



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Monday, December 12, 2024, 6:00 pm
Central Carolina Technical College
506 N. Guignard Drive, Building 400, Rm M401
Sumter, SC 29150

Members Present :

Clarendon County: Senator Kevin Johnson, Mayor Julia Nelson

Kershaw County: Councilman Sammie Tucker Jr., Councilman Ben Connell, Mayor Alfred Mae Drakeford, Senator Jeffrey Graham, Mr. John Thomas, Mr. Brad Hanley, Rev. John Wesley Lee

Lee County: Councilman Travis Windham, Councilman Wayne Hancock

Sumter County: Councilman Jim McCain, Mr. Roland Robinson, Mr. Chuck Wilson, Councilwoman Vivian McGhaney, Mr. Earl Wilson, Ms. Bernadette Robinson

Members Absent:

Clarendon: Ms. Shirley Keels (excused), Councilman Dwight Stewart (excused)

Kershaw: Councilman Kenneth McCaskill (excused)

Lee: Representative Will Wheeler (excused)

Sumter County: Councilman Eugene Baten (excused), Representative David Weeks (excused), Councilman Gilford Shaw (excused), Herbert McClary (excused), Councilman James Blassingame (excused), Mayor David Merchant (excused), Councilman Anthoy Gibson (excused).

1. **Welcome and Call to Order:** Chairman Sammie Tucker Jr. called the meeting to order at 6:05pm.
2. **Invocation:** Rev. John Lee provided the invocation.
3. **Pledge of Allegiance:** All members participated in the pledge of allegiance.
4. **Quorum Determination:** Board Clerk Linda Jackson determined there was a quorum.
5. **Adoption of Agenda:** Chairman Sammie Tucker Jr. called for a motion to adopt the agenda. Mr. Jeffery Graham made the motion, and the motion was seconded by Ms. Alfred Mae Drakeford. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.
6. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:** Chairman Sammie Tucker Jr. called for a motion to approve the August 5, 2024 meeting notes and October 7, 2024 meeting minutes. Mr. Jim McCain made the motion, and the motion was second by Ms. Alfred Mae Drakeford. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

7. Special Presentations:

a. Board Member Service Presentation

Chairman Sammie Tucker Jr. made the following Board Members Presentations:

1. ***Board Member Term ending Plaques were presented to: Senator Kevin Johnson and Councilman Dwight Stewart for dedicated years of service to the Santee-Lynches Regional COG Board.***
2. ***Chairman Board Members of the Year Awards were presented to Councilman Wayne Hancock, and Mr. Roland Robinson as outstanding Board Members for their dedication to the COG Board for 2023- 2024 Term***

8. Staff Reports

- a. **Finance:** Finance Director Rachel Katorkas informed the Board that the report runs through the end of October, and we were 33% of the way through the fiscal year. Ms. Katorkas informed the Board that the amount brought in year-to-date was \$2,061,505, or 27% of budgeted revenue. She stated that expenditures were \$2,231,416, or about 31% of budgeted expenses. She indicated that the Audit Report will be given at the January Audit Finance Committee Meeting and at the February COG Board Meeting.
- b. **Aging/HHS:** Enclosure Only
- c. **Government Services:** Government Services Director Esmonde Levy explained to the Board that the Enclosure was included in the Board Packet as information. He introduced himself as the new Director of Government Services. He advised that if they had any questions he could be contacted at any time. Chairman Tucker welcomed Mr. Levy to his new role.
- d. **Workforce Development:** Enclosure Only

9. Committee Reports

- a. Projects and Planning:
 - i. Safety Targets: Ms. Erin Porter from SCDOT Planning Office gave an overview on the Safety Target for 2021-2025 SC Safety Targets to be adopted by the COG Board.
 - SC Number of Fatalities for the State of SC is 846 currently
 - SC Pedestrian Death currently 130 and 24 Bicycle Death
 - State Highway Safety Planning Emphasis Areas are Infrastructure, High Risk Behaviors and Vulnerable Roadway users.
 - Rural Road Safety Program has addressed 1053 miles currently
 - One time appropriation by the General Assemble of 117 million dollars to address Rural Road Safety Program
 - 20% Reduction in F&SI Crashes 49% Reduction in Roadway Departure F&SI Crashes
 - Ms. Portor explained that by adopting the State DOT targets Santee Lynches will agree to plan and program projects so that they contribute toward the accomplishment of the State DOT HSIP target. Include targets in the LRPT/TIP. She encourages setting our own targets committing to a quantifiable safety target(s) for the metropolitan planning area.
 - July 1, 2024: DPS report 3 identical *HSIP targets in the HSP to NHTSA
 - August 31, 2024: State DOT's report targets in the HSIP Annual Report to FHWA
 - February 28, 2025: Last day for MPOs to establish 2021-2025 Target

Chairman Tucker called for a motion to approve the 2021-2025 Safety Targets as presented. Mr. Jim McCain made the motion, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Chuck Wilson. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

- ii. System Performance Measures: Ms. Porter also provided an overview of the System Performance Measures 10 yr target to be adopted by the COG Board.
 - The conditions that were not met but is tracking for 10yrs: Interstate Pavement Good Condition and NHS Bridge Deck Area in Good Condition.
 - The NHS in SC includes only 13,260 lane miles, 15% of the total SCDOT roadway inventory

lane miles of about 90,682.

- The NHS in SC includes 1,780 bridges, approximately 22% of the total SCDOT inventory of about 8,445 bridges.

Chairman Sammie Tucker Jr. called for a motion to adopt the South Carolina System Performance Measures as presented. Mr. Wilson made a motion, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Jeffery Graham. All were in favor of the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

iii. **Hazard Mitigation Plan:** Planning Department Director Dr. Jeff Parkey gave an overview of the 2025-2030 Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan. He stated that this was a five-year plan funded via a FEMA BRIC grant, where counties only pay matches. This plan analyzes data on natural hazard occurrences and impacts over time for floods, hurricanes, storms, wildfires, drought, etc. Staff work with Emergency Management Directors in the four counties and other municipal officials to develop plans to prepare for and mitigate natural hazard impacts. A draft of the plan must be submitted to SCEMD and FEMA next month and adopted locally by the Summer of 2025.

b. Executive:

- Bylaws Revision:** Chairman Sammie Tucker informed the Board that the Executive Committee met prior to the meeting to speak about the bylaws change that will allow the nominating committee more flexibility by extending the Board Chairman's terms from two years to up to four years. Chairman Tucker called for a motion to approve the extension of the Board Chairman's term up to four years. They would be elected every two (2) years, with a term not to exceed four (4) years. Mr. Jeffery Graham made the motion, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Chuck Wilson. The majority were in favor of the motion with the exception of Ms. Julia Nelson, who opposed the motion. The motion passed. Ms. Nelson asked that the COG's attorney review the motion after Board Approval. Mr. Cyphers responded that all changes to the By-Laws are reviewed by the COG's attorney. The outcome of the review will be provided to the Board.
- 2025 Bord Meeting Calendar:** Chairman Sammie Tucker called for a motion to approve the 2025 COG Boad Meeting calendar. Mr. Jeffery Graham made the motion, and the motion was seconded by Ms. Vivian McGhaney. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

10. **Old Business:**

- Employee Policy Revision:** Chairman Sammie Tucker informed the Board that revisions to the Employee Policy were presented to the Board on several occasions and are now ready for approval. Chairman Tucker called for a motion to approve the Fleet Usage and Driver Safety Policy and Employee Accident Policy. Mr. Jim McCain made the motion, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Chuck Wilson. All were in favor of the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

11. **New Business:**

- Executive Director Contract:** Chairman Sammie Tucker informed the Board that the Executive Director Contract was approved by the Executive Committee for a one-year renewal and a salary adjustment of 12,500.00 for Executive Director Dennis Cyphers. Chairman Tucker called for a motion for approve the one-year contract renewal and the \$12,500.00 Salary adjustment. Ms. Alfred Mae Drakeford made the motion, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Kelvin Johnson. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

12. **Executive Session:** N/A

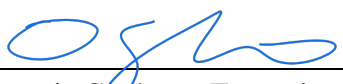
13. **Other Business:** N/A

14. **Executive Director's Report:** Executive Director Cyphers extended a Thank you to the COG Board for allowing him the opportunity to serve for another year as Executive Director. Mr. Cyphers thanked the entire staff for all of the hard work that they do. He emphasized how much he appreciated all staff.
15. **Chairman's Remarks:** Chairman Tucker stated that he appreciated the COG Board Retreat and the opportunity it presented. Chairman Tucker also introduced the new COG Board Member Attorney Ben Connell to the Board from Kershaw County. Chairman Tucker shared a story with the Board about how the Executive Director, and Aging Department Director Janae Stowe took the time to help a residence of Kershaw County in a huge way after hours. Chairman Tucker wished everyone a Merry Christmas.
16. **Adjourn:** Chairman Tucker called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:12pm. Mr. Chuck Wilson made the motion, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Ben Connell. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by:

Linda Jackson, Board Clerk

Approved by:



Dennis Cyphers, Executive Director