

LOWCOUNTRY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS BOARD OF DIRECTORS
THURSDAY, January 24, 2019 6:30 P.M.
POINT SOUTH, SOUTH CAROLINA

BEAUFORT COUNTY:	<u>PRESENT:</u> Phil Cromer Gerald Dawson Brian Flewelling Herbert Glaze York Glover Joseph McDomick Dan Wood	<u>ABSENT</u> Michael Covert Marc Grant Mary Beth Heyward Alice Howard
COLLETON COUNTY:	Esther Black Bobby Bonds Joseph Flowers Tim Grimsley Crawford Moore	Tommy Mann Phillip Taylor, Sr. Gene Whetsell
HAMPTON COUNTY:	J.L. Goodwin Travis "Pete" Mixson Ronald Mixson Buddy Phillips Charles Savino	James "Pete" Hagood Nat Shaffer
JASPER COUNTY:	John Carroll Tom Johnson Joey Malphrus	Henry Lawton Gwen Smith

GUESTS: None

STAFF: Mike Butler, Sabrena Graham, Ginnie Kozak, Jordan Newman, Sherry Smith, Michelle Knight, Lynette Harley

1. **Call to Order** Chairman Bonds called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.
 - 1.1 Pledge of Allegiance
 - 1.2 Invocation
 - Led by Chairman Bonds
 - 1.3 Introduction of Guests and Staff
 - 1.4 Proxies
 - Mr. Pete Hagood to Mr. Buddy Phillips
 - Ms. Mary Beth Heyward to Ms. Alice Howard
 - 1.5 Approval of October 25, 2018 Minutes
 - **Action** MOVED by Dr. Joseph Flowers and seconded by Ms. Esther black to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Presentation

2.1 Southern Carolina Alliance—Ms. Kay Maxwell, Vice President of Marketing

- Ms. Maxwell presented an overview of the projects in the seven counties that Southern Carolina Alliance covers, which includes the Lowcountry Region, Allendale, Bamberg, and Barnwell. She stated that their mission is to bring jobs to the areas through the facilitation of workforce development and community development. Some of the LCOG Board Members also serve on the SCA Board of Directors to include Mr. Buddy Phillips and Dr. Joseph Flowers. The average project length to bring a company to the area is 9.5 months. An example of the work in our area includes Evanesce in Colleton bringing in 368 jobs and Carolina Textile in Hampton.

3. New Business

3.1 Lowcountry Regional Development Corporation (LRDC) Annual Meeting

- 3.1.1 - Meeting of LRDC for Annual Financial Report for the Years Ended September 30, 2017 and 2018 – **Ms. Lori Salley, McGregor & Company, CPA**
- Motion made by Mr. York Glover to close the regular board meeting and go into the LRDC meeting. It was seconded by and approved by consensus. The regular meeting adjourned and the LRDC meeting was called to order at 6:55pm. A detailed report of the audit was given. The financial statements of the LRDC were fairly stated with no deficiencies. This is an unmodified report. Copies of the report were distributed at the meeting. Mr. Phillip Cromer made a motion to close the LRDC meeting and re-open the regular board meeting. It was seconded and approved by consensus. The regular board meeting was reopened and continued at 7:06pm.

4. Reports

4.1 Finance Report for Period Ending December 2018—Ms. Sherry Smith

- Revenues over expenditures were \$64,735,00. 1.07% of the budget has been expended. Copies of the Finance Report were distributed in the agenda packets.

4.2 Community and Economic Development Report—Ms. Michelle Knight

- Held a Project Development Day. There were 15 organizations represented with 20 people in attendance.

4.3 Planning Reports-208 Rpt & Regional Unemployment Summary—Ms. Ginnie Kozak

- Most active year in terms of housing with increasing numbers of apartment buildings being built, which increases more jobs for the region. Copies of the report were distributed in the agenda packets.

4.3.1 - I-95 Widening Update—Ms. Ginnie Kozak

- The first 33 miles of I-95 has been approved for widening by state transportation officials. Construction is to begin in 2023 with the widening of I-95 from Yemassee to Georgia carrying a price tag of \$3billion. One million has already been allocated to begin the process.

4.4 Director's Report—Ms. Sabrena Graham

- Happy New Year! Thank you to the board members that attended the SCARC Conference in Myrtle Beach in November. Congratulations to our very own Mr. Gerald Dawson who was elected president of SCARC for the 2019 year. LCOG is slated to host the conference this November. I hope others will plan to attend as we will need your assistance and support.
- SC COGs Initiative—The COG Directors and I rolled out the new SC COGs Network brand during the SCARC Conference. The SCARC Board authorized the COG Directors to continue our marketing initiative. These efforts will include a new website, legislative monitoring, and meetings with legislators and State Department heads in an effort to build relationships and partner on projects important to us. We have also contracted with Nexsen Pruet to do legislative monitoring for us. We will receive reports weekly, as well as daily updates on legislative policy, committee meeting schedules, etc., in order to be proactive in growing our programs.
- I will be attending the SC Governor's Opportunity Zones Summit in Columbia. Opportunity Zones are a new community development program established by congress as a part of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 and are designed to encourage long-term private investments in low- income communities. Go to www.scopportunityzone.com for more information.
- Upcoming Procurements: The Aging Department will be procuring all senior services this month to include: home delivered and group dining meals, transportation, home care services, respite and disease prevention/health promotion. The Workforce Department is finalizing an RFP to procure a contract for workforce services. This contract must be in place by July 1, 2019 as mandated by the State Workforce Board. With this contract, most of our workforce staff will become employees of the contractor and not LCOG. This board will be presented recommendations for approval on both of these procurements.
- Thank you to Ms. Maxwell for joining us tonight. Kay is the first in a series of speakers we will have at our board meetings this year. Lynette is coordinating speakers who will come and share information that will be meaningful and relevant to our local governments and to the region. I also want to thank Southern Carolina Alliance (SCA) for partnering with LCOG's Aging Department to serve as the pass through agency for us so we are now eligible for 501 (C)3 grants. The March LCOG Board meeting is cancelled. Instead we are inviting all newly elected County and Town Council members to join us for a Lowcountry Council of Governments Orientation. Lowcountry Council of Governments now has a Facebook page so please like us on Facebook. Beginning next month we will begin distributing a monthly electronic newsletter. We will promote our services, announce upcoming events and share success stories. Thank you for your support of LCOG. We are geared up and looking forward to an active and exciting year.

5. Council Time

- There were no reports.

Action 6. Adjourn

- MOVED by Brian Flewelling, seconded by Dr. Joseph Flowers and approved by consensus to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:27 pm.