

MINUTES
LOWER SAVANNAH COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
FULL BOARD MEETING
Zoom Conference Call
October 8, 2020 at 12:00 pm Meeting

LSCOG Board Members present:

Aiken County: Gary Bunker, Willar Hightower, Lessie Price, Andrew Siders (Chairman),
Allendale County: Larry Cohen, Bill Robinson
Bamberg County: Jerry Bell, Sharon Hammond, Larry Haynes
Barnwell County: David Kenner (Vice Chairman),
Calhoun County: John McLaughlin, James Haigler (Treasurer), Roger Hill
Orangeburg County: Vernon Stephens, Harry Wimberly

LSCOG Board Members excused:

Allendale County: Dorothy Riley (Past Chairman) (E)
Barnwell County: Ben Kinlaw (E)

LSCOG Board Members absent:

Aiken County: Roger Boyd, Danny Feagin, , John Simmons, Thomas H. Williams, Melissa Oremus
Allendale County: Rebecca Gooding, Dawan Smith, Theresa Taylor
Bamberg County: Clint Carter, Shawn Hanks, Gerald Wright, Justin Bamberg
Barnwell County: Tim Bennett, Freddie Houston, Jason Stapleton, Thomas L. Williams, Lonnie Hosey
Calhoun County: Helen Carson-Peterson, David Summers, Ken Westbury, Russell L. Ott
Orangeburg County: Michael Butler, Janie Cooper-Smith, Heyward Livingston, Johnny Ravenell, Brad Hutto

LSCOG staff present: Dr. William Molnar, Nora Sanders, Frances Owens, Vicki Hallee, Emory Langton

Guests present: Mr. Matt Phillips (*McKinley, Cooper & Co.*); Al Jenkins (*US Senator Tim Scott's office*)

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Andrew Siders called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm.

ROLL CALL

Dr. Molnar (*Executive Director*) conducted roll call. A quorum was present.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Mr. Vernon Stephens motioned to include the TIP as an agenda item. The motion was seconded by Larry Cohen. The TIP was added to the agenda after the Statement of Operations.

APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES

*A motion was made by Mr. Vernon Stephens and seconded by Mr. David Kenner to approve the minutes from the August 13, 2020 full board meeting. **The motion carried unanimously.***

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Chairman Siders recognized Dorothy Riley for service as Board Chairman for FY 2019-2020.

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

Mr. James Haigler presented the financial report for July 2020. The report was accepted as information.

BUDGET AMENDMENT REVIEW FOR FY 20-21

Mr. Haigler requested the full Board to approve the budget amendments for the 2019-20 fiscal year budget. *A motion was made by Mr. Gary Bunker and seconded by Mr. Vernon Stephens. **The motion carried unanimously.***

APPROVAL OF TAC APPROVED TIP

*A motion was made by Ms. Lessie Price and seconded by Mr. David Kenner. **The motion carried unanimously.***

PRESENTATION OF AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Mr. Matt Phillips of McKinley, Cooper & Co., LLC presented the audited financial statements of the COG for the period ending June 30, 2020.

*A motion was made by Mr. Gary Bunker and seconded by Mr. David Kenner. **The motion carried unanimously.***

APPROVAL OF LSRHC 2019 CAPER DRAFT

Ms. Emory Langston (PCED Administrator) presented the LSRHC 2019 CAPER draft for approval. This is consolidated annual Performance and Evaluation Report that is required by HUD each year. This reports what LSCOG has been doing with funds in FY 2019-20 and with our partners.

*A motion was made by Mr. Larry Cohen and seconded by Mr. Harry Wimberly. **The motion carried unanimously.***

RECEIVE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE OPEB AD HOC COMMITTEE

Ad Hoc-Chairman William Robinson shared recommendations on OPEB. The committee began looking at liability in mid-2019. The committee is comprised of 6-7 members, one from each of the counties. The committee was given five scenarios and are now making a recommendation to the Board of Directors.

- Any retiree (new or existing) must move off the LSCOG insurance and on to Medicare at the age of 65
- The LSCOG will provide an insurance subsidy of \$300 a month to all retirees 65 and older. The subsidy will be tied to the Consumer Price Index (CPI).
- Upon retirement and before turning 65 (and going on Medicare), retirees will still receive individual and/or family insurance (based upon the current hiring date policy).
- The new policy should go into effect January 1, 2022.

Staff and Retirees can submit questions in writing to the committee to review and then respond back. This was presented as information only to the Board.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Molnar gave updates on the following events:

- Annual Meeting Luncheon on Dec 10th at noon. This will be held at Newberry Hall in Aiken with a cap of 50 people.
- Legislative Breakfasts – Board is agreed on continuing. Dr. Molnar will speak with Legislators to see if they are interested in attending.
- CARES ACT update –
 - We received \$8.2 million in Revolving Loan funds from EDA. The loans went anywhere from 1% to 3.5%
 - Aging programs received approximately \$1.8 million in CARES funding and so far over \$1 million has been used going to the different Councils on Aging to make sure that people are being fed during the pandemic
 - We received \$1.5 million for the transit system in Aiken, to be dispersed over a 3-year period
- Transit Resolution – We asked for and received about \$67,000 for SMTF money for the Urban Transit Program in Aiken. We also requested 5310 funding (buses that go to the different counties); the State was able to fund every request for a total of almost \$400,000
- SCDEW – LSCOG is one of two regions in the state being used as a pilot program to provide young adults (2020 high school/GED graduates) with critical work experience. We hope to have this program

in place by the end of October for 25 youth. They will be able to work up to 240 hours which is 3 months.

- Three projects for Community Development Block Grants – all funding asked for was received.
 - \$1 million for Town of Williston
 - \$1 million for Town of Moneta
 - \$700,000 for Town of Norway
- The Executive Committee will meet November 12, 2020 at Miller's Breadbasket in Blackville, SC.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Mr. Vernon Stephens reminded the board members of the importance of the Census and to find innovative ways to encourage residents to return their Census report.

ADJOURN

Chairman Andrew Siders adjourned the meeting at 1:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Dr. William Molnar
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 LOWER SAVANNAH COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS WEBSITE AND BULLETIN BOARD AT LEAST 24 HOURS PRIOR TO THE MEETING.