



Board of Directors' Meeting Monday, April 5, 2021

MINUTES

Members Present

Clarendon County

Benton Blakely, Kevin Johnson, Shirley Keels, Dwight Stewart, Julia Nelson

Kershaw County

Julian Burns, Alfred Mae Drakeford, Jeffrey Graham, Brad Hanley, John Lee,
Kenneth McCaskill, Sammie Tucker

Lee County

Jackie Josey, Will Wheeler

Sumter County

Eugene Baten, Steve Corley, Jay Davis, Jim McCain, Vivian McGhaney, Roland Robinson,
Chuck Wilson, Earl Wilson, David Merchant

Members Absent

Lee County- Grady Brown and Sumter County-David Weeks

- 1. Welcome & Call to Order:** Chairman Vivian McGhaney called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM
- 2. Invocation:** Mr. Sammie Tucker provided the invocation.
- 3. Pledge of Allegiance:** Mr. Sammie Tucker led the pledge, and all attendees participated.
- 4. Quorum Determination:** The Board Clerk, Linda Jackson, informed Chairman McGhaney we had reached a quorum with 24 board members present.
- 5. Adoption of Agenda:** Chairman McGhaney called for a motion to approve the April 5, 2021, agenda. Mr. Eugene Baten made a motion to adopt the agenda, and Mr. Jeffery Graham seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- 6. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:** Mr. Chuck Wilson made a motion to approve the March 1, 2021 meeting. Mr. Jim McCain seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Staff Reports: Mrs. Rachel Katorkas provided a Financial Updated Briefing.

8. Committee Reports:

a. Audit/Finance Committee Report:

- The Audit-Finance Committee recommended approval of the following:
 1. Proposed membership dues request for FY 2021-2022
 2. Proposed budget amendment for FY 2020-2021
 3. Proposed budget for FY 2021-2022

Mrs. Alfred Mae Drakeford informed the board that the Finance Committee was not seeking a vote on the budget amendment or the FY 21-22 budget but have submitted the documents to the Board for information and review ONLY. If there are any questions pertaining to the documents the board members can reach out to Mr. McKinney or Mrs. Rachel Katorkas. The board will seek adoption of the two documents in June.

The Audit/Finance Committee presented a motion to approve maintaining local dues from member government at \$1.30 per capita for FY 2021-2022. Mr. Jeffery Graham seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

b. Plans and Projects Committee Report: Mr. Dwight Stewart gave a brief update on the Rural Programming Work Plan (RPWP) for 2021 – 2022 and FY 2022-2023. The Plans and Projects Committee presented a motion to approve RPWP for 2021 – 2022 and FY 2022-2023. Mr. Jeffery Graham second the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

9. 2019-2020 Audit Report: Mr. Kyle Slovic informed the board that the report is in its final review stages and is being reviewed by our engagement partner and there are no findings. The deadline was extended from March 31, 2021 to June 30, 2021 due to the Council received COVID funds. The audit will be completed and submitted prior to this date. Mr. Slovic thanked Rachel and her team for making his team workload easier during an interesting time. Mr. McKinney also acknowledged Finance for doing a wonderful job.

10. Regional Development Corporation (RDC) Annual Membership Meeting

a. Call to Order: Mr. Jeffery Graham called for a motion to call the RDC annual membership meeting to order. Ms. Alfred Mae Drakeford made the motion to call the meeting to order, and Mr. Chuck Wilson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- b. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes:** Mr. Chuck Wilson made a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes, and Mr. Sammie Tucker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- c. RDC Financial Report:** Mrs. Rachel Katorkas gave an updated overall report from February. She informed the board that the Council was at 59% of budgeted revenue and 5% of budgeted expenses.
- d. RDC Audit Report:** Mr. Kyle Slovick informed the board that the audit report was slightly behind, but on pace to be completed by the deadline and there are no findings.
- e. Proposed FY 2021 – 2022 Board of Directors Slate:** Mr. Jeffery Graham called for a motion to approve the present Board of Directors slate. Mr. Sammie Tucker made a motion to approve the present Board of Directors slate. Ms. Alfred Mae Drakeford second the motion. Motion was approved unanimously.
- f. RDC Activities Update:** Government Services Chief Dennis Cyphers updated the board on current RDC activities. Mr. Cyphers informed the board that the Sumter Neighborhood Improvement Program side lot application timeline had closed, and the applications are now being reviewed. Once the review process closes, his department will begin transferring the side lot parcels back into the community where they will be either be sold at market value, or if it is a non-buildable lot, it will be transferred for a \$500 transfer fee. Mr. McCain asked about how to purchase a lot. Mr. Cyphers informed him that we are working with the City of Sumter on a batch purchase of the lots. Mr. McKinney stated the City of Sumter has first right of refusal on the properties as per the instructions of the RDC Board.
- g. Other Business: N/A**
- h. Adjourn:** Mr. Graham called for a motion to adjourn the RDC Annual Meeting. Mr. Sammie Tucker made the motion to adjourn the meeting, and Mrs. Alfred Mae Drakeford seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Old Business: N/A

12. New Business:

- a. Appointment of Chairman for the Nominating Committee:** Mr. Jim McCain has been selected to Chair this committee and will report at the June Board Meeting.

13. Executive Session: Chairman McGhane called for a motion for the Board to go into Executive Session to discuss a matter related to an employee. Mrs. Alfred Mae Drakeford made the motion to enter Executive Session to discuss a matter related to the employment

of an employee. Mr. Chuck Wilson second the motion. The motion passed unanimously, and the board went into Executive Session. Chairman McGhaney called for a motion to come out of Executive Session. Mr. Sammie Tucker made the motion to come out of Executive Session. Mr. Roland Robinson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Senator Johnson recommended that the minutes reflect Director McKinney's evaluation from the board and include individual comments from board members and the board concurred.

Overall, the Executive Director received a very favorable evaluation. It was noted that he is well respected in his role and in the community and he is doing a highly effective job at running the COG. Specific comments are as follows:

Board Member A

Chris' performance is outstanding, in addition to the routine tasks that he is always looking and hunting for projects to improve our region. He is always open for discussions and ways to provide assistance.

Board Member B

Mr. McKinney does an exceptional job at managing, leading, and ensuring the COG serves all four counties. He is a forward thinker, innovator and "get 'er done" type of person. If you have any questions about his performance, see the 2020 accomplishments.

Board Member C

Through Chris' leadership and overall vision, the SLCOG has been elevated to one of the top, if not the top, COGs in the country. I suspect that our COG will continue its place of prominence among all COGs due to Chris and the staff that he has surrounded himself with.

Board Member D

1. A Great leader
2. Admired and Respected
3. Handles tough problems with grace, skill, and savvy.
4. Willing to take on tough problems head on.
5. Advocates for critical issues.

Board Member E

Chris has given 100% from my limited observation. He is not afraid to try something new and adjust priorities as needed. He is driven and at the same time friendly and personable.

Board Member F

One of the most important things the Executive Director can do is to keep the board informed. Mr. McKinney does an exceptional job in that area.

Board Member G

Mr. McKinney continues to excel in his duties as Executive Director.

- 14. Executive Director's Report:** Mr. McKinney inform the board that Congressman Clyburn office sent out a notice that they will be accepting earmarks for transportation projects. As a result, Mr. Cyphers and his team worked diligently to put together a package that will affect Clarendon, Lee, Kershaw, and Sumter counties, MEGA site. The project is a rail spur that will connect the MEGA site to the main CSX train line. This will allow a new company the ability to ship out their products by rail.
- 15. Chairman's Remarks:** Chairman McGhaney thanked each board member for attending the board meeting and encouraged the group to be safe during the pandemic.
- 16. Adjourn:** Chairman McGhaney called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Alfred Mae Drakeford made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m. and Mr. John Lee seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christopher H. McKinney

Christopher H. McKinney
CEO/Executive Director