

Zackon, Matt

From: Patel, Swati
Sent: Friday, July 11, 2014 2:19 PM
To: Zackon, Matt
Subject: FW: SCNHC
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From: BJ Willoughby [<mailto:bjwilloughby@scpvt.com>]
Sent: Friday, July 11, 2014 1:56 PM
To: Patel, Swati
Cc: Amy Duffy
Subject: SCNHC

Dear Swati,

Attached is some information I have been able to gather which I hope will be helpful to you in drafting the Executive Order. Let me if you have questions. Thank you. BJ

1. The previous Executive Order of 2011 , recognized SCPRT as the management entity of the Program.
2. In September ,2011 SCPRT made an implementation grant to SCNHC which provided funding for SCNHC to manage the Heritage Corridor Program. (A copy is attached)
3. Effective Nov. 1,2011 the SCNHC staff was no longer directly affiliated with SCPRT. The SCNHC Board and staff with the consent of SCPRT began operating autonomously and focused their efforts on maintaining existing Heritage Corridor programming and securing private funding to ensure the long term sustainability of this program.
4. SCPRT, as the fiscal management authority, continued to oversee the management of the SCNHC grants program without any problems or concerns.
5. In a congressionally mandated federal evaluation conducted in 2012, key findings indicated "the South Carolina National Heritage Corridor non-profit organization, as the coordinating entity, has fulfilled its legislated purposes and goals outlined in the management plan through the federal resources provided". (A copy of this evaluation is attached.)
6. Independent financial audits have been conducted on the SCNHC, since 2010. These audits have all been submitted to and reviewed by the Legislative Audit Council and the Legislative Audit Council is now recommending that the SCNHC be given full autonomy for the operations and the programs.
7. The SCNHC has internal controls to ensure appropriate financial accountability to include a Finance Committee, Audit Committee, Board Treasurer, and full-time Finance Director on staff.
8. In addition to managing the NHA federal funds through the Implementation Grant from SCPRT, SCNHC has also managed federal grants from the USDA and EPA. (Support letters are attached which indicate SCNHC "have administered the grant with great diligence, and have proven themselves prudent and prompt with all financial reporting requirements".)

9. The Director of SCPRT, the existing management entity , has written to Governor Haley expressing his support for the Legislative Audit Council's suggestion to allow SCNHC full autonomy for its operations and programs by stating that "full autonomy will better adhere to the original intent and purpose of the heritage areas program and will, ultimately, maximize the potential benefits we can achieve through a collaborative and equal partnership". (letter of June 17 ,2014 to Governor Haley)

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