

**TOURISM EXPENDITURE REVIEW COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
June 28, 2004
VIA CONFERENCE CALL, 9:00 a.m.**

ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members Participating: Frans Mustert, Chairman, John Curry, Suzette Surkamer, Susan Cruse, Toni Nance, Rod Swaim.

Staff Participating: Damita Jeter, TERC Staff.

CALL TO ORDER /ADMINISTRATIVE TASKS/UPDATES:

- **Minutes:** The Committee motioned to approve the May 17, 2004 meeting minutes as submitted.
- **Legislative Changes:** Mrs. Jeter forwarded a copy of correspondence between Mr. Sponseller and Chairman Mustert to the Committee members, which contained explanation of the reason for TERC's legislation not passing this session. Mr. Sponseller said that filibusters in the Senate led to many items not being passed. He suggested TERC regroup for next year and use the bill that John Hoefler drafted, divide it into two or three smaller bills and have the House Tourism Budget Subcommittee introduce it in December. The Committee agreed to keep this item as one of its top priorities and continue to ask Mr. Sponseller and John Hoefler for further guidance as next year's session approaches.
- **Florence County Update:** Mrs. Jeter forwarded the Committee members a copy of Mr. Hoefler's update, which included the latest happenings with Florence County vs. TERC. The latest correspondence was a proposed order drafted by Mr. Hoefler. (During the conference call, Mr. Hoefler sent Mrs. Jeter an email indicating the ALJD had ruled in TERC's favor and upheld its original decision to withhold funds. Mrs. Jeter will provide copies of the ruling to everyone during TERC's August meeting.)

REVIEWED BY SUSAN CRUSE/DAVID WARREN:

- **City of Aiken:** The City continues to ask for extensions. TERC said they would have until the end of the week to provide information about questionable expenditures, or the Committee would request funds be withheld.
- **City of Greenwood:** The Committee approved the City's correspondence that answered questions regarding various imbalances and discrepancies between the detail form and reporting form. A letter will be drafted telling them.
- **City of Clemson:** The Committee voted to withhold funds for the following two projects: **Cadillac Heights Community - \$2,000.00, City of Clemson Administration - \$500.00.** Both of these were deemed to benefit the local community more so than tourists.
- **Oconee County:** Upon review it seems that the County funded \$700 to the local Boy Scouts to assist in cleaning up and beautification of populated entrances within the county. However, the funds were given to the organization and the work was never completed. The

local a-tax chair sent correspondence requesting TERC's opinion on any further action that should be taken. The Committee voted to withhold the \$700 on the basis that it was an inappropriate expenditure because beautification projects are normally handled by the County. TERC also suggested the County contact the authorities. The Lazy Daisy Garden Club projects and the PRT projects were approved.

- **City of Greer** – the Committee approved this City's explanation of its imbalances and the disbursement of its 30% funds.
- **City of Simpsonville** – Upon review, the Committee voted to withhold funds in the amount of \$16,500 based on the tourist impact information provided to them about the South Greenville Fair.
- **City of Easley:** The City has still not remitted correspondence to the Committee regarding various questionable expenditures the Committee had. The Committee voted to give the city one more week, or it would request funds be withheld.

REVIEWED BY JOHN CURRY/MARK WILLIAMS

- **City of Columbia:** The City resubmitted its corrected report as TERC had requested.
- **City of N. Myrtle Beach:** The Committee was reviewing the local accommodations tax committee members for compliance in their makeup. After review, the Committee voted to send the City letter stating it believed the current makeup was inappropriate and to appoint true hospitality industry employees to the committee.
- **Horry County:** The County has asked for another extension to provide additional information about the nonprofit status and tourist impact of a local boat show. TERC voted to draft a letter telling the County that it needed to remit the requested information within a week or it would request funds be withheld. Mr. Rod Swaim abstained from voting.
- **Town of Springdale:** John Curry requested the Committee once again review the Town's expenditure report and email Mrs. Jeter feedback on what expenditures it would deem appropriate.
- **York County:** The Committee voted to request the County's local accommodation tax committee become compliant within 30 days or it may find future disbursements in noncompliance.
- **City of Sumter/Sumter County:** TERC had originally questioned the CVB's involvement in funding. It seemed as though all funds are disbursed to the CVB. The CVB wrote back saying all of its funding went through the local accommodations tax committee and should another organization ever want to apply they were certainly welcome. Essentially, the CVB implemented all events that would be worthy of 65% funding. The Committee judged this as appropriate. A letter will be drafted telling them.
- **City of Clinton:** The City indicated to TERC that its 30% funds were dispensed to the proper organization. The Committee deemed this as acceptable.
- **City of Myrtle Beach:** The Committee has not yet received correspondence from the City regarding its questionable expenditures. However, TERC learned that the person normally responsible for those functions is no longer with the City, therefore, it will give the City 30 more days to correspond.
- **Orangeburg County:** After many months of going back and forth regarding the compliance of the County's local accommodations tax committee, the County finally compiled a committee that is within compliance. A letter will be drafted accepting the list.

- **Town of Blythewood:** The Town continues to keep TERC in the loop as it dispenses its 30 and 65% funds in the proper manner.

REVIEWED BY TONI NANCE/LANNEAU SIEGLING

- **Berkeley County:** Their local accommodations tax committee is now in compliance. A letter will be drafted telling them such.
- **Cherokee County:** The County indicated that it had expended its 30% funds in the proper manner. A letter of acceptance will be drafted.
- **Pickens County:** The Committee has now received correspondence from Pickens County regarding its 30% funds, the makeup of its local committee and its accommodations tax reporting form.

At this point, the conference call was interrupted. Therefore, Mrs. Jeter emailed the Committee the action that needed to be taken on Pickens County, Sullivan’s Island and Goose Creek. Chairman Mustert decided these issues would be taken up at TERC’s next meeting, which would be held on August 9 at the Confederate Relic Room, starting at 10:30 a.m. There being no other business, the Committee adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Damita S. Jeter

Damita S. Jeter, TERC Staff