

**Santee-Lynches Regional Council of Governments
Board of Directors' Meeting
September 26, 2017 – 9:00 AM
2525 Corporate Way, Sumter South Carolina**

MINUTES

Members Present:

Clarendon: Senator Kevin Johnson, Shirley Keels, Julia Nelson, Dwight Stewart
Kershaw: Julian Burns, Alfred Mae Drakeford, Rep. Laurie Funderburk, Jeffrey Graham,
Brad Hanley, Kenneth McCaskill, Sammie Tucker
Lee: Alexander Boyd, Travis Windham, Rep. Will Wheeler
Sumter: Ione Dwyer, Bob Galiano, Jim McCain, Vivian McGhaney, Bill Painter, Rep. David
Weeks, Earl Wilson

Members Absent: Excused – Joe McElveen; Absent – Benton Blakely, John Wesley Lee,
David Addison, Eugene Baten, Jim Campbell, Jay Schwedler, Chuck Wilson

Guest Present: SCDOT Commissioner David E. Branham, Sr.

Staff Present:

Kathy Powell and Kyle Kelly

- I. **Welcome and Call to Order** – Chairman Travis Windham called the meeting to order.
 - A. Dwight Stewart provided the invocation.
 - B. Approval of Agenda – A motion was made by Bill Painter to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Ione Dwyer and unanimously approved.
 - C. Approval of Minutes – A motion was made by Bill Painter to approve the May 1, 2017 meeting minutes. Jeffrey Graham seconded the motion which then passed unanimously, with Alfred Mae Drakeford abstaining because she was not in attendance at that meeting. Bill Painter then moved to approve the August 7, 2017 minutes as published. The motion was seconded by Bob Galiano and unanimously approved, with Sammie Tucker abstaining because he was unable to attend that meeting.

- II. **Old Business**
 - A. **Adoption of FY 2017-2018 and FY 2018-2019 Rural Planning Work Program (RPWP)**- Dwight Stewart, ECS Chair, asked Kyle Kelly to read the motion from the ECS committee and give some background. Mr. Kelly reported that the Committee met on June 28, 2017 and discussed the following: In order to access federal transportation planning funds provided through SCDOT for the rural portion of the Santee-Lynches region, a 2-year work program is required. The region's Rural Planning Work Program has been updated using best practices from other transportation planning districts in the state. There is no change in budget from the previous work plan, with the \$85,000 federal share remaining consistent.

The planning funds will be matched by Santee-Lynches using local appropriations from member governments on an 80% federal/20% local basis. Mr. Stewart then brought forward a recommendation in the form of a motion to adopt the proposed Rural Planning Work Program for 2017/18 and 2018/19. The motion was seconded by Jim McCain. During discussion, Julian Burns mentioned the efforts that Kershaw County has been making to get a better handle on Santee-Wateree RTA's services to and performance in Kershaw County. He registered Kershaw County's concerns regarding the cost per rider and the availability of transportation provided by SWRTA, particularly in the rural areas of Kershaw County. He also noted that Kershaw County has not been successful in getting data from SWRTA to fully answer their questions. He asked that there be follow up at a later date. Mr. Kelly mentioned that the work program funding can be used for studies or supporting data collection in transit related work, stating it's a matter of working with partners, including our local governments, to see what needs to be done. After discussion, the motion was approved unanimously.

B. Regional Development Corporation–

1. To introduce the RDC annual meeting information, Mrs. Powell gave a brief background summary of the structure of the RDC membership, noting there is an annual meeting required of the full membership. She noted that SLRCOG board members are a part of the full RDC membership. The annual RDC membership meeting was last held during the August 2017 meeting of the SLRCOG Board at which there was not a quorum. Therefore, the minutes of the prior membership meeting (see August 8, 2016 COG meeting minutes excerpt) need to be approved. Bob Galiano moved to approve the minutes of the August 8, 2016 RDC membership meeting. The motion, seconded by Jeffrey Graham, passed unanimously.
2. Mr. Kelly presented the following information regarding the RDC Board of Directors' slate: The RDC Board is an up to 15-member board that meets quarterly to conduct the ongoing business of the RDC. He noted that there are two vacancies in the proposed slate, one for a representative from Clarendon County and one for a representative from Kershaw County. The Board of Directors and Officers serve for renewable one-year terms, with no specified limits to the number of terms that may be served. The slate is to be voted on each year at the annual membership meeting but could not be acted upon at the August 2017 meeting. Mr. Kelly presented the proposed slate of RDC Board of Directors for approval. After a brief discussion, Bill Painter moved to approve the proposed slate of Directors. The motion, seconded by Dwight Stewart, passed unanimously.

III. New Business

A. Adoption of Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) FY 2017-2022 and Resolution

As a part of the EDA designation of our region as an Economic Development District (EDD), we are required to develop a Comprehensive Economic

Development Strategy (CEDS) every five years. This requirement maintains our region's status as an EDD and enables local governments and other eligible institutions to seek certain forms of federal economic development funding. A strategy committee was formed in 2016 to guide the development of the CEDS. Staff worked with the strategy committee, made up of representatives from various sectors, including education, utilities, tourism, local government, banking, small business, healthcare, agriculture, and the military. The strategy committee, supported by staff, identified four goals and a series of strategies and objectives to achieve those goals, which are conveyed in the CEDS document. After Mr. Kelly's presentation, Bill Painter moved to adopt the CEDS as present. Bob Galiano seconded the motion.

During discussion, Julian Burns commented on the amount of work done and noted the significant improvement in the plan itself, commenting that it was a stupendous job. In response to questions, Mr. Kelly noted a 45-day public comment period was observed from August 1, 2017 through September 15, 2017, and the CEDS draft was put out for comment through traditional media and through the Santee-Lynches website and social media platforms. Staff also worked during the comment period to put hard copies in the hands of different stakeholders, including economic developers, education officials, members of regional economic development committees, and others. These engagements provided the majority of feedback that was used to refine the final draft.

At the request of Mr. Burns, Mr. Kelly described the key items that were modified from the draft released for comment. Mr. Kelly noted that additional short and long-term projects were identified and included in the projects listing, and additional data was identified to support baseline figures and year 2022 targets for the progress indicators that are part of the evaluation framework. Mr. Burns again commended staff on their efforts and noted he was disappointed in the lack of local response and feedback, particularly from the business sector but also from the Board in general. When asked how we may improve feedback in the future, Mr. Kelly noted we are open to feedback and suggestions to try to improve the process in the future. He said that much of the feedback received this year was because of staff persistence to engage the education and economic development communities- literally by "putting the document in the hands" of certain groups. The CEDS is designed to be a living document, and is open to adjustments in the future that may be required to respond to changing economic factors and additional input.

Vivian McGhaney apologized that she missed the survey and commended the staff on the product. She noted that all Board members, including herself, should make every effort in the future to provide feedback to the staff on products such as these. After discussion, the motion to adopt the CEDS as presented passed unanimously.

IV. Other Business-

Chairman Windham asked Mrs. Powell to comment about the change to Board meeting frequency and time. She reported that, beginning in February 2018, the Board will meet every other month on the first Monday of the month at 5:00 p.m. She noted the time change was the result of polling the board members and was the time most members preferred.

Mrs. Powell reminded the Board of their next meeting, the annual Board retreat, to be held at USC Sumter's Arts and Letters Lecture Hall on Monday, November 6, 2017 beginning at 9:00 am.

She also briefed the board on an upcoming change in ownership of Derrick, Stubbs, the firm currently engaged by SLRCOG and SLRDC for their annual audits. Mrs. Powell was notified last week that Derrick Stubbs will be merging with Mauldin & Jenkins, a firm with significant governmental auditing experience. SLRCOG will be served by the same audit team as originally proposed, and the current fee structure will be honored; therefore, other than the name change on the letterhead, the Board and staff should not notice any difference due to the merger. Mrs. Powell presented this as information and noted the auditors could be available at the next meeting if the Board wished to ask any questions. With no questions or concerns raised, Chairman Windham noted he did not think that would be necessary.

Chairman Windham asked that the Board be briefed at the next meeting about the COG's office building status.

V. Adjournment – There being no further action before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

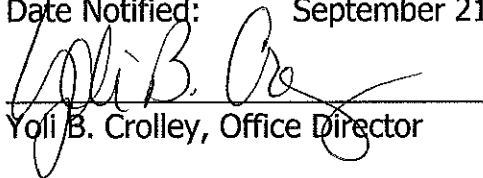
Respectfully Submitted,



Kathy E. Powell
Interim Executive Director

I certify that public/media notifications were given prior to meeting as follows:

- Public Notified: Yes
- Manner Notified: Agenda posted on board at 2525 Corporate Way Suite 200, Sumter
- Date Posted: September 21, 2017
- Medic Notified: Yes
- Manner Notified: Agenda emailed to local newspapers:
Clarendon Citizen, Camden Chronicle, Lee Observer and Sumter Item
- Date Notified: September 21, 2017


Yoli B. Crolley, Office Director