

**Santee-Lynches Regional Council of Governments**  
**Board of Directors' Meeting**  
**August 7, 2017 – 12:00 P.M.**  
**CCTC Advanced Manufacturing Center, Sumter South Carolina**

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:**

Clarendon: Shirley Keels, Julia Nelson, Dwight Stewart  
Kershaw: Jeffrey Graham, Brad Hanley,  
Lee: Alexander Boyd, Travis Windham  
Sumter: Eugene Baten, Jim Campbell, Ione Dwyer, Jim McCain, Joe McElveen, Dr. Bill Painter, Earl Wilson

**Members Absent:** Excused – Senator Kevin Johnson, Alfred Mae Drakeford, Rep. Laurie Funderburk, Sammie Tucker, David Addison, Rep. Will Wheeler, Bob Galiano, Vivian McGhaney, Rep. David Weeks; Absent – Benton Blakely, Julian Burns, John Lee, Kenneth McCaskill, Jay Schwedler, Chuck Wilson

**Staff Present:**

Kathy Powell, Areatha Clark, Yoli Crolley, Kyle Kelly, Connie Munn

**NO QUORUM WAS PRESENT AT MEETING**

- I. Welcome and Call to Order** – Chairman Travis Windham called the meeting to order.
- A. Dwight Stewart provided the invocation.
  - B. Attendees provided the Pledge of Allegiance.
  - C. Introduction of new COG Staff and Interns – Kathy Powell, Interim Executive Director, introduced April Barr and Cassandra Sheriod – new SC Works Case Managers; Martha Ludd – Insurance Counselor within Health and Human Services Department; summer intern Ehime Ohue - a student at Duke University, working primarily within the Health and Human Services Department. Mrs. Powell also recognized Josh Miller - a student at USC Sumter, who has assisted the Economic Development Department this summer. Mrs. Powell also introduced Lottie Jones, Patricia Drakeford and Sandy Jones from Santee Wateree RTA.
  - D. Approval of Agenda – No quorum.
  - E. Approval of Minutes – No quorum.
  - F. Financial Report - Kathy Powell, Interim Executive Director referred board members to their preliminary June 2017 financial report and updated the bank balances as follows: General Operating funds \$1,627,525; State Local Government Investment Pool funds \$965,689. The current percent of the budget year completed is 100%. Mrs. Powell noted that state and local appropriations have all been collected and indicated we've collected 92% of total budgeted operating revenues. Actual expenses compared to budget are approximately 94.4% of budget. While the net fund balance is at -\$55,750 in this report, the majority of year end invoices have been paid, but there are still have funds outstanding to be invoiced and collected.

She noted she expects the final fund balance to be in the black as originally projected. Mrs. Powell pointed out the RDC bank balances on the final page of the report. There were no questions, and the report was accepted as information by the board.

## **II. Committee Reports**

### **A. Economic & Community Sustainability (ECS) – Dwight Stewart, Chair,** provided the following report:

1. FY 2017-2018 and FY 2018-2019 Rural Planning Work Program for Transportation and Resolution – In order to access federal transportation planning funds provided through SCDOT for the rural portion of the Santee-Lynches region, a two-year work program is required. The 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. These planning funds are matched by Santee-Lynches using local appropriations from member governments on an 80% federal to 20% local basis.
2. The ECS Committee continues to monitor and review activity for transportation, environment, economic development, and community development planning and project management. Key items of note for the board's situational awareness:
  - **Camden Truck Route.** Acquisition continues for additional right-of-way on Segment 2 (*Boykin Road from Knights Hill Road to Broad Street, Northwest of Camden*) and SCDOT has revised its estimated resumption of work date to September 2017. The construction contract for Segment 1 (*Ehrenclou and Chestnut Ferry Roads from US-1 to Broad Street, Southwest of Camden*) has been awarded and the contractor has begun site preparation. Segment 3 (*York and Rippendon Streets from Broad Street to US-1, Southeast of Camden*) is in engineering and design and letting is planned for this month.
  - **Proposed Bishopville Truck Route EIS.** Santee-Lynches was invited to become a participating agency in the development of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Proposed Bishopville Truck Route by SCDOT and the Federal Highways Administration, and planning staff will participate in agency meetings and will work with the project consultant and SCDOT throughout the study process. A joint Lee County/City of Bishopville Council meeting was held on July 25<sup>th</sup> to review results from the first community scoping session held on May 9<sup>th</sup>. SCDOT has created a study webpage with additional information. The page can be accessed through the Santee-Lynches website at [www.santeelynchescog.org/transportation](http://www.santeelynchescog.org/transportation).
  - **Comprehensive Planning.** Santee-Lynches is currently supporting several local government 10-year comprehensive planning efforts, including the Towns of Bethune, Pinewood, and Mayesville, along with Clarendon County. Also, Santee-Lynches planning staff facilitated development of the City of Manning's new 10-year Comprehensive Plan, which City Council adopted on June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017.



3. CEDS Update (Draft) – Kyle Kelly, ECS Director, reported that the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) has to be updated on a five-year basis. The current CEDS expires on September 30, 2017. The draft 2017-2022 CEDS has been released for public comment on our COG website as well as to various media outlets. The Strategy Committee is listed within the document. Mr. Kelly noted that the CEDS enables the region to qualify and seek economic development infrastructure funding through the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA).

### **III. Regional Development Corporation (RDC) Annual Membership Meeting**

#### **A. Call to Order**

#### **B. Minutes Excerpt (August 8, 2016 - Motion) - No quorum**

#### **C. Financial Report** - Kathy Powell noted the following as she provided the financial report:

- The Neighborhood Initiative Program obtains dilapidated residential properties and demolishes, clears, and greens each property. Santee-Lynches Regional Development Corporation must retain the property for at least three years after purchase. For each year a property is held, 1/3 of the cost of the property and improvements can be recognized as revenue. Mrs. Powell reported that the State Housing was conducting an in-house monitoring this week on the program. This program will end in December and all properties must be demolished and greened by this timeframe. Total funds received have been noted and then shown as "NIP Proceeds Transferred". There is currently \$236,000 in amortized revenues from properties held at least one year.
- Pinewood Development Authority property and cash are held with the RDC.
- The last page of the report is the balance sheet. She noted the land acquired through the NIP program is valued at almost \$1.5 million with \$1.2 million of contingent notes payable. The property valuation includes purchase costs, title costs, demo and improvements, and is not, therefore, representative of the potential cash value of the property. For every year the property is held, 1/3 of the note will be written off. Mrs. Powell noted that the RDC does not want to be in the property holding business indefinitely.

#### **D. Proposed FY 17-18 Board of Directors Slate (Motion)** – Kyle Kelly, ECS Director, stated the Board of Directors slate was in the member package. No quorum present so no action was taken.

#### **E. RDC Activities Update** - Kyle Kelly, ECS Director, provided an update on RDC Activities:

- In 2015, SC Housing received funding through the U.S. Treasury Department to create the Neighborhood Initiative Program (NIP), and issued a call for applications. The City of Camden/Kershaw County and the City of Sumter both applied as lead entities with the Santee-Lynches RDC serving as the project partner to access the funds and complete the projects. The City of Sumter received \$3.6 million with the City of Camden/Kershaw County receiving \$1.4 million. Each property had an approximate budget of \$35,000 for the cost of acquisition, demolition, and greening. Santee-Lynches RDC has purchased 100



properties of the 100 property goal in Sumter and purchased 37 of the 46 property goal in Camden/Kershaw County. The acquisition period ended June 30, 2017, and Santee-Lynches RDC is now completing demolition, clearing, and greening with a deadline of December 1, 2017.

- Mr. Kelly reported that the City of Sumter Fire Department had used several of the houses slated for demolished for training its staff under agreement with Santee-Lynches RDC
- It was also noted that part of the property purchase in some cases has paid delinquent taxes and some of it has covered back taxes on property. Once each property is purchased it becomes tax exempt through this program, but Santee-Lynches RDC is responsible for the first year of taxes after acquisition before tax exemptions become active. The RDC has paid approximately \$63,000 in delinquent tax payments for the City of Sumter and approximately \$24,000 for the City of Camden/Kershaw County.
- Jeffrey Graham noted that titles are also being fixed through this program and making the property marketable values/land.
- There were comments regarding the program and the benefits for the areas participating by City of Sumter Mayor Joe McElveen, City of Sumter Ione Dwyer, and City of Camden Councilman Jeffrey Graham.

#### **IV. Announcements**

##### **A. Chairman's Report** – Chairman Travis Windham reported the following:

- This year's board retreat will be Monday, November 6 starting at 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. with lunch served. The board will work on committee structure and the various components of each committee. This is needed for participation on committee's in order to have a quorum and conduct business.
- Resumes for the Executive Director were due by Friday, August 4. The Search Committee will receive resumes to review and pick the top five candidates. An extensive interview process will begin with a timeline of December to have a new Executive Director hired.
- COG Building Update – staff have met with the architect and are working on building plans. A Task Force Committee will be scheduled within the month to work with staff on plans, cost estimates and funding.

##### **B. Interim Executive Director Comments** – Kathy Powell provided the following Interim Executive Director report:

- Staff were awarded three Innovations Awards from the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO): Heartfelt Patriotism (Veteran Directed Program); Hire Me (industry specific regional hiring events for an economic development prospect); Understanding the Green Heart of South Carolina (Santee-Lynches Green Infrastructure Inventory).
- The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) will need to be adopted before the end of September so a Board Conference Call has been scheduled for Tuesday, September 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.
- SCARC Conference is scheduled for November 19-21 in Myrtle Beach (deadline to register with Yoli is October 4<sup>th</sup>). If you plan to go, you must be available to

attend all meetings. The spouse/guest fee this year is \$75 and limited to one guest per board member.

- 2020 Census pre-count- Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) - will start in February 2018. If local governments need assistance they are asked to contact staff to determine how the COG may be of assistance. A few questions to determine the need:
  - As a local government, have you identified a 2020 Census point of contact?
  - Will you need additional support for the Census?
  - Do you have a plan in place of the 2020 Census?
  - Do you desire to form a regional committee to coordinate the Census with LUCA?
- Dwight Stewart noted at the Association of Counties meeting they discussed the importance of the upcoming census count, noting the estimated average in federal funding received for each person counted in the State of SC is \$1,500.

**V. Other Business**

**A. Motion to enter Executive Session (Contractual Matter)** - A motion was made Dr. Bill Painter to enter into Executive Session to discuss a contractual matter. The motion was seconded by Jeffrey Graham and unanimously approved.

**B. Motion to exit Executive Session** - A motion was made by Jim McCain to exit Executive Session and seconded by Dr. Bill Painter. The motion was unanimously approved. Chairman Windham stated there was discussion regarding an agreement with Dr. Michael Mikota.

**VI. Adjournment** - There being no further action before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

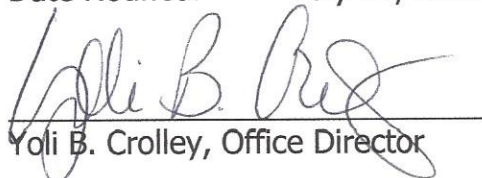


Kathy E. Powell  
Interim Executive Director

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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: July 27, 2017  
Medic Notified: Yes  
Manner Notified: Agenda emailed to local newspapers:  
Clarendon Citizen, Camden Chronicle, Lee Observer and Sumter Item  
Date Notified: July 27, 2017



Yoli B. Crolley, Office Director