

**Meeting of
Land of Sky Regional Council
February 25, 2015**

Minutes

- I. Call to Order - George Goosmann called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.
- II. Invocation - Charles Dickens gave the invocation.
- III. Pledge of Allegiance -
- IV. Roll Call – Bob Davy called the roll. The following members were present: Miranda DeBruhl (primary), Denise Braine, Glen Engram, George Goosmann (primary), Jonathan Kanipe, Ryan Stone, Anne Coletta, Bob Davy, Barbara Volk, Dona Mennella, Lawrence Ponder, Gene Knoefel, Charles Dickens, Kathe Harris, John Mitchell, and Mark Burrows. The following guests were present: Roger Kumpf (Congressman McHenry’s Representative), and Jeff Staudinger (City of Asheville). It was announced that a quorum was not present. New business items were addressed through Executive Committee action (attached).
- V. Modification and Approval of Agenda -
- VI. Public Comment -
- VII. Recognition of Special Guests - Mr. Goosmann recognized Roger Kumpf with Congressman Patrick McHenry’s Office.
- VIII. Chairman’s Comments and Roundtable – Mr. Goosmann recognized Vicki Jennings, Coordinator for the Senior Companion Program, who introduced LOSRC’s new RSVP Coordinator, Anne Whisenhunt, recently from Charleston, SC where she performed much the same duties. LeeAnne Tucker introduced Nancy Smith-Hunnicut, who has formerly worked as an Ombudsman for 14 years with LOSRC.

In the interest of getting the meeting done before the winter weather moved in Mr. Goosmann invited members to report on items of importance, or to pass. Justin Hembree reported that Gene Knoefel was appointed to serve as a representative to the Senior Tar Heel Legislature (STHL).

- IX. Approval of Minutes from the January Regular Meeting - No action taken.
- X. Consideration and Approval of Consent Agenda Items - No action taken.
 - A. January FY2015 Treasurer’s Report
- XI. Presentations/Recognition -
 - A. Kathleen Godwin Cole Award: Nominations Open - Ms. Jennings shared with the Council the history of the Kathleen Godwin Cole Award and the person behind that honor. A nomination form is included in the Council packet and those are due to the appropriate Aging staff by the end of March. LOSRC volunteers aged 55 and up are eligible to be nominated. The award presentation will take place during the Council meeting in April.
 - B. Regional Housing Needs Assessment - Jeff Staudinger, Assistant Director, Community & Economic Development Department with the City of Asheville presented information regarding the 2014 Housing Needs Assessment. He shared that the assessment provides a very comprehensive report on the housing market needs of Asheville and the four-county LOSRC region. The City of Asheville as the

participating jurisdiction member of the Asheville Regional Housing Consortium contracted with Bowen National Research for a professional housing market study. The assessment establishes the top needs of the housing market and Mr. Staudinger shared that the results are on the City's website and copies will be distributed to the four-counties so they can provide the assessment results to their citizens. (Presentation included with minutes).

Mr. Staudinger shared how Council could find out more information and during subsequent discussion, it was shared that all sites within the survey area currently under construction were included in the survey. Voluntary partnerships are being pursued with private sector developers to grow the affordable housing stock. During discussion regarding the needs that municipalities with less resources have around finding resources to do housing studies Mr. Staudinger stated his willingness to speak at public meetings. More information will be shared with Council on ways to deal with the issue of having enough affordable housing.

C. Clean Cities: Building Partnerships to Cut Petroleum Use in Transportation - Technical difficulties were announced with regards to showing the videos and that in the interest of moving quickly, this presentation would be re-scheduled for the March Council meeting.

D. LOSRC Audited FY2013/14 Financial Statements - Elizabeth Keel provided an overview of the agency's audited financial statements for FY2013/14. Ms. Keel noted that, as in past years, there were no audit "findings" and the organization's compliance with federal and state was adequate.

Mr. Goosmann shared that a copy of the audit will be emailed out to Council members. Mr. Hembree shared that Council can review the audited report at their leisure and direct questions/comments/concerns to the appropriate staff. He shared that LOSRC's ability to provide compliance with grant requirements is what the agency does which can be a much more comprehensive process than what municipalities usually have to go through and he shared his appreciation for the hard work done by Vickie Thomas, LOSRC's Finance Director.

XII. Old Business -

XIII. New Business - No action taken. See attached minutes of Executive Committee.

A. NC Culture Change Coalition Enhancement Grant - Ruth Price, Lead Regional Ombudsman

B. Buncombe County Medicaid Transportation Services Contract & FY2015 Budget Amendment #3 - Erica Anderson, Director of Economic & Community Development & Vickie Thomas, Finance Director

XIV. Executive Director's Report -

A. S.W.O.T. Analysis - Mr. Hembree shared the results of the S.W.O.T. (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis conducted during the Leadership retreat. He shared that the next step will be to send out the survey to member governments, stakeholders, etc. to define weaknesses/strengths (which can be each at the same time). Results will be shared with Council as the strategic planning process proceeds.

B. NC Tomorrow Summit - Mr. Hembree directed Council's attention to the information regarding the NC Tomorrow 2015 Summit planned for April 27th and 28th. He stated his desire to get the information out to Council as this will primarily be a conference about economic and community development. The conference will offer a mix of government and private sector leaders that will offer best practices, case studies and skill-building workshops for attendees. Mr. Hembree shared with Council that the Summit will have plenary sessions divided up by urban issues and rural issues as the conference was developed for both urban and rural representatives. The NC Department of Commerce is partnering with the NC Association of Regional

Councils of Governments (NCRCOG) for the Summit and will provide information on CDBG grants and how to apply for those funds. Registration is currently open for the event.

C. Proposal to Eliminate EDA – Mr. Hembree shared that this issue comes up nearly every year in the US House of Representatives where legislation is introduced to eliminate the EDA. In our region, multiple projects have been accomplished with EDA funds (i.e. Craft Beer Project in LOSRC region). NADO has asked that our members of the House of Representatives be contacted to share concerns about the legislation, and to ask that they do not co-sponsor this legislation. Mr. Hembree shared that the challenge is to tell the stories of the positive impacts of these funds and he referred Council members to talking points provided by NADO. Mr. Hembree shared that there is local skin in the game with these funds and it's important for Representatives McHenry and Meadows to hear from regional leadership. If our voices are not heard, it will be a difficult case to make to not eliminate the EDA.

D. Executive Committee/Officer Nominations – Mr. Goosmann shared that the Executive Committee has discussed leaving the Officers as they stand for another year. Mr. Hembree shared that having Officers serve for two years would be a more optimal position for Council to be in- if the Officers were willing to serve- as there are many things coming up in the next year (the Strategic Plan; a planned, major re-write of the by-laws; transitions within the agency, etc.). Mr. Hembree shared that he will email out a report and he stated that the Executive Committee was willing to accept new members, and if there were folks that really wanted to serve, those names should be submitted for consideration. It was reiterated that Executive Committee meetings are open meetings and everyone is welcome to attend. No action needs to be taken on this now and more info will be provided prior to any decisions being made. Mr. Hembree concluded by sharing that the committee was not opposed to change.

XV. Important Dates – Mr. Goosmann announced that the March Council meeting will be held on the 18th.

XVI. Adjournment - Mr. Goosmann adjourned the meeting.