



Encl 3

**SANTEE  
LYNCHES**

Regional Council of Governments

**Board of Directors  
Via Zoom  
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING  
Monday, September 12, 2022  
6:00 PM**

**MINUTES**

**Zoom**

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

**Lee County:**

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

**Sumter County:** Chuck Wilson, Gifford Shaw, Jim McCain, Vivian McGhaney, Steve Corley, David Weeks,

**Members Absent/Excused**

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

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

**Sumter County:** Eugene Baten (A), James Blassingame (A), Jeffery Davis (A), David Merchant (E), Roland Robinson (A), Earl Wilson (E)

**Kershaw County:** Kenneth McCaskill (A)

1. **Welcome and Call to order:** Chairman Julia Nelson called the meeting to order at 6:05PM.
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 15 of 28 board members present. (1 vacancy)
5. **Agenda Adoption:** Chairman Nelson called for a motion to adopt the agenda. Mrs. Penry Gustafson made the motion, and it was seconded by Mr. Chuck Wilson. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.
6. **Public Presentation:** N/A

7. **Staff Reports:** Mrs. Rachel Katorkas, Finance Chief, reported to the Board the first financial report runs through the end of Fiscal Year 21-22. She explained, this is an updated version of what was presented at the August Board meeting. Mrs. Katorkas informed the Board that there was a change in the fund balance for the fiscal year which was a little more than \$39,000. That is an increase of over \$54,000 from the budgeted amount. The other financial report that was sent is for July, 2022. At that point, the COG was 8.3% of the way through the fiscal year. Mrs. Katorkas explained overall, the COG has brought in 0.3% of budgeted revenue and expended 3.3% of budgeted expenses. She wanted to remind the Board that we operate primarily on a reimbursable basis, so revenue earned in July will not be reflected in financial reports until the funds are received, which is typically one or two months behind for most grants.
8. **Old Business:**
  - a. N/A
9. **New Business:**
  - a. **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) 2022-2027:** Mr. Dennis Cyphers introduced Dr. Jeff Parkey to provide to the Board a short presentation 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 are the largest employment with 10,961 workers, Retail Trade has 10,594 workers, and Manufacturing has 9,981 workers. Manufacturing is the largest contributor to the regional GDP, followed by Health Care. Dr. Parkey explained the goals and objectives for the CEDS project to include: Growing Workforce and Expanding 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. Staff will incorporate any comments received, submit CEDS to EDA for acceptance, monitor progress toward goals during the next year and submit annual report, 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.

Mr. Julian Burns thanked Dr. Parkey for the CEDS information and indicated it was the best he has seen. Mr. Burns asked why the electrification i.e., batteries, vehicles, etc. wasn't included. Mr. Cyphers explained that there is an EV topic in place for the region and is currently underway. Staff is working with DOT to locate the beneficial points and is tracking new charging stations. Mr. Burns requested the CEDS packet information from Dr. Parkey so he can give it to staff members in Kershaw County for feedback by October 7<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Burns suggested since CEDS will be a living document, to have a time stamp on the document. Mrs. Penry Gustafson wanted clarity on the Threats portion of the SWOT analysis. Dr. Parkey responded that the Threats portion was referring to either Legislation change, Regulatory change, or a Political change. He will go back and revise the wording to capture the idea a little better.

Chairman Nelson entertained a motion to accept the CEDS presentation information for 2022-2027. Mr. Jeffery Graham made the motion, and it was seconded by Mrs. Alfred Mae Drakeford. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

- 10. 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. Mrs. Vivian McGhaney made the motion, and it was seconded by Mrs. 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 Mrs. Drakeford. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Nelson asked if there was any action to be taken place from Executive Session. Mr. McCain made the motion to proceed with presenting the contract and getting it signed by both parties and witnessed as presented to Mr. Dennis Cyphers, and it was seconded by Mrs. McGhaney. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

- 11. Executive Director's Report:** Mr. Cyphers did not have a report. He did want to take the time to thank everyone for taking the time to attend the special called meeting and thanked the Board for everything they do within our region.
- 12. Chairman Remarks:** Chairman Nelson thanked all for their time and to keep Ms. Areatha Clark's daughter in their prayers. Mrs. Drakeford also thanked everyone for their thoughts and prayers for the loss of her mother
- 13. Adjourn:** Chairman Nelson entertained a motion to adjourn. Mr. McCain made the motion, and it was seconded by Mrs. Drakeford. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by:

Linda Jackson  
Linda Jackson  
Board Clerk

Approve by:

Dennis Cyphers  
Dennis Cyphers  
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:	No
Manner Notified:	Agenda was posted on Bulletin Board at 2525 Corporate Way, September 9, 2022
Media Notified:	Yes
Manner Notified:	Agenda emailed to local newspapers: The Chronicle
Date Notified:	September 6, 2022