



Encl 2

**Executive Committee Meeting
Via Zoom
Monday, September 12, 2022
5:00 PM**

MINUTES

Zoom

Kershaw County: Alfred Mae Drakeford, Jeffery Graham, Sammie Tucker

Lee County: Will Wheeler

Sumter County: Jim McCain, Vivian McGhaney, Steve Corley

Clarendon County: Julia Nelson

Members Absent/Excused

Lee County: Grady Brown (A), Travis Windham (E),

Clarendon County: Kevin Johnson (E), Dwight Stewart (E),

1. **Welcome and Call to order:** Chairman Julia Nelson called the meeting to order at 5:05 PM.
2. **Invocation:** Mr. Sammie Tucker provided the invocation.
3. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Mr. Jim McCain lead the pledge and all attendees participated.
4. **Quorum Determination:** The Board Clerk, Ms. Linda Jackson, informed Chairman Nelson we had reached a quorum with 8 of 12 committee members present.
5. **Agenda Adoption:** Chairman Nelson called for a motion to adopt the agenda. Mr. McCain made the motion to adopt the agenda as presented and it was seconded by Mr. Will Wheeler. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.
6. **Approval of Previous Minutes:** Chairman Nelson called for a motion to approve the August 8, 2022, meeting minutes. Mr. McCain made the motion to approve the August 8th meeting minutes, and it was seconded by Mrs. Vivian McGhaney. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously. Chairman Nelson called for a motion to approve the August 10, 2022, meeting minutes. Mr. McCain made the motion, and it was seconded by Mr. Wheeler. Mr. Tucker abstained from voting for being absent from the meeting. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.
7. **Old Business:** None

8. New Business

- a. **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) 2022-2027:** Executive Director Dennis Cyphers introduced Dr. Jeff Parkey to provide to the Board a short presentation on additional information on CEDS. Dr. Parkey explained that CEDS is prepared every 5 years and it identifies the current situation within the region's economy, where the COG wants to see themselves in the next 5 years, and what steps need to be taken to make the changes happen. He informed the Board that staff submits an annual and performance report to EDA, maintain EDD designation and remain eligible for EDA funding. The CEDS process identifies locally grown strategies to guide regional economic development, encourage partnerships and collaboration, and improve economic outcomes and overall quality of life in the region. Dr. Parkey explained that CEDS has four (4) major parts including: background, SWOT analysis, identification of goals, and evaluation framework. He informed the Board of the population of the region as of the 2020 Census is 218,634 and the GDP is \$7,050,791,000. Within the region, Health Care and Social Assistance has the largest employment with 10,961 workers, Retail Trade has 10,594 workers, and Manufacturing has 9,981 workers. He explained that manufacturing remains the largest contributor to the regional GDP, followed by Health Care. Dr. Parkey explained the goals and objectives for the CEDS project including Grow Workforce and Expand Educational Attainment, Develop Critical Infrastructure, Foster Innovation and Diversification, Enhance Quality of Life. He updated the Board that the draft CEDS document is uploaded onto the COG's website and staff are taking public comments until October 7, 2022. We will incorporate any comments received, submit CEDS to EDA for acceptance, monitor progress toward goals during the next year, submit annual reports, and engage with the CEDS strategy Committee to maintain communication and awareness of the region's economy and refine the strategy. Dr. Parkey concluded the presentation by thanking the committee members including three (3) Board members, Gifford Shaw, Sammie Tucker, and Jay Davis.

Chairman Nelson asked will the public comment call for a change or just be noted within the plan. Mr. Cyphers responded that the comments will be noted within the plan. He explained the plan moving forward, the CEDS document will be available online and will be constantly updated as new information comes in. Mrs. McGhaney inquired about which highway interstates are named and which locality they are accessible to. Dr. Parkey responded that I-95 and I-20 are the two major interstates that were named for the project. Mrs. McGhaney stated her reason for asking, is that I-95 has three (3) interchanges in Sumter County that haven't been capitalized on in terms of access. She asked what can be done to make those interchanges more appealing in Sumter County. Mr. Cyphers responded that the staff is looking into numerous things such as placing an electric vehicle charging station at one of the interchanges. He stated that one of the major hold ups in the Eastern part of Sumter County is the infrastructure in place to support businesses. There is minimum water and sewer infrastructure at those locations. Mr. Cyphers explained that the staff is

looking into plans with regional providers in ways to target that area for growth. Mr. Cyphers informed the Board that General Motors has partnered with Pilot Gas Stations to put electric charge stations there. This process is being handled ahead for any corridor study that's being completed by SCDOT for the charge stations between Camden and Lee County. He also mentioned that there are some funding projects at the Lee County Industrial Park off I-20. The City of Bishopville and Lee County has secured funding in partnership with Sumter Link and Commerce to assist with an additional \$400,000 in infrastructure for that location. Mrs. McGhaney inquired about the vegetation that has grown in the medians of the Sumter County part of I-95 and suggested that staff look into the same emphasis that other counties use in clearing their areas. Mr. Cyphers explained that those projects are handled by DOT and strictly DOT; they are part of the National Highway system. The reasoning behind why those areas haven't been cleared is that there has been some draining and flooding issues. Mr. Cyphers will keep Santee-Lynches tied into whatever is going on in the Florence County MPO region, so Sumter County can get some things done in the area.

Chairman Nelson entertained a motion to approve the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Mr. McCain made the motion, and it was seconded by Mr. Jeffrey Graham. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

9. **Executive Session:** Chairman Nelson entertained a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss a matter related to the Executive Director's contract in accordance with Section 30-4-70 of the South Carolina Code. Mr. McCain made the motion to enter Executive Session and it was seconded by Mrs. Alfred Mae Drakeford. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Nelson called for a motion to exit Executive Session. Mrs. McGhaney made the motion, and it was seconded by Mr. McCain. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Nelson asked was there any action to be taken from Executive Session discussion. Mrs. McGhaney made the motion to accept the contract for the Executive Director as presented and it was seconded by Mr. Tucker. Chairman Nelson added "to be executed properly with a witness" to the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously. Chairman Nelson formally congratulated Mr. Cyphers along with the other Committee members.

10. **Executive Directors Report:** None

11. **Chairman Remarks:** None

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

Submitted by:

Linda Jackson

Linda Jackson
Board Clerk

Approved by:

Dennis Cyphers

Dennis Cyphers
Executive Director