

**Meeting of
Land-of-Sky Regional Council
May 28, 2014**

MINUTES

- I. Call-to-Order – George Goosmann called the meeting to order.
- II. Invocation – George Goosmann
- III. Pledge of Allegiance
- IV. Roll Call – Bob Davy called the roll and the following members were present: Denise Braine, Gwen Wisler, George Goosmann, Larry Harris, Anne Coletta, Bob Davy, Barbara Volk, Dona Mennella, Gene Knoefel, Charles Dickens, Kathe Harris, Mark Burrows, George Morosani, John Mitchell, and Brenda Mills. Other guests included Brian Pahle and John Connet with the City of Hendersonville.
- V. Modification and Approval of Agenda –
- VI. Public Comment
- VII. Recognition of Special Guests – George Goosmann recognized April Riddle of the Governor's Office and thanked her for attending the meeting.
- VIII. Chairman's Comments & Roundtable –
Anne Coletta shared that Flat Rock is currently working on the budget. Flat Rock's Semi-Annual Shred Day will take place this Saturday, May 31st, 2014 from 10:00 am to noon and the Annual Ice Cream Social is upcoming on June 7th from noon until 4:00 pm and all are welcome. Charles Dickens discussed Older American's Month and commended the staff of the Area Agency on Aging for their excellent and successful work. Barbara Volk shared that Hendersonville's pool is open and that the bears are out for the summer. Hendersonville will be hosting their 2nd Rhythm and Brews on June 19th, 2014 and encouraged all to visit the town. George Goosmann discussed that Biltmore Forest has recently hired a new Town Administrator, who will be stepping in when Nelson Smith retires on August 31st. Bob Davy discussed the grand opening for the Town Hall to occur within the next three weeks, depending on some repaving work that is currently underway. Dona Mennella shared that Laurel Park had their final budget meeting, resulting in a 3 cent tax raise. Laurel Park's Blue Grass on the Rock was very successful over that last weekend. Gene Knoefel discussed that Weaverville has also completed their budget meetings and will lead to an increase in taxes. Weaverville is still in the process of revising their current ordinances and hopes to have changes completed by June. Gwen Wisler shared that Asheville is still working on their budget and will not be raising their taxes this year. Due to prior year tax increases, Asheville will be able to create a new capital plan outlining new opportunities for the city. April Riddle of the Governor's Office shared a Department of Defense medical training event that is taking place in WNC in June, which will provide free medical, dental and vision care, along with veterinary services and will be the largest military training exercise to ever take place on the East Coast. John Mitchell shared that new flags are up in Henderson County buildings and that Henderson County's budget process is still underway, however the County will not be raising taxes.
- IX. Approval of Minutes from the April Regular Meeting– April Council meeting minutes were made available at the meeting. Brenda Mills made a motion to approve the minutes with corrections per Charles Dickens' recommendation and Bob Davy seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously and without further discussion.

- X. Consideration and Approval of Consent Agenda Items – Including: A. April FY 2013-14 Treasurer’s Report, B. Budget Amendment #5, C. Minority Health Equity Sub-Recipient Award, and D. NCCMT Investment Accounts. George Morosani made a motion to accept the consent items and Kathe Harris seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously and without further discussion.
- XI. Presentations/Recognition –
- XII. Old Business –
- XIII. New Business –
- A. EDA Planning Grants: Craft Beverage Industry Analysis – Erica Anderson discussed opportunities for Land of Sky to work with the 45 craft beverage industries across Western Carolina by collecting data related to the value chain for this industry, convene key stakeholders representing brewing companies, their suppliers and distributors, workforce and business development organizations, local governments, and other’s to identify the elements of the value chain. This analysis will enable the development of a strategic economic development plan for the craft beverage industry in WNC that will address needs, gaps, opportunities, and support towards the industry’s growth and development. Mrs. Anderson requested the Council’s approval to pursue funding from the EDA under the Economic Development Assistance Program. Mark Burrows made a motion to approve this item and George Morosani seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously and without further discussion.
- B. Clean Energy Economic Development Roadmap for the Southeast – Linda Giltz discussed a grant that was recently received by the NC Sustainability Energy Association (NC SEA) from the U.S. Department of Energy, who has asked Land of Sky to become a partner and sub-recipient for \$8,000 of the grant funds. The project will produce state and regional roadmaps for the clean energy manufacturing and services sectors to identify ways to grow the clean industry’s contributions to the tax base, employment and exports, and will identify what is needed for the industry to bring existing and new products to the market at affordable prices. While the geographic scope of the project covers Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia, Land of Sky will help gather and provide information on the clean energy sector in WNC. Mrs. Giltz requested authorization from the Board to allow the Executive Director to execute the sub-recipient contract with NC SEA and any related sub-contracts. Mark Burrows made a motion to approve this request, which was seconded by Gene Knoefel. The motion was carried unanimously and without further discussion.
- C. NCDENR Performance Contract with WRP – Terry Albrecht shared that Land of Sky’s Waste Reduction Partners (WRP) program has been asked to provide technical assistance on a statewide effort to educate, promote and support Energy Saving Performance Contracting in the local government, K-12 schools and community college sectors. These contracts will allow governmental units to invest in needed facility upgrades which also reduce operating utility costs. With this one-year contract in FY 2015, in the amount of \$40,000, WRP would revise local government guidance, technically support project development and perform outreach to public sector (statewide) clients about project financing opportunities. Mr. Albrecht requested authorization from the Board to allow the Executive Director to execute this contract with NCDENR. Kathe Harris made a motion to approve this request and George Morosani seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously and without further discussion.
- XIV. Executive Director’s Report –
- A. WNC Mountain Stormwater Conference – The WNC Mountain Stormwater Conference will take place on October 14-15, 2014 and will include workshops by the Center for Watershed Protection for mountain-specific solutions to stormwater management. Tuesday the 14th will feature the 37th Annual Friends of the River Awards Banquet.
- B. Nominations for the 37th Annual Friends of the River Awards - The Friends of the River Award recognizes individuals, private organizations, civic groups, and public agencies that have made a significant contribution toward the restoration and enhancement of the French Broad River and its tributaries as a recreational, economic, or cultural resource. The Council was urged to submit their recipient recommendations to Annie

Sarac at Land of Sky by June 20, 2014. Recipients of the award will be honored during Land of Sky's Friends of the River Dinner on October 14, 2014.

- C. Change of Dates for August and September Council Meetings – Justin Hembree requested that the dates for the August and September Council meetings be changed. The proposed meeting dates include August 20th, 2014 and September 17, 2014. Mr. Hembree will include a formal memo in June's Council meeting to gain Board approval.
- D. State Health Insurance – Mr. Hembree shared that discussions were ongoing with Representative Ramsey about Land of Sky potentially participating in the State's Insurance Plan. Mr. Goosmann shared that the Town of Biltmore Forest saved approximately \$60,000 per year for 26 employees. A bill was filed with the House yesterday that will grant all units of local governments an option to participate in the State's Health Insurance Plan. If the bill is passed, Land of Sky will be looking at this option next year while planning the FY budget to promote savings.
- E. NC Tomorrow – Mr. Hembree introduced Danna Stansbury, who discussed the Statewide Economic Development plan, NC Tomorrow. Ms. Stansbury shared that the plan was developed by COG's across North Carolina over the last five years as a new comprehensive plan for the state. Next week, there will be a press conference on Town Hall Day in Raleigh at 10:00am at the Albert Coates Government Building to share additional information about NC Tomorrow.
- F. NADO – Ms. Stansbury shared that a staff member from NADO, Ted Stiger, will be attending June's Council Meeting to discuss what's going on "on the Hill" and how Land of Sky and local governments will be affected. Impacts on Regional Commission, EDA, Workforce, AAA, Senior Corps, and Volunteer services will be discussed. The Board was strongly encouraged to be present for this discussion.
- G. Budget Recommendations FY2014/15 – Mr. Hembree presented the Council with FY2014-15 recommended budget. The Council adopts budgets at the grant/program level so an itemized list of every active grant to receive funds next fiscal year was presented to the Board. The total recommended budget was at a 20% decrease from the current fiscal year at approximately \$11.4 million with the highest decreases occurring throughout the Economic and Community Development department and Land of Sky's operational funds.

XV. Adjournment –