$7,462 or 28% of the monthly budget. The targeted percentage is 16% however there are a couple of capital purchases scheduled that will bring the projected revenues over expenditures back in line.
- The audit is nearly complete and will be presented at the next meeting.
- A copy of the monthly financial statement was distributed in agenda packets.

4.3. Community and Economic Development Report – Michelle Knight

- The funding round for CDBG ended Sept. 16, 2016. Four projects were submitted and site visits

will begin in October. Status notification is anticipated by the end of November.

- A Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) grant for water system improvements in Smoaks was recently resubmitted.
- The department will be meeting with the region's smaller communities to identify possible grant opportunities.
- You may contact the C&ED Department with any brick and mortar needs in the community.
- Copies of the C&ED Report were distributed during the meeting.

4.4. Director's Report – Sabrena Graham

- Would like to build upon the relationship with the Rep. Sanford & Sen. Graham ahead of upcoming projects such as the Jasper Port and other activities in the region.
- Continuing one-on-one visits with the COG's counties and municipalities to learn more about local programs and activities.
- Attended the Municipal Association of SC (MASC) Regional Advocacy Meeting. Items of interest and concerns from cities/towns were discussed as the MASC prepares for the upcoming legislative year.
- Staff has been working hard to identify ways of expanding LCOG's services to those we've served and those yet to be served.
- Two forms were distributed. One asking for your shirt size and the other for registration to the SC Assoc. of Regional Councils (SCARC) Conference in November. These forms need to be returned as soon as possible.

4.5. Planning Reports – 208 Report & Regional Unemployment Chart (for information)

- The regional Unemployment Chart was distributed in agenda packets for information. There were no 208 Wastewater Certifications in September to report.

5. Council Time

- There were no reports.

6. Adjourn

Action - MOVED by Pete Hagood, seconded by Brian Flewelling to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:18 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.