

Santee-Lynches Regional Council of Governments
Board of Directors' Meeting
August 8, 2016 – 12:00 P.M.
2525 Corporate Way Suite 200, Sumter South Carolina

MINUTES

Members Present:

Clarendon: Shirley Keels, Julia Nelson, Dwight Stewart
Kershaw: Alfred Mae Drakeford, Rep. Laurie Funderburk, Jeffrey Graham, Kenneth McCaskill
Lee: Rep. Grady Brown, Travis Windham
Sumter: Eugene Baten, Larry Blanding, Jim Campbell, Ione Dwyer, Thomas Lowery, Jim McCain, Vivian McGhaney, Earl Wilson, Colleen Yates

Members Absent: Excused – Benton Blakely, Senator Kevin Johnson, Julian Burns, Sammie Tucker, Dr. Bill Painter, Jay Schwedler, Rep. David Weeks; Absent – John Lee, David Addison, Alexander Boyd

Staff Present:

Dr. Michael Mikota, Kathy Powell, Yoli Crolley, Areatha Clark, Kyle Kelly, Connie Munn, Jenna Brown, Esmonde Levy, Mary Brown

- I. Welcome and Call to Order** – Chair Drakeford called the meeting to order.
- A. Vivian McGhaney provided the invocation.
 - B. Attendees provided the Pledge of Allegiance.
 - C. Approval of Agenda – A motion was made by Dwight Stewart to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Earl Wilson and unanimously approved.
 - D. Approval of Minutes – A motion was made by Jim Campbell to approve the June 6, 2016 minutes as published. The motion was seconded by Thomas Lowery and unanimously approved.
 - E. Kathy Powell, Deputy & Finance Director, presented the June 2016 financial report. The bank balances as of today are: operating account balance is \$1,534,888; SCLGIP savings balance is \$956,468 which includes building proceeds from sale of COG building on Liberty Street. The budget year is 100% complete. Total admin revenues collected are approximately 88% of budget. Operating expenses are at approximately 92% of budget. The largest portion of year end expenses have been recorded through accounts payable, so expenses are mostly finalized. There are still outstanding revenues that will be billed as accounts receivable and will be collected. All local government and state appropriations have been collected. While noting some of the program areas, she pointed out that the NIP program, while moving a little slower than anticipated, is currently on target for properties anticipated to be addressed within the two year award period. She noted the NIP program will be discussed in more depth in the RDC portion of the meeting. The last page of the financial report contains the cash balance of accounts that the

COG manages for the RDC. There being no questions, the report was accepted as information.

II. Committee Report

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

- The ECS Committee met on July 27th via conference call to review a transportation focused agenda.
- The ECS Committee brings forward a recommendation in the form of a motion to amend the Santee-Lynches Transportation Public Participation Plan with the following changes:
 - Extend period of public comment for program adoption and major amendments from 15 to 21 days.
 - Include 45 day comment period for major updates to the Public Participation Plan.
 - The motion was seconded by Jim Campbell and unanimously approved.
- The ECS Committee brings forward a recommendation in the form of a motion to amend the Santee-Lynches Regional Transportation Advisory Committee Rules of Procedures with the following changes:
 - Revise non-voting technical advisory member list to include the following from SCDOT: Area Planner in the office of Statewide Planning, the Director of the Office of Public Transportation, Multimodal Planning Manager in the Office of Intermodal and Freight Planning, and Program Manager in the Office of Preconstruction.
 - Revise non-voting technical advisory member list to remove the following from SCDOT: Transportation Planner and Area Planning Engineer.
 - Revise references to title descriptions for each of the four county representatives be expanded from "engineer" to "engineer/public works".
 - The motion was seconded by Jim McCain and unanimously approved.
- The ECS Committee received a report on the revised schedule for updates to the Long Range Transportation Plan. The current schedule is to review the draft at the next ECS committee meeting, planned for late August/early September. After that meeting, the proposed updates will be released for public comment. The ECS Committee anticipates bringing proposed updates to the full board at the November 2016 meeting.
- Updates on two currently funded guideshare projects were provided:
 - Camden Truck Route – segment 2 (northwest of Camden) is currently under construction and segment 1 (southwest of Camden) is scheduled for letting in September 2016. SCDOT has revised project cost of segment 1 from \$8.85 million to \$12.1 million. Segment 3 (southeast of Camden) is in the engineering and design stage.
 - Bishopville Project – SCDOT has selected DRMP, Inc. as the consultant for the Bishopville Project's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). DRMP has begun work and will be assisted by several other subcontractors for specific phases of work. They are collecting and analyzing data now and have met with several individuals and groups in Lee County and Bishopville to begin

explaining the EIS process and to convey that the EIS represents a clean slate for the project. DRMP is expected to have a report one year from now.

- There was discussion on who SCDOT had met with in Lee County. Kyle Kelly noted they had met with the Chamber, City of Bishopville, County Administrator and possibly others. Mr. Windham mentioned the huge discrepancy in cost now associated with the project.

B. Executive – Chair Drakeford noted that due to pertinent material not being available, a meeting was not held.

C. Health & Human Services (HHS) – Shirley Keels, Chair, reported that a conference call was held with no quorum so she asked Connie Munn, HHS Director, to provide an update.

- Veteran’s Directed – we are expanding the program and increasing from 55 veterans to 100 veterans and have also added two new counties to our service area.
- Assessments – with the purchase of new surface tablets, our assessors are able to input the data in real time which is more efficient.
- Volunteers/Interns – we will have a Master of Social Work student intern again this year who will work closely with each program area in the HHS department.
- The HHS Department has partnered with St. Leos College to deliver fans they purchased to 75 elderly citizens who are without air conditioning. This outreach event will be on Saturday, August 27.
- The LGOA is requiring the AAAs to have a funding formula in place for distribution of the federal, state and local funding. HHS will be researching and collecting data over the next few months and will utilize the HHS and RADAC Committees for suggestions and input.

D. Workforce Development – Earl Wilson, Chairman, reported the committee met on August 1 and reviewed the Workforce Program of Work (handout). He explained the report provides detail of the programs and how many were served during the year. Mr. Wilson stated that Mike Heishman will provide a Sumter Job Fair report and two success stories will be given.

- Mike Heishman provided a Sumter Job Fair Update as follows: 802 attended from 12 counties having Sumter County represented with 81%, Clarendon County with 9% and Lee County with 4%. Of the 802, 102 were Veterans (43 employed with 59 unemployed), 285 employed and 517 unemployed. 484 participants are registered with SC Works with 318 not registered – 206 unemployed and not registered. Mr. Heishman noted action items from the Job Fair: unemployed veteran data was provided to Operation Palmetto Employment and SCDEW; there will be outreach to citizens of Sumter County/City that are not registered with SC Works; exposure will be increased to highlight employment services offered by SC Works/SCDEW at the full service SC Works Centers in Sumter and Camden; increase business awareness/engagement and the benefits of choosing SC Works as the first choice for hiring solutions; and finally outreach to vendors to determine the number of job seekers hired as a direct result of the job fair.
- Areatha Clark, Workforce Director, presented two success stories through the programs workforce administers. The adult story is a gentleman who

participated in the Work Experience Program that received an Associate Degree in Mechatronics from CCC while working at Continental Tires on a work experience assignment. He interviewed and was offered a job with BD and is currently taking his drug test and completing paperwork to begin his new job next week. He will be earning \$22/hr.

- Keidrian Kunkel with Eckerd (Palmetto Youth Connections) presented Jessica Hatfield to present her success story. Ms. Hatfield explained she earned her GED through Adult Education and came to Eckerd to receive mileage reimbursement for transportation to Columbia for Pharmacy Tech School. She explained she has been taken a job with CVS making \$15/hour. Ms. Hatfield thanked the program for helping obtain her GED and proceed into a field of interest, paying for mileage as well as the certification testing.

III. Executive Director Comments – Dr. Mikota spoke of the positive feedback we have received from our new COG logo and branding, showing our new business cards, COG logo on the quarterly report as well as the changes to the COG website. He reviewed the quarterly report with board members noting the Liberty Street office had been sold. Dr. Mikota mentioned future facility plans and working through the Task Force and Executive Director to move the planning process forward.

Meetings have been held between Executive Director and Chair on new quarterly board meeting schedule. November's meeting will be the Regional Summit to include the board meeting. With the quarterly meetings comes the importance of the committee structure and everyone attending those meetings.

Dr. Mikota mentioned the Regional Workforce Advisor for the region was taken over by the SC Department of Commerce a couple of years ago. Brenda Golden holds that position for our region and is looking to streamline work on education initiatives. This Regional Education Advisory Board is appointed by the legislative delegation members and is getting new members at this time.

Dr. Mikota told the board that we are on the brink of the greatest public leadership transition in American history. In the next three years, almost 60% of senior level managers in the public sector are due to retire – from local and state governments across the country. Two reasons for this is (1) public sector workers on average are 5-7 years older than their private sector counterparts and (2) the compensation structure of most governments, whether local, state or federal, has incentivized millions of baby boomers to hold on to their senior positions. Also impacting the private sector is technology is making many public sector positions obsolete. A 2016 report from the World Economic Forum forecasts that almost five million "white collar" jobs carrying a "limited skillset" will disappear from the public and private sectors by the end of the decade. Dr. Mikota stated that responding to this crisis demands creativity and nimbleness and we must have an opportunity to do something great, innovative and different.

IV. Regional Development Corporation (RDC) Annual Membership Meeting

- A. Call to Order** - Janson Cox, President, called the RDC Annual Membership Meeting to order.
- B. Minutes Excerpt (January 5, 2015)** – Mr. Cox referenced the January 2015 minutes excerpt for the last annual meeting and asked if there were any questions. With no questions, the minutes were presented as information.
- C. Financial Report** – Kathy Powell presented the Finance Report as follows: The operating revenue total as of June 2016 is \$446,413 against the \$2,459,146 approved budget. The explanation of significant budget to actual differences: the NIP awards were for a two year period – the approved budget was based on ½ of the grant awards. While the number of NIP properties acquired/underway to acquisition is on target with initial estimates, the revenue and related expenses are well under budget for the first year because program startup took longer than expected for a number of reasons. There have been several changes at the state level in program procedures/policies that delayed startup, and the time needed to acquire clean and marketable titles on certain properties has been longer than expected. The lag time between acquisition and final draw may be several months because all activities related to demolition and reclamation of property must be completed before the final draw can be made. Currently in Sumter, 32 properties have been acquired with 12 demolished, and 32 are under contract as of June 21, 2016. In Camden, 11 properties have been acquired with 0 demolished, and 20 are under contract as of June 21, 2016. Since the awards are for a two year period, grant award amounts not earned in year one can be rolled into year two, and have in fact, been projected into next year’s budget for this program.

Kyle Kelly explained that the NIP program involves acquisition of blighted residential structures in which purchase offers are made to property owners, purchase is made, and the structures are demolished. After homes are demolished, greening takes place, which can include seeding, tree planting, and other measures. SC Housing issues three-year forgivable liens on each property, and the RDC must maintain the property for at least that period of time. Redevelopment can occur during the three-year period and the lien released early by SC Housing on a case-by-case basis. During the three-year period, the RDC and its partners will discuss options and identify opportunities for future re-use of the parcels of land.

There was discussion on the amount spent to purchase these homes which is a max of \$30,000 per property to complete the process: acquisition, demolition, and greening. Mr. Windham questioned if other localities within the region can apply for funds as Bishopville and Manning did not in the original application. Unless SC Housing makes changes to the program, no additional entities may apply at this time. Mr. Kelly explained there may be future funding at a later time for additional local governments. Mr. Graham explained that the City of Camden is purchasing and demolishing those properties that NIP can’t acquire as it’s a great program for

the City. Mr. Cox thanked Mr. Graham and the City of Camden for their partnership.

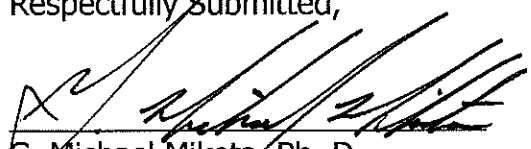
D. Proposed Bylaws Update – Changes to the bylaws were presented to the full membership board for review. The recommendations come to the full membership by way of the RDC Board. Mr. Cox asked if there were any questions regarding the changes presented to the bylaws. A motion was made by Jim Campbell to ratify the proposed bylaws as presented. The motion was seconded by Alfred Mae Drakeford and unanimously approved.

E. Membership Slate – The proposed membership roster was presented to include new members being added to the board. A motion was made by Alfred Mae Drakeford to ratify the membership list presented. The motion was seconded by Dwight Stewart and unanimously approved.

F. Other Business – With no other business before the membership, Mr. Cox closed the RDC Annual Membership Meeting.

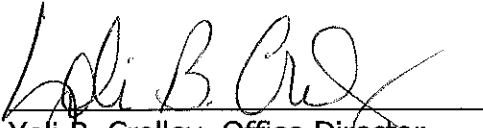
V. Adjournment – There being no further action before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,


G. Michael Mikota, Ph. D.
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: July 28, 2016
Medic Notified: Yes
Manner Notified: Agenda emailed to local newspapers:
Clarendon Citizen, Camden Chronicle, Lee Observer and Sumter Item
Date Notified: July 28, 2016


Yoli B. Crolley, Office Director