

**Meeting of
Land of Sky Regional Council
August 26, 2015**

Minutes

- I. Call to Order - George Goosmann called the meeting to order at approximately 1:00pm.
- II. Invocation - The invocation was given by Chairman Goosmann.
- III. Pledge of Allegiance
- IV. Roll Call - The roll was called by Gene Knoefel. The following members were present: Miranda DeBruhl, Mike Hawkins, Gwen Wisler, George Goosmann, Jonathan Kanipe (v), Larry Harris, Anne Coletta (v), Albert Gooch, Bob Davy, Steve Caraker, Dona Mennella, Gene Knoefel, Brenda Mills, George Morosani, Ryan Cody, Charles Dickens, Gaylyn Justice (Alternate for Kathe Harris). The following guests were present: April Riddle, Selena Coffey (Manager, Town of Weaverville), Colton Overcash (Western Region Representative for Senator Thom Tillis), and PJ Dillingham. It was announced that a quorum was present.
- V. Modification and Approval of Agenda - Charles Dickens made a motion to approve the agenda without modification. Brenda Mills seconded the motion which was unanimously approved upon a vote.
- VI. Public Comment - No public comment was heard.
- VII. Recognition of Special Guests - Mr. Goosmann recognized April Riddle, the Governor' Western Region Representative and Colton Overcash, Western Region Representative for Senator Thom Tillis. Mr. Overcash shared that he was eager to begin his work and happy to be representing the citizens of this area.
- VIII. Chairman's Comments and Roundtable - Jonathan Kanipe- the Town of Biltmore Forest is working on modernization with IT upgrades to the VC3 Virtual Office (Cloud platform) and hence, is working through lots of technical issues. Charles Dickens- shared that the Aging Advisory Council met at Silvermont in Brevard for its July meeting, which is a fine place for senior activities. Anne Coletta- shared that the Village of Flat Rock has opened the Welcome Center at the new park. All are invited to the Grand Opening on September 15th. She shared on upcoming events in Flat Rock including the Fall into Flat Rock 5-K Run and 1-Mile Walk coming up on October 17th. She also shared that Flat Rock did not pass a resolution on the Duke Energy power lines as stated by the Times-News- it was Laurel Park. April Riddle- shared that the Governor's Office is waiting on the budget and that the issue of sales tax redistribution is on every one's radar. Larry Harris- shared that all are happy and content in Black Mountain. Miranda DeBruhl- shared that the Buncombe County Commission and Asheville City Council held a joint, non-business meeting last week for an overview of joint projects. Future meetings will review the sales tax issue and the County is waiting on those sales tax numbers from Raleigh. Ryan Cody- shared that he is newly appointed to Council as the Economic Development representative for Madison County. Gaylyn Justice- reported that Volunteer Services staff will be participating in the 9/11 Day of Service. This year senior volunteers will be collecting children's books. Albert Gooch- shared about the Time-News misprint. Gwen Wisler- shared that the City of Asheville will be filling up a new time capsule which will be sealed until 2115 in the base of the Vance Monument on September 18th. She also shared that the new APD Chief has been sworn into office. Gene Knoefel- introduced Selena Coffey, Weaverville's new Town Manager. He shared that the Town Council has an issue of contention on the usage of Town facilities-when those are used, how they are used, etc. a workshop has been held on this issue. He also shared about two upcoming events: the Art in Autumn festival is coming up on September 19th and the Fall Art Safari will be the weekend of October 24th. Both are great reasons to come to Weaverville. Dona Mennella- shared that the Town of Laurel Park staff were surprised by her roundtable comments from the June meeting minutes (now corrected). She also shared that the Town passed a resolution against Duke Energy's proposed routes for its power lines and that Council members up

for re-election are running unopposed. Bob Davy- shared that the Town of Fletcher has two Council members running unopposed. The Town is also starting its second effort with Blue Ridge Community College (BRCC) and is allowing the college to hold classes in the new Town Hall. Fletcher has also been involved very heavily in the Duke transmission line issue and a meeting was held on Monday night where the Town Council passed their resolution which was broadcast by the media. Another meeting will be held Thursday night at BRCC with Duke staff available to answer questions. Based on some feedback from Monday night's meeting it sounds like municipalities are joining together to fight the planned route for the transmission lines. The formula that the State allows Duke to use to compensate people is inadequate as it does not compensate property owners adequately. George Goosmann- shared about SB 369 (sales tax redistribution) and the potential loss of revenue if the Bill becomes law. Biltmore Forest would be affected heavily as would all municipalities in Buncombe County, which would face revenue losses.

- IX. Approval of Minutes from the June Regular Meeting - The June meeting minutes were revised prior to the August Council meeting at Dona Mennella's request to correct her comments during the roundtable. A motion to approve the revised June meeting minutes was made by Mr. Davy and seconded by Ms. Mennella. The motion was approved upon a vote and without further discussion.
- X. Consideration and Approval of Consent Agenda Items - A motion was made by Mr. Dickens to approve the Consent Agenda including items: A) July FY2015 Treasurer's Report; and B) Community Resource Connections/Local Contact Agency (CRC/LCA) - Service Provider Contracts for FY 2015-2016. A second was provided by Mr. Knoefel. The motion was approved upon a vote without discussion.
- XI. Presentations/Recognition -
A. Draft Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) and Public Notice - Erica Anderson, Director of Economic and Community Development took the opportunity introduce staffing changes and new staff within the ECD Department: Lyuba Zuyeva is the new MPO Director, Vicki Jennings is the new Transportation Manager; the NEMT Transportation Resource Center has two new staff- Tequila Merriweather and Wendy Campbell and NEMT staff Zack Schmidt has transitioned into an accounting position with the Call Center.
Ms. Anderson presented the Draft CEDS 2015-2019 to Council and shared that it has been posted to the LOS website for public comment. Access the Draft CEDS: http://www.landofsky.org/pdf/LGS/CEDS_2015.pdf. Ms. Anderson shared that Council will be requested to adopt the CEDS at the September meeting.
Discussion occurred regarding distribution plans for the Draft CEDS so that all of the relevant folks have an opportunity to review the plan. The draft has been provided to as many folks as possible and it has been requested that the plan be widely distributed.
- B. Award Nominations: Annual Celebration & 38th Annual Friends of the River - Danna Stansbury shared that Council members will find three nomination forms with their agenda packet and also on the LOS website. The Annual Celebration & 38th Annual Friends of the River dinner is October 14th and everyone needs to be there. Joe McKinney is the keynote speaker and is scheduled to give a State of the Region address at the event. Karen Cragolin will be the keynote speaker for the Friends of the River portion of the event. Invitations will be sent out soon.
- XII. Old Business -
- XIII. New Business -
- XIV. Executive Director's Report -
A. Strategic Plan - Justin Hembree shared that staff is working to put the Strategic Plan into a cohesive format. With input received from the Executive Committee and Council, the plan will focus on three areas: 1) Diversify funding streams; 2) Develop a clear and consistent public message/Increase legislative outreach;

and 3) Expand services/Develop innovative services. A presentation of the plan will be made at a future Council meeting.

B. Council Bylaws - The Executive Committee received a draft copy of the proposed Bylaws at their meeting earlier today. Staff will be distributing a side-by-side copy of the current and proposed Bylaws in September and the full Council will be considering those for adoption in October.

C. State Health Plan - The State will be accepting up to 10,000 new enrollees to the State Health Plan (SHP). LOS has already adopted its Resolution of Intent and that has been received by the SHP. The Administrative staff is now waiting on the Memorandum of Understanding (currently being drafted) which will allow the staffs of the Regional Councils to become SHP members and then we can move forward. Based on the numbers we have now, the SHP will save us approximately \$300 per month per employee which is a potential \$100,000 savings and provides us more stable footing since we'll be in a larger insurance pool.

Mr. Hembree shared that Phil Monk, Director for Workforce Development will be retiring in December. LOS staff will be working with the Workforce Board to find a new Workforce Director. The job opening will be posted soon.

- XIV. Important Dates - Mr. Goosmann announced that the September Council meeting will be held on the 23rd of that month and he reminded Council that the Annual Celebration & Friends of the River Banquet will be October 14th at the Asheville Ballroom.
- XV. Adjournment - Mr. Goosmann adjourned the meeting with no further business before Council.