



**Executive Committee Meeting  
Hybrid (In-Person and Virtual)  
Central Carolina Technical College  
506 North Guignard Dr.  
Building M400, Rm M401  
Sumter, SC 29150  
Monday June 6, 2022  
5:00 PM**

**MINUTES**

**Members Present**

**Clarendon County:** Julia Nelson, Dwight Stewart, Kevin Johnson  
**Kershaw County:** Alfred Mae Drakeford, Jeffery Graham, Sammie Tucker  
**Sumter County:** Jim McCain, Vivian McGhaney  
**Lee County:** Will Wheeler, Travis Windham

**Members Absent**

**Lee County:** Grady Brown  
**Sumter County:** Steve Corley

1. **Welcome and Call to order:** Chairman Nelson called the meeting to order at 5:07 PM.
2. **Invocation:** Mrs. Vivian McGhaney 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 10 of 12 committee members present.
5. **Agenda Adoption:** Chairman Nelson called for a motion to adopt the agenda. Mr. Jim McCain made the motion to adopt the agenda and it was seconded by Mrs. McGhaney. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.
6. **Approval of Previous Minutes:** Chairman Nelson called for a motion to approve the May 2, 2022, meeting minutes. Mrs. Alfred Mae Drakeford made the motion to approve the May 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting minutes, and it was seconded by Mr. Sammie Tucker. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

## 7. Old Business:

- a. **Building Task Force Committee:** Building Task Force Committee Chairman Alfred Mae Drakeford reported to the Committee that the Building Task Force Committee met on May 25<sup>th</sup> after visiting two locations. On April 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Committee visited VC3 to check out their layout. She explained that the COG as well as VC3 both have a hybrid working environment and wanted to see how VC3 had their space laid out. Chairman Drakeford informed the Committee that Ms. Areatha Clark provided pictures of VC3's layout during the Building Task Force meeting. On May 9<sup>th</sup>, the Building Task Force Committee along with Ms. Clark and Ms. Linda Jackson visited the McDuffie Furniture Store on Main St. in Sumter. Chairman Drakeford explained that during that visit, the building seemed to be complementary for what the Committee is looking for and they believe it would be a valuable asset for the COG. She stated the Committee's next step is meeting with the architect along with the COG's Department Chiefs and Mr. Jay Davis to determine the cost associated with the McDuffie project on Tuesday, June 7<sup>th</sup>.

Chairman Drakeford asked that Mr. Jim McCain inform the Committee of the plan Sumter County has that will benefit the COG. Mr. McCain reported that Sumter County has plans to purchase the McDuffie building with the Penny Progress Funds and will lease it to the COG. The County may be able to help with some of the retrofitting. They are trying to keep the cost for the COG down to a minimum. Mr. McCain explain that the COG is currently paying for two (2) leases on different buildings, and this will at least keep the COGs cost down by the County covering the lease. Chairman Drakeford mentioned that the building is an extra-large building and could possibly have space for renting. Mr. McCain added the building has 25,000sq ft and the only concern is the parking. The City will purchase the building next to the McDuffie building so parking will be in the rear and on the side of the building. Some assistance may also be provided with the upfit of the building. Chairman Drakeford stated that this will be a great partnership between the COG, the City, and the County. After the meeting with the architect, the Building Task Force Committee will get back together and determine next steps.

## 8. New Business

- a. **Kershaw County Resolution:** Mr. Jeffery Graham informed the Committee that Kershaw County is in a fight to be solely under Santee-Lynches Regional Council of Governments with everything. For transportation, Kershaw County currently under the Central Midlands COG for transportation for the West Wateree side of Kershaw County. All the other services are with Santee-Lynches; Under the Central Midlands COG there is not representation from Kershaw County on their Board, nor have any funds been received. Mr. Graham explained with the new census numbers coming out, Kershaw County is requesting that the Executive Committee affirm Kershaw County, the City of Camden, Bethune and Elgin and Town Councils resolutions to send to Federal delegations, the Governor, and State DOT in support of Kershaw

County being fully under Santee-Lynches Regional COG. Mr. Graham informed the Committee that Kershaw County, City of Camden, Town of Elgin, and the Town of Bethune have already passed it and has sent letters to congressional members and the Governor and is hoping to have Santee-Lynches' full support. In response, Mr. Tucker made the motion to approve the resolution from Kershaw County and it was seconded by Mr. McCain. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

- 9. Next Steps-Executive Directors Search:** Chairman Nelson informed the Committee that the Executive Search Committee met earlier that day and have narrowed down the choices to three (3) individuals. They will proceed with background checks and reference checks and after those two are completed, the Committee will meet to begin the interview process. Mr. Kevin Johnson inquired about when will the rest of the Board be informed on the three (3) individuals. Chairman Nelson explained that once criminal background checks and the checking of reference have been completed, the Committee will announce the individuals publicly. Mr. Graham suggested using the term the Search Committee is narrowing down the list of candidates. To prevent releasing the names of the candidates prematurely to the press, the Committee agreed that once background checks are completed the Committee will narrow the applicants to three (3) candidates and will publicize the names after that.

- 10. Executive Directors Report:** Ms. Areatha Clark, Interim Executive Director, informed the Committee of a couple of items that's related to funding for some of the COG's programs: Two of the programs at the COG are expecting cuts in the new year: The Health and Human Services Department and another big hit for Workforce.

Ms. Clark reported the Health and Human Services department will sustain a cut that will eventually affect all of its programs. Initially, it will affect the admin funds. However, if they continue to receive funding cuts, it may eventually affect services.

Ms. Clark informed the committee that the Workforce Development Department and its programs will sustain an 11.3% cut, which equates to almost \$150,000. They will have to be very innovative this year with their budgets – especially with the contract with Eckerd Connects. Ms. Clark brought to the boards attention that Workforce will have to look for grant opportunities and other funding sources to be able to sustain workforce programs in the area. She mentions that Workforce will have to seek other funding to be able to continue to effectively provide services in the region. In March, Workforce received a resiliency grant and approximately \$150,000 was set aside for participant cost. This will assist with services with projected funding cuts in the new year.

Mrs. Drakeford asked for clarification that the 2022-2023 budget will be approved at the Board meeting and amended later due to this change. Ms. Clark confirmed that that is what will occur. She mentioned the budget Mrs. Rachel Katorkas presented for this year was based on last year's funding with anticipated cuts for the new year. Once the year starts, the budget will change slightly for Workforce, as a conservative budget was presented.

Ms. Clark announced in FY 19-20, the SC Department on Aging awarded the COG with \$10,000 to implement a Veteran Transportation Pilot Project and provide transportation reimbursement to Veterans 60 or older for transportation to doctor's appointments and other non-essential trips. HHS staff executed this program so well, the SC Department on Aging has awarded the COG with an additional \$75,000 to expand the program. She stated the service area for these funds includes both the Santee-Lynches and Central Midlands Regions for a total of (12) counties.

Lastly, Ms. Clark explained the COG yearly applies and have been fortunate to win NADO awards. The COG will be applying again this year and is excited about nominations from the HHS Department, Government Services (in particular the Far UV project) and possibly Workforce Development.

**11. Chairman Remarks:** Chairman Nelson thanked staff for their great work and thanked the Executive Committee for remaining dedicated during the meetings.

**12. Adjourn:** Chairman Nelson called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Tucker made the motion, and it was seconded by Mr. McCain. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by:



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Linda Jackson  
Board Clerk

Approved by:



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Areatha Clark  
Interim Executive Director