

**Meeting of  
Land of Sky Regional Council  
December 3, 2014**

**Minutes**

- I. Call to Order - George Goosmann called the meeting to order at 1pm.
- II. Invocation - Gene Knoefel gave the invocation.
- III. Pledge of Allegiance -
- IV. Roll Call - Mr. Goosmann called the roll. The following members were present: Denise Braine, Glen Englam, Gwen Wisler, George Goosmann, Jonathan Kanipe, Larry Harris, Anne Coletta, Bob Davy, Barbara Volk, Gene Knoefel, Charles Dickens, Brenda Mills, John Mitchell, Mark Burrows, and George Morosani. The following guests were present: April Riddle (Governor's Western Region Representative) and Robin Ramsey (Senator Hagan's Western Region Representative). Mr. Goosmann announced that a quorum was present.
- V. Modification and Approval of Agenda - George Morosani made a motion to modify and approve the agenda in order to move Item B. from the Consent Agenda to New Business (as item A.); and to add Item B (for NC Department of Transportation-Supplemental Funding) under New Business and to provide authorization for the new Finance Director to be the signatory on the bank accounts (as part of the Executive Director's Report). Brenda Mills seconded the motion which was approved without further discussion.
- VI. Public Comment -
- VII. Recognition of Special Guests - Mr. Goosmann recognized Ms. April Riddle and Ms. Robin Ramsey.
- VIII. Chairman's Comments and Roundtable -  
Larry Harris - Shared that the Town of Black Mountain gratefully received an STP grant for the design of the next phase of the greenway. Gene Knoefel - Shared that Weaverville will have its Christmas Parade and candlelight stroll the weekend after next. John Mitchell - Shared that Henderson County welcomed a new commissioner - Bill Lapsley; additionally, Tommy Thompson was elected as Commission Chair and Charlie Messer was elected as Vice Chair; he also shared that the big news from the November 19<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting was the donation of land by the Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy (CMLC) for the purpose of developing a new river access park. The park will be designed and constructed by the NC Wildlife Resources Commission. Denise Braine - reported that the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners has agreed to designate newly elected Commissioner, Miranda DeBruhl, as its LOSRC delegate. April Riddle - shared that the Governor's Western Residence will be hosting an open house for Christmas this coming Saturday and Sunday to view the holiday decorations. Robin Ramsey - shared further information on the upcoming open house at the Governor's Western Residence: the decorations are stunning and the swags and wreaths are living evergreens. The event is free and open to the public 12 to 6pm Saturday and Sunday. Signage directs the public to the Western Residence on Patton Mountain Road. Barbara Volk - shared that Hendersonville had its tree lighting last Friday and this Friday is the "Old Fashioned" Christmas and stores will be open and there will be carolers. Saturday morning is the Christmas Parade and then the following weekend on Sunday is the Historic Preservation Commission's tour of six bed and breakfast establishments to see their decorations - information is available on the Historic Preservation's website. Charles Dickens - shared that the next Aging Advisory Council meeting will be held in Black Mountain at the Lakeview Senior Center on Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup>. All were invited to attend. Jonathan Kanipe - shared that Biltmore Forest had a relatively new event this year by a new committee that was involved in lighting up the Town Hall and Library.

IX. Approval of Minutes from the October Regular Meeting - October Council meeting minutes were made available at the meeting. Mark Burrows made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted and Bob Davy seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously and without further discussion.

X. Consideration and Approval of Consent Agenda Items - Including Item - A. October FY2015 Treasurer's Report. George Morosani made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda item. Brenda Mills seconded the motion which was approved without further discussion.

XI. Presentations/Recognition

A. Wellness Program - Danna Stansbury shared that LOSRC has had a wellness committee for years. That committee has grant funds available through the NC League of Municipalities and uses those funds for wellness activities. She reported to Council that starting in 2015, a 10% fee will be added to individual insurance premiums if staff have not met their wellness requirements. Ms. Stansbury shared that the mission of the Wellness Advisory Committee's has been re-stated to focus on improving employees' health along with driving down healthcare costs. The cost of healthcare benefits have gone up 9% for the current fiscal year. For every dollar that LOSRC spends on its wellness program there is \$3-\$5 return on investment. By participating in the Wellness Initiative, staff are provided with an opportunity to receive a pretty intense report on their health. Ms. Stansbury shared that these assessments brought out some health concerns that Justin was experiencing and he shared that he is now on his way to being a healthy LOSRC staff member. Mr. Hembree shared that this is a great way to educate employees about the benefits of becoming/staying healthy in order to have staff at their peak and to save on healthcare expense. Ms. Stansbury shared the desire to have the wellness program be a top notch program which really benefits staff. The "Hold Your Own Weight Loss Challenge" which began before Thanksgiving and concludes after the New Year was mentioned and it was shared that the winner of that competition will get a day off of work. Additionally, staff that hold their weight or lose weight over the holidays will get a 100% return on their investment of \$10.

B. Introduction to Administrative Support Staff - Mr. Goosmann introduced the next presentation by sharing that LOSRC would begin presenting department staff to Council to allow the opportunity to get to know what staff do for the agency. Ms. Stansbury introduced the Administrative Support Staff : Bonnie Smith-Receptionist, Christina Giles-Webmaster, Special Projects for LOSRC departments, IT support, etc. and Zia Rifkin-Administrative Services for LOSRC Administration and Workforce Development. Administrative Support staff greeted Council and briefly shared some of their job responsibilities.

XII. Old Business -

XIII. New Business -

A. CEDS Committee Update Request - Mr. Hembree shared with Council that a new CEDS committee needs to be established. He stated that this item would be placed back on Council's agenda for the January meeting and no action would be taken today. New members will be sought for the CEDS committee with nominations coming from local government and the private sector.

Mr. Hembree shared that the CEDS is a three-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy that enables our region to identify priority areas for economic and community development initiatives. The CEDS is used by local governments, economic development entities, and partners to leverage strategic investments for our economy and communities.

Mr. Hembree informed Council that the Strategy Committee should be nominated and approved by the LOSRC Board prior to every three-year update to reflect Board composition and our communities. The Strategy Committee will assist staff to guide the process and fully participate in the update. The intention is to really get this committee engaged in the economic development process.

B. NC Department of Transportation: Supplemental Funds for Locally Administered Project Agreement - Mr. Hembree shared that every year LOSRC receives funds from DOT through what is called the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program. These funds are spent and administered through the Clean Cities Programs and the work that Bill Eaker does with that program. Additional funds in the amount of \$30,000 have become available. Council approved the original grant and today approval was being requested to accept these supplemental funds. Monies are multi-regional and include Swain and Haywood counties along with the LOSRC region.

Gene Knoefel made a motion to approve the acceptance of the \$30,000 in supplemental funding through the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program. George Morosani seconded the motion which was approved upon a vote. Discussion occurred regarding the purpose of the funds and it was shared that those would be used as previously approved by Council.

XIV. Executive Director's Report -

A. Finance Director Search Update - Mr. Hembree introduced the new Finance Director, Vickie Thomas to Council. He shared that Ms. Thomas has a wonderful background and that the agency is delighted to have her on-board. LOSRC contracted with Steve Straus and his team at Developmental Associates to conduct the search process in order to fill the finance position. Mr. Hembree thanked the Council members and members of local government who participated on the search committee and the assessment process. He shared that the array of assessors with local government backgrounds were invaluable in conducting the assessments that narrowed down the search until Ms. Thomas was identified as the outstanding candidate for the position.

Ms. Thomas shared that she was very proud to have gone through the process and was happy to be with LOSRC.

Mr. Goosmann stated that it was necessary to approve authorization for Ms. Thomas to be the signatory for the bank accounts. Bob Davy made a motion to approve Ms. Thomas as the LOSRC signatory for the bank accounts. Mark Burrows seconded the motion which was approved upon a vote.

Mr. Hembree clarified that the bank accounts with TD Bank and also the account with the Capital Management Trust Fund were the accounts that Ms. Thomas was being approved as the signatory for.

B. Performance Audit Update - Mr. Hembree reported that plans are moving forward with the implementation of recommendations from the performance audit and that more information would be provided at Council's January meeting. He shared also that Ms. Thomas would be reviewing the Finance Department's recommendations on the matrix.

C. Holiday Closings - Mr. Goosmann shared that LOSRC would be closed December 24, 25, and 26 for the Christmas Holiday and on January 1<sup>st</sup> for New Year.

XV. Important Dates - Mr. Goosmann announced that the next Council meeting would be on Wednesday, January 28<sup>th</sup> at 1pm.

XVI. Adjournment - With no further business before Council, Mr. Goosmann adjourned the meeting.