

Minutes of the Certified Local Government Meeting, Jefferson County, Texas
Monday July 20, 2015, 6 p.m.
Effie & Wilton Hebert Library
2025 Merriman Street
Port Neches, TX 77651

Call to Order:

Members attending:

Sarah Bellian

Ron Ellington

Ramona Hutchinson

Linda McMahan

Absent: Bruce Hamilton

This second meeting of the Certified Local Government (CLG) Committee met at the Hebert Library Port Neches to continue our the efforts to align citizens of the County around sharing and learning about our history and discover opportunities to preserve that history.

Certified Local Government Sub Grant and Letter of Intent

At the June 22 meeting of the CLG Committee our actions were to write a Letter of Intent to notify the Texas Historical Commission that we would be requesting funding for a Sub Grant in 2016 to hire a vendor to write a historic preservation plan for the county, excluding the cities of Beaumont and Port Arthur, who are separate CLG's.

Before the Letter of Intent could be drafted, the Jefferson County Historical Commission (JCHC) Chairperson, Theresa Goodness and the JCHC Coordinator, Linda McMahan met with the county's purchasing agent, Deb Syprhett-Clark to clarify the guidelines for soliciting information from vendors. Deb also gave them information the CLG committee needs to give her, for example: what is a historic preservation plan?, to enable her to write a Request for Qualifications to be sent to prospective vendors.

To determine the anticipated CLG Sub Grant Funding requested amount, Ramona Hutchinson called the Texas Historical Commission's CLG Coordinator, Kristen Brown, who suggested she call other counties who have successful grant requests to learn about their past successful funding requests for similar projects. After visiting with Comal and Denton counties, it was determined that it a historic resources survey should precede a preservation plan and the funding for such a plan by another county was \$10,000, including matching funds.

Using this information, we submitted our Letter of Intent to the Texas Historical Commission for a Historic Resource Survey, with an anticipated Sub Grant funding request of \$5,000.

The next step in this process is to give the purchasing agent requested information about historic resource surveys so that she may move forward with a Request for Qualifications and post it so it is available for replys from qualified vendors.

Review of Historic Resources and Inventories

Thank you to Linda McMahan for printing the most up-to-date lists of Jefferson County's Nominated National Register of Historic Places properties, Recorded Texas Landmarks, and a list of Jefferson County Cemeteries. Hopefully our Sub Grant request for a survey will be successful and we can move forward with identifying many more historic sites.

We also identified some of the county's historic themes and topics such as Bootlegging, Prohibition, Vietnamese-Americans, and the Rainbow Bridge Car Ferry. Sarah Bellian offered her expertise and equipment to anyone who might want to conduct oral histories.

Next Certified Local Government Committee Meeting

Where: Jefferson County Precinct 1 County Office, 20205 W Hwy 90, China TX, 777613, - one mile west of the red light.

When: 10:00 a.m. , Monday, August 24, 2015

Meeting Adjourned 6:52 p.m.