



**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Monday, December 1, 2025, 6:00 pm
Central Carolina Technical College
853 Broad St. Room A101
Sumter, SC 29150**

Members Present:

Clarendon County: Fawn Pedalino, Julia Nelson,

Kershaw County: Alfred Mae Drakeford, Brad Hanley, Kenneth McCaskill, John Wesley Lee, Jeffrey Graham, Brad Hanley, Sammie Tucker Jr, William Wilkes,

Lee County: Travis Windham, Wayne Hancock, Keishan Scott.

Sumter County, Vivian McGhaney, Roland Robinson, Earl Wilson, Chuck Wilson, Bernadetta Robinson, Thomas McElveen, Anthony Gibson, David Weeks.

Members Absent:

Clarendon: Jay Johnson (excused), Randy Floyd (excused)

Sumter County: James Blassingame (excused), David Merchant (excused), David Weeks (excused).

Kershaw County: Ben Connell (excused),

Guest: Grace Owens (Civitas), Keely McMahan (Department of Commerce SC).

1. **Welcome and Call to Order:** Chairman Wayne Hancock called the meeting to order at 6:07pm.
2. **Invocation:** Rep. Keishan Scott 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 Wayne Hancock called for a motion to adopt the agenda. Mayor Julia Nelson made the motion, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Chuck Wilson. All were in favor, and the motion passed unanimously.
6. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:** Chairman Wayne Hancock called for a motion to approve the minutes of 10.6.2025. Ms. Alfred Mae Drakeford made the motion, and the motion was seconded by Mayor Julia Nelson. All were in favor, and the motion passed unanimously.

7. **Special Presentation:** Grace Owens, representing the Civitas, provided an overview of the 2026–2030 HUD Consolidated Plan. Ms. Owens explained the HUD consolidated planning process and reviewed the eligible programs and activities, including:

- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
- Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG)
- HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME)
- Housing Trust Fund (HTF)
- Recovery Housing Program (RHP)
- Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)

She discussed the importance of prioritizing community needs and outlined the data collection process, which includes surveys for stakeholders, service providers, and local governments. Ms. Owens also reviewed the public outreach strategy, consisting of online surveys, council and local government outreach, public hearings, and a 30-day public review and comment period.

Following her presentation, Ms. Owens opened the floor for questions from board members.

Staff Reports:

- Finance:** Executive Director Cyphers presented the financial report as of October 31, 2025. He reported that the budget year completed was 33.3%. The COG total cash on hand is \$3,571,269 and the RDC total cash on hand is \$2,087,153.
- Ageing/HHS:** The detailed report for this department is included in the enclosure provided to the board for information only.
- Government Services:** The detailed report for this department is included in the enclosure provided to the board for information only.
- Workforce Development:** Deputy/ WFD Director Clark gave a detailed report for this department and included in the enclosure provided to the board. She highlighted the following.
 - South Carolina was fortunate to receive its FY25-26 Federal Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) Funds shortly before the end of the Government Shutdown. Santee-Lynches received a total allocation of \$1,317,487 (a 4.9% reduction from last year); 64% of the total allocation was received during the shutdown.
 - Santee-Lynches LWDA met all of the criteria and should be eligible to receive between \$50,000 - \$150,000 in High-Performance Board Incentive Awards based on our PY'24 performance.

8. Committee Reports:

a. **Audit Finance:**

Dr. Alfred Mae Drakeford gave the following reports from the Audit Finance Committee:

The Audit Finance Committee recommends the approved updated accounting policies designed to improve operational efficiency and financial transparency. She stated that the update modernizes our accounting approach by moving from a cash basis to an accrual basis. Accrual accounting better matches revenues and expenses to the period in which they occur, providing a more accurate financial

picture and supporting stronger fiscal management and planning. The revised policies maintain strong internal controls and ensure compliance with applicable standards, while streamlining processes through a reliable computerized accounting system. These changes enhance reporting capabilities, oversight of financial activities, and resource allocation decisions.

The Committee brought forth a motion for Board approval of these updated policies to support efficient, transparent, and effective financial management for SLRCOG. The motion was seconded by Mayor Julia Nelson. All were in favor of the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Updated Finance Policy:

The Audit Finance Committee recommends board approval of the proposed membership dues increase for FY26-27, totaling \$294,718.63, based on a modest \$1.348 per capita rate across member jurisdictions.

The Committee brought forth a motion for Board approval. Mayor Nelson seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the motion passed unanimously.

Executive Committee:

Approval of AI Policy:

Chairman Hancock provided an update to the Executive Committee on the proposed AI policy. He shared that the COG is actively exploring an AI software solution that will ensure the protection of sensitive information within the system. He indicated that staff have met with both COG attorney and the Employment Attorney to address key concerns, particularly regarding the privacy of personnel records and management-related data. Based on these discussions, he is recommending moving forward with GOVAI. He said to the group that training will be provided as part of the implementation process.

The Committee brought forth a motion for Board approval. The motion was second by Senator Jeffery Graham. All were in favor of the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Executive Directors Evaluation and Contract:

Evaluations Committee Chair Mayor Julia Nelson reported that 19 evaluations were processed with an overall score of 94 for Director Cyphers. She indicated that this was an exceptional performance score. Chairman Hancock stated that the Executive Committee is bringing forth a motion for Board approval to extend Executive Director Cyphers' contract for three years, and to give a \$5000 cost of living increase in his salary. The motion was seconded by Representative Fawn Pedalino. All were in favor of the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

9. **Old Business:** None Applicable
10. **New Business:**

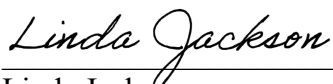
Review of Employee Policy: Executive Director Cyphers informed the Board that the employee policy is currently undergoing its annual legal review with the attorney. Any recommended updates will be presented at the next Board meeting.
11. **Executive Session:** None Applicable
12. **Executive Directors Report:** Executive Director Cyphers thanked the entire Board for their feedback, as well

as for the renewed contract and salary increase.

13. **Chairmans Remarks:** Chairman Wayne Hancock thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

14. **Adjournment:** Chairman Hancock called for a motion to end the meeting. The motion was made by Mr. Chuck Wilson, and the second was made by Councilman McCain. All were in favor of the motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by:



Linda Jackson
Board Clerk

Approve by:



Dennis Cyphers
Executive Director