



**Santee Lynches Regional Council of Governments
Board of Directors' Meeting
Monday, October 7, 2019 - 6:00pm
CCTC Advanced Manufacturing Technology Training Center
853 Broad Street, Room A101
Sumter, South Carolina**

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Members Present

Clarendon County: Benton Blakley, Kevin Johnson, Shirley Keels, Julia Nelson, Dwight Stewart

Kershaw County: Julian Burns, John Wesley Lee, Sammie Tucker

Lee County: Jackie Josey, Travis Windham

Sumter County: Eugene Baten, Steve Corley, Jim McCain, Joe McElveen, Vivian McGhaney, David Merchant, Roland Robinson, Chuck Wilson

Members Absent

Kershaw County: Alfred Mae Drakeford (excused), Laurie Funderburk (excused), Brad Hanley (excused), Kenneth McCaskill

Lee County: Grady Brown (excused), Will Wheeler (excused)

Sumter County: Jay Davis, Lone Dwyer, David Weeks (excused), Earl Wilson (excused)

1. **Welcome and Call to Order:** Chairman Vivian McGhaney called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm.
2. **Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance:** Mr. John Lee provided the invocation and all attendees participated in the pledge.
3. **Introduction of Guests:** Chairman McGhaney welcomed Jackie Josey of Lee County as a new member to the board and Mr. McKinney welcomed special guest, Sandy Jenkins of Santee-Wateree Regional Transportation Authority.
4. **Quorum Determination:** Chairwoman McGhaney determined there was a quorum. 18 of 28 board members were present.
5. **Adoption of Agenda:** Mr. Eugene Baten made a motion to adopt the agenda. Mr. Chuck Wilson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
6. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:** Mr. Julian Burns made a motion to approve the August 12, 2019 meeting minutes. Mr. Jim McCain seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
7. **Staff Briefings:**
 - a. **COG Financial Report:** Ms. Rachel Katorkas, Finance Chief, reviewed the August 31, 2019 financial report. She reported that the budget is based mostly on funds received through reimbursable type grants. She reported that revenues are expected to trail behind expenses most of the year with an overall 3.6 % of budgeted revenue received and 10.3% of budgeted expenses have been

expended. She pointed out that several COGs have been paying beyond the base appropriations and these funds have gone towards local government support for building capital.

8. Committee Reports:

a. Executive Committee:

- i. **Review/Discuss Committee Assignments:** Mr. McKinney gave an overview of committee assignments. A description sheet was created to provide all members a general overview of committee responsibilities.
- ii. **Implementation of 1st and 2nd Reading** Mr. McKinney reported that in an effort to provide members more time for review and discussion to fully understand important topics. He proposed to the Executive Committee that the board implement a first and a second reading of agenda items such as policies, budget, etc. The Executive Committee decided that the first and second reading connotation would have unintended consequences. They decided not to use the 1st/2nd Reading verbiage. A motion was made by Mr. Jim McCain to remove first reading on agenda item 12 and replace with "COG Personnel Policies for Information Only". The motion was seconded by Mr. Sammie Tucker and unanimously approved.
- iii. **COG Personnel Policy** – Mr. McKinney reported that changes made to the policy were minimal and were highlighted in the Board packets.

9. Executive Director's Report: Mr. Christopher McKinney reported that the agency applied for a Department of Labor grant and was not approved. He also reported that due to the agency's accurate and timely monthly reporting, the Santee-Lynches Area Agency on Aging (AAA) was the first agency the Department on Aging selected for a grant opportunity covering the 4-county region. The grant will serve people diagnosed with Alzheimer's and Alzheimer's caregivers. An exact grant amount is unknown as these are brand new funds received by the state.

Mr. McKinney reported the Department of Aging also reached out to the Santee-Lynches AAA because they had extra funds our region could use to serve veterans. Santee-Lynches was the only region to receive \$10,000 to provide veterans rides for medical appointments, pharmacy trips and other errands as needed by the veterans. Vouchers in the amount of \$100 will be available on a first come, first serve basis. He reported that the AAA has a list of all veterans in our region and a staff member will be contacting our veterans. Ms. Connie Munn, Chief of Health and Human Services stated that the consumer can choose their individual transportation provider. Once service is rendered, they must submit a payment request form.

Mr. McKinney provided an update on the SC Thrive contract. SC Thrive partnered with Santee-Lynches AAA to run a pilot for long-term healthcare (LTHC). There are approximately 12,000 families awaiting a decision on their applications and many may not receive the care they need due to the current arduous application process. An online portal with a dedicated person to assist will streamline this process and assist families in obtaining a decision on LTHC faster. SC Thrive approached SLCOG to be the lead agency to coordinate the \$80,000 grant with other COGs across the state. Pending successful outcomes, it is likely an additional 3 to 4-year grant of approximately \$500 million will be awarded. SC Thrive's direct partnership with HHS could bring other partnership opportunities and additional resources to our region.

Mr. McKinney also reported that the Santee-Lynches Wateree Transportation needs assessment is completed and final recommendations regarding routes and priority items were presented to their board. SLCOG will attend city and county council meetings to support them as they make presentations.

Mr. McKinney gave an update on two Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) that are in progress with Mayesville and Bishopville. The grants are in the amount of \$494,000 and \$426,000, respectively, and will assist with the demolition of approximately 75 dilapidated houses across the two municipalities. The grant is awaiting approval from the state. Sumter County's dilapidated home demolition grant application from the previous year is expected to have an executed contract on September 25th, with work beginning on October 9th and expected completion of the entire project the first week of December.

He reported that last budget year, the Board approved upgrades to the SLCOG's webpage and we are in the process of evaluating service providers to complete this project. The agency currently has unmonitored IT services which leaves the agency open to threats such as viruses and hackers, so monitoring services are being evaluated to combat these problems.

10. Old Business:

- a. **SC Housing Update:** Mr. McKinney reported that SC Housing is starting to positively engage with the SLCOG on the Neighborhood Initiative Program (NIP).

11. New Business: For information only: Revisions to Section 8 of Executive Director's contract related to cell phone and vehicle usage. No action required.

12. Chairman's Remarks: Chairwoman McGhaney reminded board members to inform staff if they plan to attend board meetings to ensure that a quorum is met.

13. Adjournment: Chairman McGhaney reminded everyone to turn in their attendance forms for the upcoming SCCOGS Conference in Myrtle Beach, November 24-26. Ms. Julia Nelson made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Julian Burns seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christopher H. McKinney
CEO/Executive Director