

Black Hills Council of Local Governments

Meeting Minutes – January 22, 2009

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gary Brown, Karen Bulman, Anne Cassens, Eddie Clay, Deb Hadcock, Dayle Hamock, Stan Harms, Rex Harris, Daryl Johnson, Lloyd LaCroix, Joe McFarland, Karen Gundersen Olson, David Schneider and Dean Wagner

MEMBERS ABSENT: Al Dial, Rolf Kraft, Tom Nelson, Joe Peterson, Doug Schmit, Sharon Scudder, James Turner and Cindy York

GUESTS PRESENT: Steve Harding, Governor's Office of Economic Development and Jim Doolittle, Black Hills Community Economic Development

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

In the absence of Chairperson Scudder and a vacancy in the Vice-Chairperson's position, the regular meeting of the Black Hills Council of Local Governments was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by past Chairperson McFarland. Roll call was taken with fourteen (14) members in attendance, and a quorum was declared present.

MINUTES

MEMBER HARRIS MOVED FOR APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 23, 2008 MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED; MEMBER LaCROIX SECONDED, AND THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

REPORTS

Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) – Mr. Harding reviewed for Council Members CDBG development programs (community project account, special project account and urgent need or imminent threat account) administered through the State of South Dakota, as well as providing some historical information on grants made over the years and administered by the Black Hills Council. He commended Council Staff for doing an excellent job in meeting the Federal requirements of the CDBG Program, advising they were statutory and could not be waived by the State. Funding has decreased by about \$200,000 yearly since 2000-2001; currently, the State receives \$6-7 million for the year. Funding cycles have change and applications are now accepted anytime instead of three times a year, and this year the imminent threat account was eliminated for lack of use. He advised the Council was paid on a per-project basis by the State for project administration but separate from that contract there was another with each of the planning district into which it is written that the planning districts will administer the CDBG projects for the State. Previously, all the State could do was encourage local governments to use the planning districts for project administration, but the contract now states **the planning districts will perform that task.**

Black Hills Community Economic Development, Inc. – Executive Director Emerson introduced Mr. Doolittle advising he would outline the purpose of his organization and that because of similarities to the Council's services, they had been discussing how the two organizations could better work together. Mr. Doolittle outlined for Board Members various accomplishments of his organization resulting from its loan funding programs. He said they were trying to strengthen communities in their territory by strengthening

the businesses in those communities and could hopefully pool knowledge and possibly staff with the Council to avoid a duplication of effort at some point in the future.

OLD BUSINESS

Black Hills Council Financial Report – Mr. Emerson reviewed with Board Members his year-end financial report, advising that because of additional expenses in 2008 (Mr. Lindquist’s retirement party and the purchase of a new computer), there was a deficit of just under a thousand dollars. Originally, a computer was budgeted for 2009 but because of a newly hired staff person in November and the resulting need for a computer, the purchase was made with 2008 funds. Overall, he said he was very comfortable with where the Council was budget wise.

NEW BUSINESS

Election of Officers – Member McFarland reported that Council Officers are elected for a two-year period and at the end of the first year, there is an affirmation by the membership for a second year. Because Member Curt Nupen, who has been serving as Vice-Chairperson, is no longer on the Meade County Commission and consequently not reappointed to the Council, Member Wagner from Harding County agreed to serve on behalf of the counties. Mr. McFarland advised the new slate of officers included Sharon Scudder as Chairperson, Dean Wagner as Vice-Chairperson, Eddie Clay as Secretary and Stan Harms as Treasurer.

MEMBER BULMAN MOVED TO RETAIN THE CURRENT OFFICERS WITH MEMBER WAGNER APPOINTED AS THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON; MEMBER LaCROIX SECONDED, AND THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Black Hills Vision – Mr. Emerson outlined for Board Members the activity leading up to his being approached to coordinate efforts to keep Black Hills Vision viable. He felt it was very important to do so because it is one of the few organizations that brings the private sector, public sector and universities together to discuss issues centered around what the area will look like in the next 5-50 years, and he placed great importance on “*keeping that visioning going forward.*” As a result of a Management Committee Meeting prior to the meeting, he said the consensus was that his services and that of other Council Staff could not be done without reimbursement or approval of the full membership, and he thought it was worthwhile to pursue the matter and come back to the Board with a formal agreement for the Board’s decision at a later time. He thought more information would be available by the Council’s April 23rd meeting for further consideration at that time if appropriate, and the consensus of the membership was that he should move forward with the matter.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Economic Development Administration (EDA) Resolution of Support – Mr. Emerson reported that this was a resolution of support tied to a grant from the EDA and was one that was passed yearly.

MEMBER LaCROIX MOVED TO PASS THE EDA RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT AS PRESENTED AND AUTHORIZE SIGNATURE BY CHAIRMAN SCUDDER; MEMBER CLAY SECONDED, AND THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Resolution to Adopt Revised Personnel Policies –

MEMBER HADCOCK MOVED TO CONTINUE ADOPTION OF THE REVISED PERSONNEL POLICIES TO THE APRIL 23RD MEETING; MEMBER HAMMOCK SECONDED, AND THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Resolution Regarding Surplus Property –

MEMBER WAGNER MOVED TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION DECLARING SURPLUS PROPERTY AS PRESENTED; MEMBER BROWN SECONDED, AND THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ITEMS FROM CITIZENS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None

BILLS

Bills paid for the Months of October 2008 through January 2009 were presented to Board Members, with no action being required.

ADJOURNMENT

Past Chairman McFarland declared the meeting adjourned at 8:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles E. Clay
Secretary