

**Santee-Lynches Regional Council of Governments**  
**Board of Directors' Meeting**  
**November 7, 2016 – 3:30 P.M.**  
**CCTC Health Sciences Building, Sumter South Carolina**

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:**

Clarendon: Senator Kevin Johnson, Shirley Keels, Julia Nelson, Dwight Stewart  
Kershaw: Julian Burns, Alfred Mae Drakeford, Jeffrey Graham, Brad Hanley  
Lee: David Addison, Alexander Boyd, Rep. Grady Brown, Travis Windham  
Sumter: Eugene Baten, Larry Blanding, Jim Campbell, Ione Dwyer, Thomas Lowery, Jim McCain, Vivian McGhaney, Dr. Bill Painter, Earl Wilson, Colleen Yates

**Members Absent:** Excused – Benton Blakely, Rep. Laurie Funderburk, John Lee, Kenneth McCaskill, Sammie Tucker, Rep. David Weeks; Absent – Jay Schwedler

**Staff Present:**

Dr. Michael Mikota, Kathy Powell, Areatha Clark, Yoli Crolley, Connie Munn, Kyle Kelly and Brenda Golden.

- I. Welcome and Call to Order** – Chair Drakeford called the meeting to order.
- A. Dwight Stewart provided the invocation.
  - B. Attendees provided the Pledge of Allegiance.
  - C. Approval of Agenda – A motion was made by Jim Campbell to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Vivian McGhaney and unanimously approved.
  - D. Approval of Minutes – A motion was made by Jim Campbell to approve the September 27, 2016 minutes as published. The motion was seconded by Dr. Bill Painter and unanimously approved.
  - E. Financial Report - Kathy Powell, Deputy and Finance Director referred board members to their copy of the September 30, 2016 financial report and updated the bank balances as of 11/7/16 as follows: General Operating funds \$1,391,012; State Local Government Investment Pool funds \$957,751. She noted the SCLGIP funds are primarily comprised of funds received as a result of fire insurance claims and from the sale of the COG's office building. Ms. Powell noted the status of local appropriations collections and indicated we've collected 13.1% of total budgeted operating revenues through 9/30/16. Actual expenses compared to budget are at approximately 20% of budget- about 5% underspent after the first quarter of the fiscal year. She noted the approximate 7% difference in revenues collected and costs incurred is the result of operating primarily on a reimbursement basis. The differential indicates we are on target in requesting and receiving reimbursement payments. Ms. 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:**

The ECS Committee did not meet in October, and there are no items for board action to consider. The Committee continues to monitor and review activity on transportation, economic development, environment, and community development fronts. Key items of note for the board's situational awareness:

1. Revisions to the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) are forthcoming. Staff is awaiting SCDOT's response on updated project prioritization using Act 114 criteria. That information has been delayed due to SCDOT's response to Hurricane Matthew, but we expect the updated information soon.
2. The Environmental Planning Advisory Committee (EPAC) will meet on Wednesday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. The Committee will review progress on the Green Infrastructure Plan, and will also discuss items relating to refreshing the Regional Water Quality Management Plan.
3. The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) update for the coming five years (2017-2022) has begun. A CEDS advisory committee comprised of regional representatives from education, business, tourism, and non-profit sectors has begun regular meetings, and will continue to convene between now and September 2017 to develop a high-quality regional strategy for the board to consider. The next meeting of the CEDS committee will be November 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **B. Health & Human Services - Shirley Keels, Chair, provided the following report:**

- The committee recommends in the form of a motion to amend the current contracts with aging service providers so that reimbursement for actual units served can be made during the year as service is provided. The motion was seconded by Jim Campbell and unanimously approved.
- The committee recommends in the form of a motion to approve the proposed new funding formula. The motion was seconded by Jim Campbell. Chair Drakeford asked for additional information on this funding formula. Mrs. Powell gave some background information about the awarding of contracts for aging services through competitive procurement. These contracts are funded with federal and state dollars that are awarded by formula to the 10 regions of the state. Each region then applies the funding it receives using a variety of allocation methods. The Santee-Lynches region has, for the past number of years, used prior year trends and needs assessment information to fund its contracts. This past year the state monitored our aging service program and stated that we must utilize a formula allocation for federal funds. In response to that requirement, the staff reviewed other funding formulas and formulated the proposal being presented. Mrs. Powell then reviewed the handout, discussing the various elements of the proposed funding formula and noted this funding formula provides, in the staff's opinion, the most flexibility to address needs that may change from year to year. Chair Drakeford called for the motion and it was approved unanimously.

**C. Workforce** - Earl Wilson, Chair, noted the committee discussed various initiatives and possible partnerships, to include the following:

- Initiatives for Ex-Offenders Special Population
  - ✓ Tax credit incentives for employers hiring ex-offenders
  - ✓ Federal bonding available for ex-offenders
  - ✓ Possible mentoring for home life
  - ✓ Reaching out to our four counties to uncover additional opportunities
  - ✓ There was board discussion regarding this population and programs available to them.
- Increasing Partnerships with other Community Agencies such as Housing Authority, DSS, etc.
  - ✓ As a part of providing housing services, public assistance, etc., connect unemployed/underemployed individuals with SC Works services offered for skill attainment, long term employment and self-sufficiency.
- Promoting SC Works Employer Services: On-the-Job Training, Work Experience, Job Fairs, etc.
  - ✓ Outreach through SC Works' Business Services, Economic Development, Industrial Associations, and Chamber of Commerce, etc.
  - ✓ Small Business Outreach efforts through business licensing office, etc.
  - ✓ Informational packets provided at Chamber Retreats, etc.
- Future meetings with Dr. Mikota:
  - ✓ Creating a Vision for the committee
  - ✓ Developing workforce priorities and goals
  - ✓ Possible retreat with partners and potential partners
  - ✓ Mr. Wilson invited any board member to attend and be involved with the workforce committee.
- Mr. Wilson talked about other opportunities with partnerships – brainstorming at the next meeting to set goals and vision for the Workforce Committee and taking advantage of these opportunities. He referenced the SC Works report showing July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016 numbers. Mr. Wilson pointed out the workforce finance report noting the use of 85% of the budgeted formula.

### **III. New Business**

**A. Annual Report FY 15-16** – Chair Drakeford pointed out the annual report that was provided to board members and asked for comments regarding the report. Julia Nelson stated it looked very professional and Dr. Bill Painter commented on the nice branding as well. Dr. Mikota stated the COG continues to show tremendous value for region with the return on investment pointed out. Dr. Mikota referenced that various agencies around the state have asked for our leadership as staff are asked to do things such as: HHS training of other state staff in areas such as assessments, veterans program, and workforce was asked how our region has state workforce board member and work with board. The NIP program in our region is leading the state. Dr. Mikota noted that our COG is a revitalized, nimble, and aggressive organization that is proactively developing or implementing projects and programs that others in the southeast and across the nation are inquiring about and aspiring to achieve, as can be referenced by three national awards

received this year. He asked board members to take the annual report back to their local governments.

**IV. Executive Director Comments** – Dr. Mikota highlighted the annual report specifically noting the finance report. He mentioned the commitment of COG team work done internally. Dr. Mikota informed the board of quarterly staff luncheons where we focus on a foundation. Throughout the year we have collected approximately \$500 for various foundations such as United Ministries, Diabetes Association, local Soup Kitchen, etc. This year staff will bring canned goods to distribute to each county on a quarterly basis – Clarendon United Ministries received the first donation. Dr. Mikota thanked Earl Wilson who donated chicken for our staff luncheon.

Dr. Mikota talked about the COG social media (website, Blog, Facebook) and asked for feedback from the board on these. Jeffrey Graham noted the Kershaw Job Fair post and thanked the COG for getting that information out to others as well as the useful tool social media can be to others. Chair Drakeford asked if the COG website address could be listed on reports, etc. so that it can be remembered. Mayor Julia Nelson noted the free advertisement it provides and the excellent tool it is when used properly.

**V. Other Comments** – Rep. Grady Brown stated this would be his last COG board meeting. He thanked everyone for their friendship throughout the years.

**VI. Adjournment** – There being no further action before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

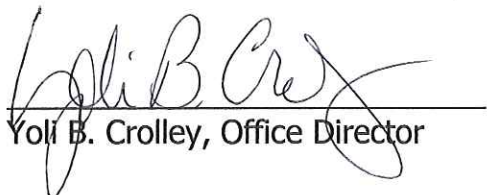


G. Michael Mikota, Ph. D.  
Executive Director

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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:	October 27, 2016
Media Notified:	Yes
Manner Notified:	Agenda emailed to local newspapers: Clarendon Citizen, Camden Chronicle, Lee Observer and Sumter Item
Date Notified:	October 27, 2016



Yoli B. Crolley, Office Director