

**TOURISM EXPENDITURE REVIEW COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

**July 13, 2010**

**Via Conference Call - SC Department of Revenue  
10 a.m.**

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Committee Members in Attendance:** Frans Mustert, Chairman; Lanneau Siegling, Rod Swaim, Edward Riggs, Kevin Yokim, Mark Williams, Harriett Green and Toni Nance.

**Staff in Attendance:** Lauren Sponseller, TERC Staff.

**CALL TO ORDER /ADMINISTRATIVE TASKS/UPDATES:**

- 1. Call to Order:** The Meeting was called to order by Chairman Mustert.
- 2. Minutes Approval:** Mr. Swaim motioned to approve the minutes from the April 26, 2010 meeting, Mr. Williams seconded, and the committee unanimously voted to approve the minutes.
- 3. Legislative Update:** Chairman Mustert stated that TERC received a counterclaim from City of Myrtle Beach regarding TERC's ongoing court case, and that Mr. Hoefler, TERC's staff attorney will respond accordingly. Chairman Mustert also stated that a subcommittee of the Tourism Committee is working on a taxation of timeshares.
- 4. Review New of FY 08-09 Reports- Susan/Ed- City of Clinton-** Requested more information on funding for the Rhythms Concert Series- specifically, how were atax funds spent.
- 5. Review Responses of 08-09 Reports- Susan/Ed- City of Greenville-** TERC reviewed and approved additional information provided by the City regarding expenditures to Scottish Games and Downtown Trolley.  
**Greenville County-** TERC reviewed and approved additional information provided by the County regarding expenditures Scottish Games and Mauldin Fest.  
**Town of Hilton Head-** TERC reviewed and approved additional information provided by the Town regarding expenditures to Heritage Library Foundation and Hilton Head Symphony Orchestra.
- Mark/Andy/John- Town of Blythewood-** TERC reviewed and approved additional information provided by the Town regarding expenditures to Fairfield County Golf Tournament, and acknowledges that the Town has no intentions of funding this event in the future.  
**Darlington County-** TERC reviewed additional information provided by the County regarding their expenditure to Carolina Alliance, and would like to advise the County that the Statute states that funds must be deposited into a separate account. TERC also reviewed and approved change in coding for funding to Greater Darlington Chamber of Commerce.  
**Georgetown County-** TERC reviewed additional information provided by the County regarding their disbursement of funds of prior year awards, but wishes to advise the County to ask TERC for an extension in the future.

**City of Hartsville-** TERC reviewed additional information provided by the City regarding expenditures to Darlington County Tourism and Butler Heritage Foundation, and advises that the City code both items as a “2” since funds were used to advertise and promote events. TERC also reviewed and approved information provided regarding the non-profit status of Coker Farms.

**Horry County-** Letter dated 2/16/10- Mr. Williams made a motion to withhold funds from the County for their disbursement of \$10,280.00 to the Horry County Arts and Cultural Events because the County re-granted the funds for programs that were not proved to provide and promote for tourism. Mr. Seigling seconded, and the decision by TERC was unanimous.

Letter dated- 3/15/10- TERC reviewed and approved information provided by the County regarding coding of funds that were returned to the County, as well as information on how funds are being spent that are returned to the County.

**Kershaw County-** TERC reviewed additional information provided by the County regarding their lack of interest being reported for FY 08-09, and will include the interest on their 09-10 report.

**Laurens County-** TERC reviewed additional information provided by the County regarding expenditures for several projects, and asks that the advisory committee implement a system for collecting statistical data from recipients of atax funds in the future to better track tourists at events.

**Town of Pawleys Island-** TERC reviewed and approved changes in coding for Georgetown County Habitat for Humanity and Pawley’s Island Festival for Music and Art.

#### **Rod/Harriett-**

**Dillon County-** TERC reviewed and approved information provided by the County regarding interest that was left off of their report, and understands that this will be added back to their account. Mr. Swaim made a motion to withhold funds from the County for their disbursement of \$400.00 to SCPRT for the Little Pee Dee State Park Project for a rain collection barrel. Ms. Green seconded and the Committee voted unanimously in favor of withholding the funds. TERC reviewed and approved additional information provided regarding the affiliation of atax advisory committee member, Charles McLaurin.

**Town of Folly Beach-** TERC reviewed additional information provided by the Town regarding their disbursement to the Surfriider Foundation for plastic cups, and wishes to be provided with a copy of the actual cup to make further decisions regarding the disbursement.

**City of Goose Creek-** TERC reviewed additional information provided by the City regarding their lack of interest being reported, and wishes to advise the City that, according to the Statute, interest must be reported.

#### **6. Miscellaneous Issues:**

Ms. Sponseller reported that all forms for FY 09-10 atax reporting are prepared, and reporting packets will be mailed out mid-August. All entities will be asked to submit reports by October 1, 2010, as stated in SC Code of Laws.

A letter was submitted by Edisto Beach Atax Advisory Committee Meeting follow-up questions:

-Can an entity fund requests after the expenditures have been made, and the event has already taken place?

TERC would approve this, as long as the decision has gone through the local advisory committee.

-Can an entity pay for a welcome and visitors center if it was located in a different jurisdiction?  
Yes, as long as the entity can provide information to adjudicate the expenditure.

- Can funds be used to fund a portion of the salary of the Chamber/CVB person?

TERC would approve a portion of the salary based on the percentage of tourists that are served.

An email was received from a constituent located in Surfside Beach in regards to the town funding projects for the Town's library. As stated in the email, the town gave funding to the County Library for periodicals, as well as computers, and approved funding brochures for the County Library. After careful review, the Committee voted to send a letter to the Town of Surfside Beach to ask for more information on these expenditures.

The next meeting of TERC will be held via conference call on September 14, 2010 at 10 a.m. at SCDOR.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Lauren Sponseller*

**Lauren Sponseller, TERC Staff**