

**Santee-Lynches Regional Council of Governments**  
**Board of Directors' Meeting**  
**September 27, 2016 – 9:00 A.M.**  
**2525 Corporate Way Suite 200, Sumter South Carolina**

**CONFERENCE CALL MINUTES**

**Members Present:**

Clarendon: 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  
Sumter: Larry Blanding, Jim Campbell, Ione Dwyer, Thomas Lowery, Jim McCain, Dr. Bill Painter, Rep. David Weeks, Earl Wilson

**Members Absent:** Excused – Senator Kevin Johnson, Travis Windham, Vivian McGhaney, Colleen Yates; Absent – Benton Blakely, John Lee, David Addison, Rep. Grady Brown, Eugene Baten, Jay Schwedler

**Staff Present:**

Dr. Michael Mikota, Yoli Crolley, Kyle Kelly

- I. Welcome and Call to Order** – Chair Drakeford called the meeting to order.
- A. Sammie Tucker provided the invocation.
  - B. Approval of Agenda – A motion was made by Dr. Bill Painter to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Jim McCain and unanimously approved.
  - C. Approval of Minutes – A motion was made by Dr. Bill Painter to approve the August 8, 2016 minutes as published. The motion was seconded by Thomas Lowery and unanimously approved. Sammie Tucker and Julian Burns abstained from voting indicating their absence from the meeting.
- II. Committee Reports**
- A. Economic & Community Sustainability (ECS)** – Dwight Stewart, Chair, provided the following report:
- The ECS Committee met on September 20<sup>th</sup> via teleconference to review an environment-focused agenda. The following motions are proposed for Board Consideration:
- Motion #1:** The ECS Committee brings forward a recommendation, in the form of a motion, to authorize the Executive Director to sign the proposed second amendment to the 2006 Upper Wateree Agreement. The amendment includes the following change only:
- The area described in item 18 of the Upper Wateree Agreement will be amended to add an additional area identified in exhibit A (see map).
- The motion was seconded by Dr. Bill Painter and unanimously approved. Julian Burns appreciates all support that Santee-Lynches has provided.
- Motion #2:** The ECS Committee brings forward a recommendation, in the form of a motion to approve a minor amendment to the Santee-Lynches Water Quality

Management Plan to allow the Ni Pacolet – Palmetto Utilities to alter its effluent disposal method to increase the company's current National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitted discharge to the Wateree River from 6.0 million gallons per day (MGD) to 12.0 MGD.

- Under the Santee-Lynches Water Quality Management Plan, a Minor Amendment is required for "a proposed change in the current effluent disposal method, discharge point, or service area for an existing Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) that would be consistent with goals and objectives of the Water Quality Management Plan.
- The increase in NPDES discharge from 6.0 to 12.0 MGD will be offset by elimination of the company's land application to rapid infiltration basins (RIBs) in Kershaw County.
- The expansion of NPDES discharge would not alter wasteload allocations in the Wateree River. No changes are needed to other permit holders to accommodate the Ni Pacolet-Palmetto Utilities increase to 12.0 MGD.

The motion was seconded by Dr. Bill Painter. Julian Burns thanked Santee-Lynches RCOG for their support and their assistance with this project. Dr. Bill Painter concurred with Mr. Burns about the support of SLRCOG. Chair Drakeford called for the motion and it was unanimously approved. Dwight Stewart and Dr. Painter also thanked staff for carrying the load associated with this project.

**B. Executive Committee - Recommendation of New Office Location** - Chair Drakeford provided the following report:

The Executive Committee met on Monday, September 12 at Corporate Way to consider final proposals for future facility locations.

Chair Drakeford provided the following details:

- The City of Sumter will transfer the 0.4 acre property to Santee-Lynches Regional Council of Governments
- The site will be able to support a building with square footage of approximately: 13,500 square feet for one floor; 27,000 for two floors; 41,500 for three floors.
- The value of land to be deeded by the City of Sumter is \$200,000 which was purchased by the City in 2016.
- There are 30 customer parking and 28 employee parking spaces – as well as surrounding areas of non-designated parking
- A new water line was recently replaced (prior to streetscape)
- There are no liens, covenants, or other restrictions
- There are area amenities and proximity to downtown (walking distance to restaurants, other government locations including the CCTC Health Sciences Center and the Clyburn Intermodal Transportation Center – and City/County offices)
- City of Sumter is providing other financial and in-kind support
  - ✓ Santee-Lynches will be able to work with city engineers and contractors to plan development in relation to new water department building
  - ✓ City of Sumter will demolish existing structures and process the Phase I and II environmental assessments for Santee-Lynches (this is a significant cost)
- City of Sumter is currently in the process of contracting for demolition and environmental work – ready to proceed with transfer to Santee-Lynches RCOG
- Phase I environmental complete, Phase II underway
- City of Sumter is in the process of issuing RFP to run fiber internet to the site



**Motion:** The Executive Committee brings forward a recommendation in the form of a motion to approve the City of Sumter proposed site located at 201 South Main Street in Sumter. The motion was seconded by Dr. Bill Painter.

Julian Burns asked if the land was being purchased – Chair Drakeford indicated that the City of Sumter would deed this land to the COG and the next step would be to complete Phase II Environmental and work with architects/engineers for building design. Regarding next steps, Dr. Mikota stated he would work with the City of Sumter to coordinate on current environmental work and get an update on the status of the demolition process for current structures on land. Dr. Mikota indicated that the next step after environmental and demolition work would be to develop an architectural and engineering design for an actual building. Dr. Mikota stated that the proposed differentials (between 13,500 and 40,000 plus square feet) in building square footage presented to the board depends on whether Santee-Lynches were to pursue the possibility of an office space in conjunction with an innovation center that might focus on economic development and education. This opportunity would depend on various partnerships coming together to support the initiative.

Dr. Painter stated that the City has purchased the entire block and will demolish all structures that currently exist on the land as well as build a water facility. He also referenced the \$5/\$6 million improvements to be completed on/around Manning Avenue Bridge. Jim Campbell added that the work to be completed around this area is an asset to the location.

Rep. Funderburk asked if any other proposals were provided. Dr. Painter indicated that five proposals were brought forth to the Executive Committee in May of 2016, and from those five proposed sites the Executive Committee carried forth two proposals for consideration. The Executive Committee requested additional information for the City of Sumter site located at 201 South Main Street and the Kershaw County proposed site located at the junction of I-20 and Hwy 521.

Dr. Painter reiterated that the Executive Committee reviewed the proposals that were provided and chose the two most qualified being the City of Sumter and Kershaw County. From this, additional information was requested from both and only one proposal was returned – City of Sumter. Sammie Tucker confirmed this was correct information and how the process transpired. Dr. Painter continued to explain how the Executive Committee met, reviewed the one proposal and voted to recommend the City of Sumter site to the COG Board. Dr. Painter also noted that if Santee-Lynches RCOG, in the future, were to dissolve, then the property would most likely go back to the City of Sumter. Dr. Mikota stated this will be discussed and set up in the deed.

Jeffrey Graham asked if the deed could be accomplished after Phase II is completed to make sure there are no issues with the land or old gas tanks. Dr. Mikota stated that the environmental is being done at this time and this can be at the pleasure of the board. Dr. Mikota explained to the board that a bank currently sits on the specified lot but could have had tanks from years ago. It was also noted that the City of Sumter is investing in Phase I and II along with demolition of existing structures.

Julian Burns indicated an issue with what Dr. Mikota had discussed regarding the innovation center building as the only item on the agenda was the new office location. Dr. Mikota withdrew his discussion on the concept of the building/innovation center and indicated this motion is only about the site location.

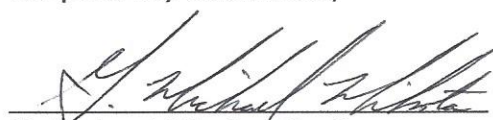
Jim Campbell asked Chair Drakeford to call for the vote – Chair Drakeford called for the vote and with those in attendance, the motion carried – Julian Burns abstained from the vote due to metrics unknown and Brad Hanley abstained from the vote. Rep. Funderburk stated she found it implausible that Kershaw was chosen as two but had no follow-up and asked if there was any contact with Kershaw County or if they indicated they declined to send in a proposal. Sammie Tucker stated that if anyone wanted more detail they could contact Mel Pearson, City Manager, or Vic Carpenter, County Administrator. Mr. Tucker stated there were internal issues on Kershaw's side and he wanted to be clear that Santee-Lynches requested additional information from Kershaw County for the initial proposed site, but Kershaw County did not respond because of internal issues. He indicated that the Kershaw representatives could have a conversation after the conference call.

Chair Drakeford explained that the City of Sumter is the only proposal on the table from the Executive Committee.

**III. Executive Director Comments** – Dr. Mikota had no comments other than graciously thanking the board for meeting to address the items presented. He provided his appreciation to staff and board members for their work on the water quality amendments and the office location.

**IV. Adjournment** – There being no further action before the board, Jim Campbell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. With no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 9:43 a.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 & Date: Yes – September 20, 2016

Manner Notified: Agenda posted on board at 2525 Corporate Way Suite 200, Sumter

Media Notified & Date: Yes – September 20, 2016

Manner Notified: Agenda emailed to local newspapers:

Clarendon Citizen, Camden Chronicle, Lee Observer and Sumter Item



Yoli B. Crolley, Office Director