

Black Hills Council of Local Governments

Meeting Minutes - April 23, 2009

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gary Brown, Anne Cassens, Eddie Clay, Al Dial, Deb Hadcock, Dayle Hammock, Stan Harms, Rex Harris, Daryl Johnson, Lloyd LaCroix, Joe McFarland, Karen Gundersen Olson, Sherry Scudder and Dean Wagner

MEMBERS ABSENT: Karen Bulman, Rolf Kraft, Tom Nelson, Joe Peterson, David Schneider, James Turner and Cindy York

PROXIES PRESENT: Bryan Walker for Doug Schmit

GUESTS PRESENT: Don DeVries, Mayor, Hot Springs; Tim Potts, USDA Rural Development; and Mike Derby, Black Hills Vision

STAFF PRESENT: Blaise Emerson, Bill Lass, Denise Livingston and Lola Lincoln

Chairperson Scudder called the regular meeting of the Black Hills Council of Local Governments to order at 7:00 P.M. Roll call was taken with fourteen (14) members and one (1) proxy in attendance; a quorum was declared present.

MINUTES

MEMBER McFARLAND MOVED FOR APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 22, 2009 MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED; MEMBER LaCROIX SECONDED, AND THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

REPORTS

Black Hills Vision Update - Mr. Mike Derby updated Board Members on past projects/concerns addressed by Black Hills Vision (removing Ellsworth AFB from the Base Closure List, funding the Black Hills Business Incubator, supporting the Air Service Task Force at Rapid City Regional Airport, supporting an affordable housing land trust program and supporting the underground science and engineering laboratory in the Homestake Mine). Executive Director Emerson advised that the Black Hills Vision Executive Committee had not yet agreed upon a proposal to the Black Hills Council regarding the assumption of some managerial duties for Black Hills Vision at a fee of \$1,000 per month for the remainder of 2009. Since the Council meets quarterly, he asked Board Members to authorize the Management Committee to meet and review the proposal upon receipt and decide whether or not it was something the Council should undertake.

MEMBER HAMMOCK MOVED TO AUTHORIZE A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL'S MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOR THE PURPOSE OF REVIEWING AND APPROVING A PROPOSAL FROM BLACK HILLS VISION FOR MANAGERIAL DUTIES BY COUNCIL STAFF FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2009 AT A FEE OF \$1,000 PER MONTH; MEMBER CLAY SECONDED, AND THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

USDA Rural Development - Mr. Tim Potts briefly addressed the *American Recovery Act* and provided insight as to how stimulus funds impacted the various grant and loan programs available through Rural Development.

Mr. Emerson reported on potential changes in the Council's relationship with Rural Development in that Council Staff will be working more closely with them in the combining of various funding sources available to communities as well as with the administration of projects, and he encouraged Members to contact Mr. Potts with their questions.

OLD BUSINESS

Black Hills Council Financial Report - Mr. Emerson reviewed with Board Members the year-to-date financial report, advising he was very comfortable with where the Council was budget wise. With the influx of stimulus monies at the state level, he reported that he expected additional local contracts resulting from funding of projects by the State of South Dakota through the State Revolving Loan Fund for water and sewer projects and through the Community Development Block Grant Fund.

Adoption of Revised Personnel Policies - Mr. Emerson recalled for Board Members some of the highlights of the updated personnel policies discussed at the last meeting, and there being no additional questions or comments from Members, he asked for a motion of approval.

MEMBER McFARLAND MOVED TO APPROVE THE REVISED PERSONNEL POLICIES AS PRESENTED AT THE BOARD'S JANUARY MEETING; MEMBER CLAY SECONDED, AND THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Theodore Roosevelt Expressway/Ports-to-Plains Expressway - The Theodore Roosevelt Expressway is that section from Belle Fourche north to the Canadian border, advised Mr. Emerson, and the Ports-to-Plains Expressway goes south to Mexico. He said the Black Hills Business Council had authorized participation in a recent meeting in Washington, D.C. with the Department of Transportation and Congressional representatives to discuss supporting these expressways and keeping them moving forward. Member Clay outlined their importance to economic development in the area and stressed his strong support of them.

NEW BUSINESS

2010 Census - Mr. Emerson reiterated the importance of a complete and accurate account of citizens in all communities saying, "*From an income side, you're either grant eligible or not grant eligible, and in a small community--it only takes a couple of households to really throw those counts off.*" He said if Members wanted the Census Bureau to come and make a presentation at a future meeting, he would make arrangements, but if communities wanted presentations on a local level, he asked Members to let him know so he could provide them with contact information for the local Census Office in Rapid City.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Economic Development Administration (EDA) Additional Funding - Executive Director Emerson called attention to information in the board packets regarding this topic. He said the Council had received a one-time increase in funding in the amount of \$13,840 and asked for a motion authorizing the Chairperson to sign the application.

MEMBER HADCOCK MOVED TO AUTHORIZE CHAIRPERSON SCUDDER TO SIGN THE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE SF-425 REFLECTING THE ONE-TIME \$13,840 INCREASE IN FUNDING FROM THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION; MEMBER HARRIS SECONDED, AND THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Black Hills Council Newsletter - Mr. Emerson reported that Staff Members Lass and Livingston had done the majority of work on the first issue of the Council's quarterly newsletter and asked that any Members wanting to be included in an emailing of upcoming issues provide their addresses to Council Staff (394-2681).

Black Hills Council Website - Concerning the website, Mr. Emerson reported this should be operational in the next two or three weeks.

Next Meeting Date of Council - The next meeting is scheduled for July 2, 2009, and will include a presentation by Department of Transportation Staff regarding the **2010-2014 Tentative Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)**. This input will provide Council Members with insight for addressing their concerns at a public meeting scheduled for July 16, 2009, at the Rapid City Ramkota Hotel at 7:00 P.M.

Black Hills Community Economic Development Newsletter - Mr. Emerson provided Board Members with copies of this newsletter that announced the May 8th Annual Banquet, at which time Messrs. Van Lindquist and Bob DeMersseman will be honored for their dedication and contributions to economic development and planning in the Black Hills region.

ITEMS FROM CITIZENS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Ms. Gundersen-Olson and Mr. LaCroix outlined for Board Members a program presented by Governor Rounds to promote and encourage individuals who have lost their jobs to pursue additional training at no cost to them thereby allowing them to be better prepared when jobs come back on line as the economy improves.

BILLS

Bills paid for the Months of January through April 2009 were presented to Board Members, with no action being required.

ADJOURNMENT

MEMBER HADCOCK MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:20 P.M.; MEMBER HARRIS SECONDED, AND THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles E. Clay
Secretary