



Santee Lynch Regional Council of Governments
Board of Directors' Meeting
Monday, August 12, 2019 - 6:00pm
CCTC Advanced Manufacturing Technology Training Center
853 Broad Street, Room A101
Sumter, South Carolina

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Members Present

City of Manning: Mayor Julia Nelson
Clarendon County: Sen. Kevin Johnson, Shirley Keels
City of Camden: Mayor Alfred Mae Drakeford
Kershaw County: Brad Hanley, Kenneth McCaskill, Sammie Tucker, John Wesley Lee
City of Bishopville: Mayor Grady Brown, Rep. Will Wheeler
Lee County: Travis Windham
City of Sumter: David Merchant
Sumter County: Eugene Baten, James McCain, Vivian McGhaney, Rep. David Weeks, Earl Wilson

Members Absent

Clarendon County: Benton Blakely (excused), Dwight Stewart (excused)
City of Camden: Jeffrey Graham (excused)
Kershaw County: Julian Burns (excused), Rep. Laurie Funderburk (excused)
City of Sumter: Mayor Joe McElveen (excused), David Merchant (excused), Ione Dwyer (excused), Steve Corley (excused)
Sumter County: Jay Davis (excused), Roland Robinson (excused), Chuck Wilson (excused)

1. **Welcome and Call to Order:** Chairman Vivian McGhaney called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.
2. **Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance:** Mr. Sammie Tucker provided the invocation and all attendees participated in the pledge.
3. **Introduction of Guest:** Ms. Lottie Jones (SWRTA), Ms. Patricia Drakeford (SWRTA), Ms. Michelle Arbeiter
4. **Quorum Determination:** Chairman McGhaney determined there was a quorum. 17 of 28 board members were present.
5. **Adoption of Agenda:** Mr. Eugene Baten made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Jim McCain seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:** Ms. Alfred Mae Drakeford made a motion to approve the June 3, 2019 meeting minutes. Rep. Will Wheeler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. **Introduction of New Board Officers:** Mr. Christopher McKinney introduced Ms. Vivian McGhaney as the new COG Board Chair, Ms. Julia Nelson as 1st Vice-Chair, Mr. Sammie Tucker as 2nd Vice-Chair, and Mr. Jim McCain as Secretary/Treasurer. Chairman Drakeford introduced Mayor Grady Brown as a new board member representing the City of Bishopville.

8. **Public Presentations:**

a. **SLRCOG Service Testimonials:** Ms. Connie, Health and Human Services Chief, presented Ms. Michelle Arbeiter. Ms. Arbeiter worked as an Intern Student in the Health and Human Services Department at Santee-Lynches Regional Council of Governments (SLRCOG). Ms. Arbeiter stated she is employed as a Master Social Worker at Dorn VA Medical Center in Columbia. While she was an intern, she rotated her time between the Assessor's, Long Term Care Ombudsman, the Family Caregiver Support Program, and the Veteran Directed Program. Ms. Arbeiter stated the knowledge gained from working with the HHS Department has directly and positively impacted her professional career.

9. **Staff Briefings:**

a. **COG Financial Report:** Ms. Rachel Katorkas, Finance Manager reviewed the June 30, 2019 financial report. She provided updated cash balances as well as the RDC bank balance as of June 30, 2019.

10. **Committee Reports:**

a. **Executive Committee:** N/A

i. **Review/Discuss Committee Assignments:** Chairman McGhaney stated as this time the report is not final and would like to table the Committee Assignments until the next board meeting. Mr. Sammie Tucker made a motion to table the Committee Assignments until the October Board meeting. Mr. Jim McCain seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

ii. **Expansion of Executive Committee:** Mr. McKinney explained to ensure fair representation for each city/county, there will be three members of any combination from each city/county bringing the Executive Committee from 10 members to 12 members. Rep. Will Wheeler and Mr. Jeffrey Graham have been added. Mayor Joe McElveen will also be added to replace Dr. Bill Painter and Mayor Brown will replace Mayor Alexander Boyd.

iii. **By-Laws Update:** Chairman McGhaney explained the revisions to the By-Laws.

- Eliminate Article III C (page 5)
- Correct a typographical error on page 16

Chairman McGhaney stated the Executive Committee amended and recommended approval of the By-Laws. Chairman McGhaney called for a vote. All were in favor and the vote passed unanimously.

- b. **Audit/Finance Committee:** Ms. Alfred Mae Drakeford reported, the Audit Finance Committee met by conference call on June 25, 2019 to review the results of the procurement for audit services and to select the successful audit firm based on previous authorization by the Board.

Staff provided an overview of the procurement process and noted that three proposals were received. Of these three, the highest-ranking proposal was from the firm of Mauldin Jenkins. Staff noted this is the firm utilized for the COG and RDC audit work for the past two years. It was noted there have been no concerns or issues with the performance of this firm.

The Audit/Finance Committee accepted the review committee's ranking and staff recommendation to engage Mauldin Jenkins for FY 2018-2019 audit services. Staff was then authorized to proceed with award after the procurement team completed its review of the process.

Since the June 25th meeting, staff made an offer to Mauldin Jenkins and the firm accepted the offer.

No further action is needed, and there was no other business discussed by the committee.

11. **Executive Directors Report:** Mr. Christopher McKinney reported this was Mrs. Kathy Powell's last board meeting and provided the dates her upcoming retirement events. He also reported this was Kyle Kelly's last board meeting as he is taking a Senior Planner position with the City of Sumter

Mr. McKinney announced the State has reached out to the agency to start a Pilot Program for transportation for veterans. We will receive \$10,000 in funding for this program.

Mr. McKinney then announced SC Thrive, a nonprofit organization did a five-week pilot program with the HHS Department for taking and submitting long term care applications. SC Thrive created an online application software program and has asked the HHS Department to test the software. The HHS Department was able to successfully submit three (3) of four (4) applications. SC Thrive has now asked us to participate in a one-year pilot program and will provide \$80,000 in funding to work with our region and two other regions, with us being the lead to facilitate this program. SC Thrive will be potentially be receiving \$300,000 - \$500,000 over a three-year period to do this same process and they want us to be the point of contact to run it across the entire State.

Mr. McKinney reminded the board that Ms. Areatha Clark submitted for and received a grant of \$100,000 for new computers for the SC Works Sumter and Camden offices.

He also stated, Ms. Clark found a SC Department of Labor Grant for up to \$500,000 over a two-year period to facilitate women who have been impacted directly or

indirectly by Opioids and getting them back into the workforce. Mr. McKinney stated he will report back at the October board meeting.

He then stated we are finding new ways to ensure we remain resilient and bring new funding sources into our region.

12. Old Business:

- a. **SC Housing Update:** Mr. McKinney reported to the Board on SC Housing NIP Program. Mr. McKinney described in detail the challenges we are having and have had in working with SC Housing and he is starting to engage with them to deal with failures on 3 houses. He explained they are failing the properties while we are waiting on approval our change orders.

13. New Business: None

- 14. Chairman's Remarks:** Chairman McGhaney thanked the board for allowing her to serve as the new chairman and is looking forward to working with everyone.

- 15. Adjournment:** Chairman McGhaney asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Sammie Tucker made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Jim McCain seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The board meeting was adjourned at 6:44pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christopher H. McKinney
CEO/Executive Director