



## Board of Director's Meeting

Via Zoom

September 13, 2021

### MINUTES

#### Members Present

**Clarendon County:** Kevin Johnson, Shirley Keels, Julia Nelson

**Lee County:** Grady Brown, Jackie Josey, Travis Windham, Will Wheeler

**Sumter County:** Eugene Baton, Steve Corley, Jim McCain, Vivian McGhaney, Roland Robinson, David Weeks, Chuck Wilson, Earl Wilson, Gifford Shaw

**Kershaw County:** Julian Burns, Alfred Mae Drakeford, Jeffery Graham, Brad Hanley, John W. Lee, Kenneth McCaskill, Sammie Tucker

#### Members Absent

**Clarendon County:** Benton Blakeley, Dwight Stewart

**Kershaw County:** Penry Gustafson

**Lee County:** None

**Sumter County:** Jay Davis, James Blassingame, David Merchant, Gifford Shaw

1. **Welcome and Call to order:** Chairman Julia Nelson called the meeting to order at 6:13 p.m.
2. **Invocation:** Mrs. Vivian McGhaney provided the invocation.
3. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Executive Director Christopher McKinney led the pledge, and all attendees participated.
4. **Quorum Determination:** The Board Clerk, Linda Jackson, informed Chairman Nelson a quorum had been reached with 23 of 29 board members present.
5. **Agenda Adoption:** Chairman Nelson called for a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Julian Burns made the motion to adopt the agenda, and Mr. Will Wheeler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. **Approval of Previous Minutes:** Chairman Nelson called a motion to approve the previous minutes. Mr. Jim McCain made the motion to approve the previous minutes, and Mr. Chuck Wilson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

7. **Public Presentations:**

- a. **A.D. Jordan:** Mr. Jordan stated that he was available to be of assistance in Clarendon, Lee, and Kershaw Counties. He also asked to let him or Mr. Al Jenkins know of any events where they can come to represent Senator Scott. Mr. Al Jenkins represents Sen. Scott in Sumter County and Mr. A.D. Moore in Clarendon, Lee, and Kershaw County.

8. **Staff Reports:**

- a. **Finance:** Mrs. Rachel Katorkas stated that the financial report that was sent, ran through the end of July and with it being the beginning of the month, there is not much to show. Overall, there was a 1.4% budgeted revenue and spending 3.1% of budget expenses. The cash balances are located on page 2 of the COG and the RDC.

b. **Government Services:**

***CDBG-CV Services application-*** At this time the COG has been awarded the CDBG-CV grant for public services that will fund the purchase and installation of FAR-UV technology on all school buses in our 4-county region. The funding agreement has been signed by both the Lead entity (Sumter County) and the State (DOC). This project was initially scheduled to begin on September 16, 2021. Due to funding processes not previously mentioned at the time of grant submittal, SLRCOG is working with the Consultant (Guidehouse) and the State to acquire advanced funding for the project. This would allow for the project to move forward without new negotiations with the contractor and lessen the financial burden placed on the lead entity to cover expenses for all four counties.

This is a \$858,438 grant with no matching funds required from local jurisdictions.

***CDBG-CV Facilities application-*** The COG has also been awarded public facilities grant through Coronavirus funding that will construct, purchase, and install walk-in freezers and generators at primary locations for Centers on Aging. Locations in each of the SLRCOG counties have been selected and we anticipate funding to be available by the end of the year. This project has a completion date of December of 2024. This is a great step forward in keeping us resilient not only against future pandemics but natural disasters such as hurricanes.

This was a competitive grant and was approved for \$521,196 with no matching funds required.

There are \$3M in competitive CDBG-CV funds. We presently had been awarded \$1,379,634 of the funding (46%).

***NTIA Broadband Funding Opportunity-*** NTIA provided 288 million in available broadband funding nationwide. Proposals submitted in the process required covered partnerships between Private service providers and local governments. Santee-Lynches has partnered with Lee County and FTC to submit a proposal to install 146 miles of fiber broadband in Lee County's most needed areas. This total project cost is \$7.3 million and will require zero match from Lee County. The match portion of this funding, 10%, will be paid by FTC. We anticipate award notice in late November 2021.

9. **Committee Report:** Jim McCain is reporting on behalf of Dwight Stewart. Mr. McCain explained that the Project and Planning Committee have met several times to discuss the updates on the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The discussion focuses on the possible route alternative and funding increases that are needed to complete Bishopville Project 2030 formerly known as the Bishopville Trucking Route. Mr. McCain made the motion on behalf of the Project and Planning Committee to adopt the updated TIP with an increase of \$1,450,488 for the Bishopville Project 2030. Mr. Travis Windham seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
10. **Executive Director's Report:** Mr. Christopher McKinney briefed the board that there had been conversation with the Department of Commerce, and they indicated the lead county may have to pay for the project up front and get reimbursed at the end. This was not mentioned at the beginning of the process and staff has communicated this will place a very heavy burden on our rural counties. Mr. McKinney is waiting to get a response regarding other options and will advise the committee if they need to engage.

Mr. McKinney also briefed the board that Santee-Lynches was the only COG in South Carolina to get approved to receive funds for a CDBG-CV grant. There were a lot of challenges that staff was faced with, but staff persevered. Staff has been successful in being awarded 2 out of the 3 projects we applied for. The 3<sup>rd</sup> grant application for Pinewood has a strong possibility of being approved, as well. Additionally, the NTIA Grant application for \$7.3M had a lot of work behind the scenes to compile all the required data for submission. This was a completely new grant that had never been applied for before.

Lastly, Mr. McKinney stated that Ms. Linda Jackson sent out emails regarding the conference, and address to the board to send in their registration so staff will know who will be attending. Mr. McKinney informed the board that as of right now the conference is still scheduled for in person November 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>.

11. **Executive Session:** N/A

12. **Chairman Remarks:** Chairman Nelson thanked everyone including Mr. McKinney and his staff for all their hard work.

13. **Adjourn:** Mr. John Lee made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Mrs. Vivian McGhaney seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by:

*Linda Jackson*

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Linda Jackson  
Board Clerk

Approved by:

*CS*

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Christopher H. McKinney  
Executive Director