

**Meeting of
Land of Sky Regional Council
May 27, 2015**

Minutes

- I. Call to Order – George Goosman called the meeting to order at 1:07pm.
- II. Invocation – Charles Dickens gave the invocation.
- III. Pledge of Allegiance -
- IV. Roll Call – Justin Hembree called the roll. The following members were present: Denise Braine, Gwen Wisler, George Goosmann, Jonathan Kanipe, Anne Colletta, Albert Gooch, Bob Davy, Barbara Volk, Alison Melnikova, Lawrence Ponder, Gene Knoefel, George Morosani, Mark Burrows, Charles Dickens, Gaylyn Justice (for Kathe Harris). It was announced that a quorum was not present. Justin Hembree shared that from now on, when the meeting notice is sent out, a call in option will be provided for Council members not able to attend in person.
- V. Modification and Approval of Agenda -
- VI. Public Comment -
- VII. Recognition of Special Guests -
- VIII. Chairman's Comments and Roundtable – Jonathan Kanipe - shared that the Town of Biltmore Forest is finishing up its budget- the public hearing will be held next week. Also, the Town is hosting exchange students to provide them an idea of how local government operates. Mark Burrows - Transylvania County's Planning and Community Development is working on the 20/25 Plan and the County Manager presented a budget that does not have a tax increase. George Morosani - Beer, beer, beer in Buncombe County so between beer and apartments, and hotels going on- there is a group that meets every Wednesday morning to meet the new businesses and hence, the economy around Buncombe County is moving along. Charles Dickens - shared that this is the final week of Older Americans' Month. Across the region there are a number of successful activities for older citizens. Barbara Volk - shared that in Hendersonville the bear's are out and the first *Rhythm and Brews* was Saturday and every weekend through September. Anne Colletta - shared that the Town of Flat Rock is finishing up its budget and June 6th is the free ice cream social. Alison Melnikova - shared that the Town of Laurel Park presented its budget with a 4% increase (mainly dedicated to road maintenance). A survey has just been sent out and staff is eagerly awaiting responses to come in. She also shared that a thank you celebration is planned at the Thirsty Monk-South for Dr. Roger Hartley, the former WCU MPA Program Director. He is leaving WCU to become the Dean of the College of Public Affairs at the University of Boston. Gwen Wisler - shared that the City of Asheville will have its first presentation of the budget which has a 1.5% increase in property taxes and an increase in solid waste fees. Gene Knoefel - shared that in the Town of Weaverville a brewery is planning to begin operations. The Town has finished its budget and it shows no increase which made a lot of people happy; however, that means some capital equipment purchases will have to be deferred. He shared also that the Town has negotiated a \$1.1million dollar contract with Buncombe County to provide fire services and a new town manager should be in place shortly. Bob Davy - shared that the Town of Fletcher has its budget pretty much done and it includes a 1.5 cent increase on the fire tax as those departments are really struggling throughout the whole county. George Goosmann - shared that this Sunday from 5-7pm is a meet and greet picnic.
- IX. Approval of Minutes from the April Regular Meeting – No action taken.
- X. Consideration and Approval of Consent Agenda Items – No action taken.
 - A. April FY2015 Treasurer's Reports

B. FY 2015 Budget Amendment #4
C. January & February Meeting Minutes

- XI. Presentations/Recognition – Vickie Thomas, Finance Director presented the proposed LOSRC FY2015-16 Budget for Council's information and consideration. She directed Council's attention to the Summary page and shared that there is a total 1% decrease in the overall budget. AAA/Volunteer Services funding is pretty stable from year to year. Workforce Development (WFD) saw a hefty decrease (27%) which is being addressed as efficiently as possible. Economic and Community Development (ECD) saw a decrease as well (28%). The large increase in the administrative funds available in FY15-16 is being driven by the Buncombe County NEMT contract. She continued by sharing that the level of funds received from Membership Dues will remain at the same level as currently and that 80% of the dues go to required match for other funds. The proposed FY15-16 budget was reviewed with the Executive Committee this morning. Public notice will be posted to gather public comment and to announce the Budget Hearing which will be held during the June 24th Council meeting.

Mr. Hembree shared that Ms. Thomas has put in many, many hours to develop the proposed budget for FY15-16. Also, Workforce Development is working to develop a plan in order to continue to operate relevant programs in the four-county region. He shared also the need to make sure that partners in the private and public sector are on-board to make programs as relevant as possible. Bringing on the call center services has helped to shore-up the administrative fund which is used for day to day operations.

Discussion occurred regarding the ease of reading the proposed FY15-16 budget. Also discussed was the impact to Workforce Development and it was shared that staffing cuts will be made in order to work within the funding available. Mr. Hembree mentioned that Phil Monk, Director for Workforce Development met with the Workforce Development Board yesterday where information was shared regarding the reduction in funding and that the real impact will be that less funding lessens the number of people that can take advantage of workforce development services. The improving economy in the four-county region was discussed as that effects the level of workforce development funds that flow to the region and that North Carolina as a whole received less funding for workforce development services as the State's unemployment rate is low. Regarding the funding reduction for ECD, it was shared that the level of anticipated funds was not built into the budget. Certainly that number can grow throughout the year as more grant funds are received. Council also expressed appreciation to Ms. Thomas for her excellent work.

Ms. Thomas shared that an RFP was released for a three year contract for an outside auditor – Elizabeth Keel, CPA brought in a bid of \$19000 and LOS Administration will continue services with that accounting firm.

Mr. Goosmann mentioned that Wayne Brigman will be replaced on Executive Committee by Larry Harris when the Officers' slate is presented next month.

- XII. Old Business -

A. Election of Executive Committee & Officers – No action taken

- XIII. New Business – No action taken; however, staff did provide information on the agenda items.

A. Operation Fan/Heat Relief Funding – LeeAnne Tucker, AAA Director shared that grant funds in the amount of \$5029 have been received from the NC Division of Aging and Adult Services. Electric fans purchased with the funding will be distributed through the Councils on Aging (Buncombe and Henderson Counties) and in Transylvania County by WCCA.

B. Minority Health Equity Sub-Recipient Award - Stephanie Stewart shared with Council that a sub-recipient award in the amount of \$17086 is anticipated to be received from Buncombe County DHHS for the period June 1, 2015 through May 31, 2016. The funds are used to support the Chronic Disease Self-Management Program, the Diabetes Self Management Program and the Tomando Control de Su Salud (for minority

communities in the county). Funds are also used to support a network of providers and referrals to other community supports and services.

C. Living Healthy: Chronic Disease Self-Management Program Workshop Sponsorship - Ms. Stewart shared that Madison County Health Consortium is prepared to sponsor a Healthy Living Workshop in the county. The agency has issued payment in the amount of \$1557 to LOSRC to administer as pass through funds for workshop costs.

D. Senior Community Service Employment (SCSEP) Program - Program Year 15/16 Grant Application - John Connell, SCSEP Coordinator addressed Council and shared that the grant proposal to allow continued funding for the SCSEP has been submitted. The SCSEP will fund 19 participants in work experience with public sector employers and the notification of grant award has been received.

Mr. Hembree reminded Council that action items on today's agenda will be handled by the Executive Committee prior to the next meeting in order not to delay these grant funds.

Danna Stansbury, Deputy Executive Director shared the date for the Annual Meeting (Wednesday, October 14th) which will be held at the Asheville Ballroom. The other event coming up is the Shred Event coming up on June 12th here in the parking lot at LOS. She invited Council and guests to participate

XIV. Executive Director's Report -

A. Strategic Plan – Survey has been sent out. Respondents to the survey ranked the top strategic priorities: develop a clear, consistent public message; use of discretionary funds; and, expand the technical skill set of professional staff. Mr. Hembree mentioned the meeting break in July and that staff is looking at the August meeting to bring the strategic priorities back to Council for review. Board member input is especially important and is being sought throughout the process. Link to survey will be re-distributed.

B. Health Insurance – We like all other organizations continue to struggle with the costs associated with providing health insurance to employees. Two points of good news – 1) could be some movement to allow LOS to participate in the State's health insurance plan and in the interim period, we've received a really good quote/proposal from Crescent Health Solutions which could end up saving us a good bit of money. We would be able to actualize some cost savings and still bring a really good product to staff. Still crunching numbers in the budget – if more detail is needed or any there are questions, please contact administrative staff. Mr. Hembree shared that the public hearing for the adoption of the budget will be scheduled for the next Council meeting.

Lyuba Zuyeva, Transportation Director introduced Alexandra Zepp the newest member of the Transportation Resource Center (NEMT Call Center).

XIV. Important Dates – Next meeting date is June 24, 2015 at 1:00pm. Mr. Goosmann encouraged Council members to be here and to encourage colleagues to attend as well.

Mr. Hembree thanked everyone for being at today's meeting. Calls will be made prior to next month's meeting to assure that a quorum is present.

XV. Adjournment – Mr. Goosmann adjourned the meeting.