

LOWCOUNTRY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS BOARD OF DIRECTORS
THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2019 6:30 P.M.
POINT SOUTH, SOUTH CAROLINA

MINUTES

PRESENT:

ABSENT:

BEAUFORT COUNTY:

Phil Cromer
Gerald Dawson
Brian Flewelling
Paul Sommerville
Joseph McDomick
Dan Wood

Herbert Glaze, proxy to G. Dawson
William Harkins
Chris Hervochon, proxy to B. Flewelling
Mary Beth Heyward
Mark Lawson

COLLETON COUNTY:

Esther Black
Bobby Bonds
Joe Flowers
Tommy Mann
Gene Whetsell

Tim Grimsley
Crawford Moore
Phillip Taylor, Sr., proxy to J. Flowers

HAMPTON COUNTY:

J.L. Goodwin
Pete Hagood
Ronald Mixson
Buddy Phillips
Charles Savino

Nat Shaffer, proxy to R. Mixson
Pete Mixson

JASPER COUNTY:

John Carroll
Tom Johnson
Joey Malphrus

Gwen Smith

GUESTS: Doug Clary, Hybrid Engineering; Ronald Winn, Hampton County Council; Kate Schaefer, Coastal Conservation League; Clay Bishop, Hampton County Council; Celia Price, Colleton County; Craig Winn, SCDOT; Megan Groves, SCDOT; York Glover, Beaufort County Council; Wayne Crosby, City of Walterboro; Alice Howard, Beaufort County Council

STAFF: Mike Butler, Sabrena Graham, Michelle Knight, Jordan Newman, Ginnie Kozak, Sherry Smith, Meredith Burns, Christian Dammel

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 Gerald Dawson

1.3. Introduction of Guests and Staff

1.4. Proxies

– Nat Shaffer to Ronald Mixson; Herbert Glaze to Gerald Dawson; Chris Harvochon to Brian Flewelling; Phillip Taylor to Joe Flowers

Action 1.5. Approval of February 28, 2019 Minutes

– MOVED by Joe Flowers, seconded by Brian Flewelling to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Public Hearing

2.1. Regional HOME Consortium 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan – Michelle Knight

- The Beaufort County/Lowcountry Regional Home Consortium Advisory Committee met April 24, 2019 to review the plan and recommends LCOG Board approval.
- An estimated total of \$717,104 will be available for the upcoming year. This amount includes \$131,713 in local funds and \$585,391 in HUD funds.
- About \$87,810 of HOME funds are proposed to be allocated to Affordable Housing. About \$439,042 of HOME funds are proposed to be allocated to Single Family Rehabilitation.
- This is the second public hearing to receive comments on the proposed allocation of the 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan. The first was April 15, 2019 at the Jasper County Council meeting.

Q: How much was last year's total of HOME funds and local funds together?

A: Ms. Knight: It was about \$50,000 less. It has gone down about \$50,000.

2.2. Amendment to the 208 Area-wide Water Quality Management Plan: Walterboro Wastewater Treatment Plan (WWTP) Expansion – Ms. Ginnie Kozak

- The amendment concerns a proposed expansion of the Walterboro Wastewater Treatment Plant to 2.64 million gallons per day (MGD) to 5.625 MGD.
- A public hearing was properly announced in local media and online.
- The 208 Water Quality Committee met April 25, 2019 to review the plan and recommends LCOG Board approval.

2.3. Close Public Hearing

- MOVED by Joe Flowers, seconded by Joey Malphrus to close the public hearing. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Presentations

3.1. SCANNA is becoming Dominion Energy, serving South Carolina – Ms. Tammy Coghill, Manager of Economic Development & Local Government

- This presentation will be postponed and rescheduled for a future date.

3.1. SCDOT Project Progress Report – Mr. Craig Winn

- Mr. Winn reviewed a project status report for transportation projects in the Lowcountry.
- Over the next five years about \$312 million worth of work is programmed for the Lowcountry area.
- Beaufort County Projects: Substantial work completion for the US 21 Bridge Replacement is scheduled for Nov. 21, 2021.
- Colleton County Projects: The US 21 Bridge Replacement over Sandy Run Creek letting is scheduled for July 2019. The US 17 over Edisto River letting is scheduled for spring 2024. The S-74 Bridge Replacement over Buckhead Creek letting is scheduled for spring 2022. The Forks Road Bridge Replacement over Deep Creek letting is scheduled for summer 2022. The Edisto Roadway and Drainage Improvement Project revised completion date was April 22, 2019. Mr. Winn said he did not know if that target had been met. The US-15 at S-130/S-754 letting is scheduled for August 2019. The I-95 Reconstruction letting is scheduled for January 2021. Mr. Winn said they are currently looking to expand the project from Mile Marker (MM) 62 to MM 68.
- Hampton County Projects: The Rock Spring Road Bridge Replacement letting is scheduled for spring 2023. The Henderson Road Bridge Replacement letting is scheduled for summer 2023. The SC-68 Widening is complete but the contract has been extended to allow for repairs on Pocotaligo Road. The new completion date is Sept. 30, 2019.
- Jasper County Projects: The I-95 Bridge Replacements over Bagshaw Swamp and SC 46 lettings are scheduled for winter 2021-2022. The I-95 Rehabilitation from MM 23 to 33 was let in January and has a completion date of Oct. 15, 2020. The US-17 Widening letting is scheduled for October 2019.

Q: Was there an update on Pocotaligo Road repairs?

A: Mr. Winn: It will be added to the SC-68 Widening contract. It will start within the next couple months and should be completed by the end of September.

Q: Is Highway 321 through Jasper and Hampton counties on SCDOT's radar?

A: Mr. Winn: At one point it was included in the resurfacing package.

Q: Are improvements scheduled for Highway 64 in Colleton County west of the Bells Crossroads?

A: Mr. Winn: I am not aware of a project for that road at this time.

Q: Is SCDOT involved in the discussions about tolling the expansion of I-95 or is that all at the political level right now?

A: Mr. Winn: I would say it's at the political level right now. SCDOT upper level management are likely involved in those discussions but I am not aware of it.

Q: Can we get SCDOT to look at resurfacing Big Estate Road off of US-17?

A: Mr. Winn: I will contact the local officials and ask.

4. New Business

4.1. Approval of the HOME Consortium 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan & Projects – Ms. Michelle Knight

- MOVED by Joe Flowers, seconded by Brian Flewelling to approve the HOME Consortium 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan & Projects. Motion carried unanimously.

4.2. Approval of the Amendment to the 208 Area-wide Water Quality Management Plan: Walterboro Wastewater Treatment Plan (WWTP) Expansion – Ms. Ginnie Kozak

Q: What are the funding sources for the project's three phases?

A: Mr. Crosby: Funding sources include U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA), State Revolving Fund (SRF) and potential rate increases. The City of Walterboro is currently conducting a rate study evaluation.

- MOVED by Joey Malphrus, seconded by Gene Whetsell to approve the amendment to the 208 Area-wide Water Quality Management Plan. Motion carried unanimously.

4.3. Approval of RFPs for Aging Services – Ms. Jordan Newman

- The Lowcountry Area on Aging posted four RFPs for aging services Feb. 7-8, 2019.
- Thirteen organizations submitted proposals. The Aging RFP Review Panel reviewed the proposals and made recommendations to the Lowcountry Aging Advisory Committee (LAAC). The LAAC voted to accept the subcommittee's recommendations.

Q: It says "Missed Deadline; Rejected" next to Hampton County Council on Aging. What does that mean?

A: Ms. Newman: The Hampton County Council on Aging submitted a proposal but it was rejected because it was submitted after the March 21, 2019 deadline.

- MOVED by Brian Flewelling, seconded by Joey Malphrus to negotiate the final contracts for Aging Services. Motion carried unanimously.

4.4. Approval of an RFP for WIOA Services – Mr. Michael Butler

- On Feb. 26, 2019 Workforce Development posted an RFP for Adult/Dislocated Workers, Youth Services and SCWorks Operator Services.
- One organization submitted a proposal. The RFP Review Committee evaluated the proposal. On April 17, 2019 the Workforce Board met and voted to select Ross Innovative Employment Solutions Corp. as the PY19 Programmatic and Operations provider.

Q: Since this is a turnover year, do we have some assurance Ross will pick up employees that we're having to let go?

A: Mr. Butler: The RFP included a provision that current employees will have an opportunity to interview for their positions. Ross has also said they do not anticipate making staff changes.

- MOVED by Brian Flewelling, seconded by Pete Hagood to negotiate the final contract for WIOA Services. Motion carried unanimously.

4.5. SCDOT Section 5310 Rural/Small Urban Transit Project Funding – Ms. Ginnie Kozak

- The packet "5310 Applications – Lowcountry COG Evaluation FY 2019-20" ranking

applicants was distributed at the meeting.

Q: Can you explain why Colleton County Council on Aging and Jasper County Council on Aging are tied for third in the ranking column?

A: Ms. Kozak: I could have ranked everybody in first. They all had high marks.

Q: Right, but will only the top three get approved? Does it matter how they are ranked?

A: Ms. Graham: Based on the number of applicants that we have, we are comfortable they will all be funded. But we have to prioritize applicants should there not be enough funds. If that happens, it would follow the ranking.

- MOVED by John Carroll, seconded by Joey Malphrus to accept the recommendation of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Staff Reports

5.1. Finance Report for March 2019 – Ms. Sherry Smith

- March marked 75 percent of our fiscal year. At this point we have completed 66 percent of our expenditures.
- Our revenue over expenditures are \$89,512, which is considerably over the budget of \$60,722.

5.2. Community & Economic Development Report – Ms. Michelle Knight

- Department staff submitted three CDBG projects during the spring round. The projects were a water project for Colleton County, a water project for the Town of Scotia, and a sewer project for the Town of Port Royal.
- Staff was recently notified the \$1.694 million EDA application with Lowcountry Regional Water System was awarded.

5.3. Director's Report – Ms. Sabrena Graham

- LCOG hosted an Orientation for County and Municipal council members on March 28.
- The pilot transportation program Walterboro Works will continue through June 30 thanks to Palmetto Breeze and Colleton County.
- Full Director's Report attached.

5.3.1 Legislative Update

- A state legislative update was included in the agenda packet.

5.4. Quarterly 2-8 Report & Regional Unemployment Chart – Ms. Ginnie Kozak

- Monthly 208 certifications show continued development in the region. Unemployment rates in the region have continued the downward trend of the past five years.
- The U.S. Census Bureau recently released the 2018 population estimates. Estimates for each county were included in the agenda packet.

Q: Would you be able to find the average pay rate?

A: Ms. Kozak: We can find that out. We can find either a total average, or average pay rate by industry.

6. Council Time

7. Adjourn

- MOVED by Ronald Mixson, seconded by Pete Hagood to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Caucus

- Board members caucused by county to select one member to attend the NADO Annual Training Conference Oct. 19-22 in Reno, Nevada.
- Esther Black will attend from Colleton County. Pete Hagood will attend from Hampton County. Phil Cromer will attend from Beaufort County. John Carroll will be a reserve attendee from Jasper County.

Minutes submitted by Meredith Burns.

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