

**Board of Directors  
Hybrid (In-Person & Virtual)  
Central Carolina Technical College  
506 North Guignard Dr.  
Building M400, Rm M401  
Sumter, SC 29150  
Monday, August 8, 2022  
6:00 PM**

**MINUTES**

**Members In-Person**

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

**Kershaw County:** Kenneth McCaskill, Sammie Tucker, John Thomas

**Lee County:** Travis Windham

**Sumter County:** James Blassingame, Jim McCain, Vivian McGhaney, Roland Robinson, Chuck Wilson, Earl Wilson, Eugene Baten, David Merchant, Steve Corley

**Zoom**

**Kershaw County:** Julian Burns, Alfred Mae Drakeford, Penry Gustafson, Jeffery Graham, Brad Hanley, John Lee

**Lee County:** Will Wheeler

**Members Absent/Excused**

**Clarendon County:** Dwight Stewart (E)

**Lee County:** Grady Brown

**Sumter County:** Jay Davis, Gifford Shaw, David Weeks

1. **Welcome and Call to order:** Chairman Julia Nelson called the meeting to order at 6:05PM.
2. **Invocation:** Rev. James Blassingame provided the invocation.
3. **Pledge of Allegiance:** All attendees participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. **Quorum Determination:** The Board Clerk, Ms. Linda Jackson, informed Chairman Nelson we had reached a quorum with 23 of 29 board members present.

5. **Amended Agenda Adoption:** Chairman Nelson called for a motion to approve the amended agenda. Mr. Sammie Tucker made the motion, and it was seconded by Mrs. Vivian McGhaney. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.
6. **Approval of Previous Minutes:** Chairman Nelson called for a motion to approve the June 6, 2022, meeting minutes. Mr. Tucker made the motion, and it was seconded by Mr. Jim McCain. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.
7. **Public Presentation:** Chairman Nelson acknowledged that there are two guests from Senator Tim Scott's office, Mr. AD Jordan and Mr. Al Jenkins. Mr. AD Jordan announced that he is now serving Lee, Kershaw, and Clarendon Counties. He mentioned that if anyone needs any assistance to feel free to reach out to him. Mr. Jordan informed the Board that Capital and White House tours in Washington, D.C. are available through Senator Scott's Office. Mr. Jordan stated that they are looking for college interns to work in their Greenville, Washington, Columbia and Charleston offices and asked the Board if they know of anyone interested to give them a call. Mr. Jordan informed the Board that they have expanded their grants department and to let him know if the Board knows of anyone that needs information regarding grants to give him a call. He also mentioned to the Board that if there are any "Federal" issues such as VA, Social Security, or IRS to give him a call and he will turn it in to assist with fixing the issue.

Mr. Al Jenkins acknowledged all the veterans in attendance. He informed the Board that FEMA has passed a new rule that anyone living on heir's property can qualify for assistance although they do not have ownership of the land. Mr. Jenkins provided books with information regarding senior citizens and fraud. This book encourages senior citizens to hang up the phone and to be mindful of scam callers. Mr. Jenkins discussed the importance of introducing to youth the skill trade while attending high school. Once they graduate, they will be making more than \$20 an hour if they are not attending college. Mr. Jenkins announced that they have doubled the amount in IRS agents to assist local business owners and farmers with their tax issues. Mr. Jenkins announced to the Board that he represents Shaw Air Force Base. He informed the Board that the Governor was here to sign the assumptions on retirement for military. He stated that this was a big deal and currently a new clinic is under construction and a new nursing home will be coming soon. Mr. Jenkins continued that Senator Tim Scott attended the ceremony in Washington, D.C to honor Mary McCloud Bethune statue in Statuary Hall at the U.S. Capital. He emphasized the importance of having someone from Mayesville honored in Statuary Hall. Chairman Nelson applauded the change of the heir's property law made by Senator Tim Scott. She stated that she will send him a letter thanking him for the heir's property law based on what her town experienced during the 2015 flood.

8. **Special Presentations:**

- a. **Perfect Attendance Awards:** Chairman Nelson presented perfect attendance certificates to the following Board members: Alfred Mae Drakeford, Shirley Keels, Roland Robinson, Jim McCain, Chuck Wilson, Earl Wilson, and Vivian McGhaney.

Vice-Chairman Sammie Tucker presented Chairman Nelson with her perfect attendance certificate.

Chairman Nelson also announced that Mrs. Shirley Keels was recognized as the longest serving Board member for the Santee-Lynches Regional Council of Governments.

9. **Staff Reports:** Mrs. Rachel Katorkas, Finance Chief, reported to the Board the financial report runs through the end of Fiscal Year 21-22. As noted in the report, the amounts shown are subject to additional year-end adjustments prior to presentation of the final audited financial statements. She explained at the time of preparation, the COG had booked about 81% of budgeted revenue and expended 80% of budgeted expenses. The COG will have more in additional revenue and expenses to book for FY21-22. Mrs. Katorkas informed the Board that she is projecting the change in fund balance for the year to be about negative \$1500, instead of the negative \$15k that was shown in the budget amendment.

The Workforce Staff report was an enclosure for information only.

#### 10. Committee Report:

- a. **Executive Committee:** Chairman Nelson moved this report to item 13. Executive Search Committee Report Executive Session.

#### 11. Old Business:

- a. **Kershaw County Letter of Support:** Mr. Tucker explained to the Board that the letter will be from the Santee-Lynches Board of Directors to the Central Midlands COG to remove the transportation portion out of their COG back into Santee-Lynches Regional Council of Governments. This will make the COG whole again. The resolution passed by Kershaw County, that Mr. Julian Burns had written and supported, showed where the West Wateree part of Kershaw County's growth needs were not being addressed. Not only does the letter move the transportation section back to Santee-Lynches but with it the appropriate funding. Mr. Tucker reminded the Board that during the last meeting, the Board did approve the resolution that came from Kershaw County. Lee County as well as Sumter County have submitted letters as support documents of the Kershaw County Letter of Support. Mr. Travis Windham asked who makes that decision. Mr. Tucker responded that Transportation and Congress makes the decision. He mentioned that Kershaw County has been reaching out to Representative Clyburn's office because that will be in his region. Central Midlands COG wrote a letter stating they are willing to allow transportation to come back to Santee-Lynches COG. Transportation [DOT] and Congressman Clyburn will make that decision. Mr. Tucker's concern is will they send the funds with it. He explained that Kershaw County has not received a project from Central Midlands in twenty-three (23) years.

Chairman Nelson called for a motion for her to be able to sign the letter on behalf of SLCOG. Mr. Steve Corley made the motion, and it was seconded by Mr. McCain. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

**12. New Business:**

- a. **Amerson Tract Sales and Proceeds:** Mr. Jeffery Graham, RDC (Regional Development Corporation) President, informed the Board that the Amerson Tract was purchased for the purpose of Economic Development back in 1993. The Economic Development Agency in Sumter would like to sale the tract so that a local business may expand and build a 100,000 sq ft warehouse on the property. Mr. Graham stated that the RDC Board had met and agreed to sell the property and return all proceeds from the sale to Commerce. Mr. Graham asked for final approval from the COG Board to sell the property. Mr. McCain made the motion and asked if he was aware of the name of the company. Mr. Graham responded the name of the company is unknown, but we are working with the Sumter Link. More detail will come at a later time. Mrs. Alfred Mae Drakeford seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

- 13. Executive Search Committee Report Executive Session:** Chairman Nelson called for a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss a matter related to the employment of an Executive Director and subsequent contract, in accordance with Section 30-4-70 of the South Carolina Code. Mr. Chuck Wilson made the motion, and it was seconded by Rev. James Blassingame. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Nelson entertained a motion to come out of Executive Session. Mr. Tucker made the motion, and it was seconded by Mr. Chuck Wilson. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Nelson asked if there was any action to be taken from Executive Session discussion. Mr. Chuck Wilson made a motion to accept the recommendation from the Executive Committee in hiring Mr. Dennis Cyphers as the Executive Director and it was seconded by Rev. Blassingame. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously. Chairman Nelson congratulated Mr. Cyphers on being voted as the new Executive Director of the Santee-Lynches Regional Council of Governments.

- 14. Executive Director's Report:** As Interim Executive Director, Ms. Areatha Clark was approaching the podium, Chairman Nelson paused to thank Ms. Clark for the job she has done as Interim Executive Director and for being the backbone of the organization for many years. Chairman Nelson is in hopes that the relationship that Ms. Clark and Mr. Cyphers have will continue and she appreciates their hard work.

Chairman Nelson asked Mr. Cyphers if he had any words. Mr. Cyphers thanked the Board for the opportunity and is looking forward to contributing to the organization's goals. He also thanked Ms. Clark for all her hard work during the transition.

Ms. Clark thanked the Board for their support during her Interim term of service. She is excited of where the Board is going and is looking forward to great things for the COG.

**15. Chairman Remarks:** Chairman Nelson reminded the Board to inform Ms. Linda Jackson and staff if they will be attending in-person meetings in order to be conservative with the food count and to plan accordingly to accommodate those in attendance.

**16. Adjourn:** Chairman Nelson entertained a motion to adjourn. Mr. David Merchant made the motion, and it was seconded by Mr. Tucker. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by:



Linda Jackson  
Board Clerk

Approve by:



Areatha Clark  
Interim Executive Director

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I certify that the public and media notifications of the above-mentioned meeting were given prior to the meeting as follows:

Public Notified:	Yes
Manner Notified:	Agenda was posted on Bulletin Board at 2525 Corporate Way, August 5, 2022

Media Notified:	Yes
Manner Notified:	Agenda emailed to local newspapers: The Chronicle and The Item

Date Notified:	August 2 <sup>nd</sup> and August 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2022
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