

MINUTES
LOWER SAVANNAH COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
FULL BOARD MEETING

Clemson Extension Edisto Research Building, Blackville, SC

June 09, 2022

6:00 pm Dinner

6:30 pm Meeting

LSCOG Board Members present:

Aiken County: Gary Bunker, Danny Feagin, Det Haislip, John Simmons, Thomas H. Williams
Allendale County: Larry Cohen, Dorothy Riley, Bill Robinson, Dawan Smith, Theresa Taylor
Bamberg County: Jerry Bell, Clint Carter, Sharon Hammond, Marvin Dueck, Larry Haynes
Barnwell County: Freddie Houston, David Kenner (*Chair*), Ben Kinlaw, Jason Stapleton, Thomas L. Williams
Calhoun County: John McLaughlin, James Haigler (*Vice Chair*), Roger Hill
Orangeburg County: Michael Butler (*Treasurer*), Janie Cooper-Smith, Johnny Ravenell, Harry Wimberly, Joseph Garvin, Sen. Bradley Hutto

LSCOG Board Members excused:

Aiken County:
Allendale County:
Bamberg County:
Barnwell County: Daniel Alexander
Calhoun County:
Orangeburg County: Deloris Frazier

LSCOG Board Members absent:

Aiken County: Willar Hightower, Lessie Price, Rep. Melissa Oremus, Andrew Siders (*Past Chair*)
Allendale County: Rebecca Gooding
Bamberg County: Gerald Wright
Barnwell County: Rep. Lonnie Hosey
Calhoun County: Helen Carson-Peterson, John Nelson, Ken Westbury, Rep. Russell Ott
Orangeburg County: Sen. Vernon Stephens

LSCOG staff present: Dr. Molnar, Nora Sanders, Frances Owens, Nicole Davis, Yolonda Buchanan, Eric Carrier, Brooke Morris, Christine Chandler, Susan Garen, Emory Langston

Guests present: Wilma Edmonds, Hattie Jackson, Peggy Kinlaw, Linda Bell, Anna Chappelle, Willie Walker, Annie Clyde Williams, Terrance Washington, Tim Bennett, Glenda Ferguson, Maria Ramirez

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Chairman David Kenner called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

ROLL CALL AND RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Dr. William Molnar (*Executive Director*) conducted roll call. A quorum was present. Guests were introduced.

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APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Kenner asked for approval of the full board meeting on April 14, 2022, and the Executive Committee Meeting on May 12, 2022, full board meeting minutes.

Mr. Clint Carter made the motion for approval of the April 14, 2022, minutes. Mr. Bill Robinson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Larry Cohen made the motion for approval of the May 12, 2022, Executive Committee meeting minutes. Mr. Larry Haynes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

Mr. Michael Butler (*Treasurer*) presented the financial report for April 2022 for information.

LSCOG LABOR MARKET ANALYSIS

Dr. Joseph Von Nessen, a research economist from the USC Darla Moore School of Business, presented the results of the LSCOG Regional Labor Market Needs, Recover and Resiliency Analysis, which was funded by the US Economic Development Administration (EDA).

The labor market analysis discovered five of the six counties' regional struggles in our area. There is a lagging or negative employment growth, population decline and/or migration, and low education attainment levels in many of our counties. Aiken County is an outlier due to the size, population, and industries.

There are five factors for future opportunities of growth: 1) advanced manufacturing and logistics, 2) align higher education and local employment opportunities, 3) assisting businesses with expanding referral networks, 4) mitigating long-run demographic shifts, including aging populations, and 5) incentivize resident retention and recruitment.

RURAL PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (RPWP) BUDGET

Mr. Eric Carrier presented the RPWP Budget for approval.

Mr. Freddie Houston made the motion for approval. Mr. Carter seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

SCDOT TRANSIT FUNDING

Ms. Christine Chandler presented the SCDOT Transit Funding for approval by the board. This is to continue the one-year pilot of Saturday transit from 8:30AM – 5 PM for another year.

Mr. Houston made a motion for approval. Mr. John Simmons seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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BUDGET AMENDMENT REVIEW FOR FY 21-22

Mr. Butler presented the proposed amendments for the budget for the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

Mr. Det Haislip made a motion to approve the budget amendment. Mr. James Haigler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

BUDGET REVIEW FOR FY 22-23

Mr. Butler presented the proposed budget for the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

Mr. Houston made a motion to approve the proposed budget. Mr. Bill Robinson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Thomas L. Williams reported on behalf of the Nominating Committee, comprised of Mr. Larry Haynes (Bamberg County), Mr. Thomas L. Williams (Barnwell County), and Mr. Clint Carter (Bamberg County). The recommended officers for FY 2022-2023 are Mr. James Haigler, Calhoun County, Chairman, Mr. Michael Butler, Orangeburg County, Vice Chairman, and Mr. Gerald Wright, Bamberg County, Treasurer.

A motion was made by Mr. Carter and seconded by Mr. Cohen. The motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Molnar presented the Executive Director's Report:

- \$900M has been approved for rural infrastructure. Please discuss with your council members and citizens. There will be three workshops with DHEC – Branchville, Blackville, and Aiken County Government Center. September 12, 2022, is the deadline for applying.
- Aging meal fund update –We received two days of technical assistance from the Department of Aging recently. We put CARES Act money, \$250k, to go back into meals. We may have also found another \$100k for meal money from the American Rescue Plan. More information to come later.
- Workforce fund update – SC received \$41M funding for unemployment and workforce development in the past but this has now dwindled over time down to \$22M for the state. Over the last two years, we have lost \$1.2M in workforce funds. Our workforce division will be losing \$375k and we are currently looking at our options for mitigating this loss, including closing centers. We have our Workforce bus now going out on the road to assist up to 10 people at a time in the field throughout our region. A schedule was placed in the packets.
- County discussion on NADO Annual Training Conference representative – October 15-18, 2022, Pittsburgh, PA – Please caucus your county to select your NADO delegate to attend the annual NADO Conference later this fall.
- SC COG Conference – Myrtle Beach, SC – November 20-22, 2022 – Our COG is hosting this SC COG Conference this year. The theme is "Building Better Relationships". We are attempting to have Senator Peeler as our luncheon speaker, someone from the House of Ways and Means

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and Ms. Gilda Cobb-Hunter. We want to build a stronger relationship between the Senate Finance and House of Ways and Means Committee so they know who we are and what we do.

- Executive Committee Membership – We ask that you discuss with your county delegation and determine a member from each county representative, an alternate, and a representative minority member. The current Executive Committee will be in full force until it changes.

ADJOURN

Chairman Kenner passed the gavel to incoming Chairman Haigler.

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Cohen and seconded by Mr. Robinson. Chairman David Kenner adjourned the meeting at 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

William Molnar, Ph.D.
Executive Director

NOTICE OF THE MEETING AND A COPY OF THE AGENDA FOR THE MEETING WAS DISTRIBUTED TO LOCAL NEWS MEDIA PRIOR TO THE MEETING AND A NOTICE OF THE MEETING POSTED ON THE LOWER SAVANNAH COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS WEBSITE AND BULLETIN BOARD AT LEAST 24 HOURS PRIOR TO THE MEETING.