



**MINUTES  
FULL BOARD MEETING**

**October 14, 2021**

**Sandlapper Meeting Room – Aiken County Government Complex  
1930 University Pkwy, Aiken, SC 29801**

LSCOG Board Members present:

Aiken County: Gary Bunker, Danny Feagin, Willar H. Hightower, Lessie Price, John Simmons  
Allendale County: Larry Cohen, William Robinson, Theresa Taylor  
Bamberg County: Jerry Bell, Sharon Hammond, Marvin Dueck, Larry Haynes, Gerald Wright  
Barnwell County: Daniel Alexander, Freddie Houston, David Kenner (*Chair*), Ben Kinlaw, Jason Stapleton, Thomas L. Williams  
Calhoun County: James Haigler (*Vice Chair*), Roger Hill  
Orangeburg County: Johnny Ravenell, Harry Wimberly, Delores Frazier, Joseph Garvin

LSCOG Board Members excused:

Aiken County: Roger Boyd, Andrew Siders (*Past Chair*), Thomas H. Williams  
Allendale County: Rebecca Gooding, Dorothy Riley, DaWan Smith  
Bamberg County: Clint Carter  
Barnwell County:  
Calhoun County: John McLaughlin, Ken Westbury, Rep. Russell Ott  
Orangeburg County: Michael Butler (*Treasurer*), Janie Cooper-Smith, Sen. Vernon Stephens

LSCOG Board Members absent:

Aiken County: Rep. Melissa Oremus  
Allendale County:  
Bamberg County: Rep. Justin Bamberg  
Barnwell County: Rep. Lonnie Hosey  
Calhoun County: Helen Carson-Peterson, John Nelson  
Orangeburg County: Sen. Bradley Hutto

LSCOG staff present: Dr. William Molnar, Nora Sanders, Wallace White, Emory Langston, Eric Carrier, Meizi Wolven, Brooke Morris, Nicole Davis, Frances Owens

Guests present: Linda Bell, Clay Killian, Peggy Kinlaw, Josh Rhodes, Doris Wright, Marc Briggman

**WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman David Kenner called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Mr. Gary Bunker led the pledge of allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

Dr. William Molnar conducted roll call. A quorum was present.



### **SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

Chairman Kenner announced the special presentation would be postponed due to the person not being present.

### **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Chairman Kenner asked for approval of the meeting agenda.

A motion was made by Mr. Gary Bunker and seconded by Mr. William Robinson. The motion carried unanimously.

### **APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Chairman Kenner asked for approval of the August 26, 2021, Board Meeting Minutes.

A motion was made by Mr. Larry Haynes and seconded by Ms. Delores Frazier. The motion carried unanimously.

### **STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS**

Mr. Michael Butler, Treasurer, presented the financial report. The report was accepted as information.

### **ARPA ACT UPDATE**

Chairman Kenner introduced Mr. Joshua Rhodes, South Carolina Association of Counties, Deputy Executive Director and General Counsel.

Mr. Rhodes gave an update on the American Rescue Plan ACT as related to SC Counties. The Recovery fund was signed into law on March 11, 2021, where \$6.5 billion was allocated for South Carolina. The dispersal of funds will be based solely on population.

Counties have until December 2026, to complete and comply with the regulations for these Recovery funds.

He noted that the guidance continues to change, and the State of South Carolina will not decide on how to allocate the funds until January 2022. They recommend to get the money, hold it, and wait for the State's decision first. Communities need to consider holding on to funds to match potential state and federal ARPA funds.

All South Carolina counties received their first allocation in August 2021. Second allocations will come approximately a year later.



### **APPROVAL OF LSRHC CAPER**

Ms. Emory Langston, PCED Administrator, presented the Lower Savannah Regional HOME Consortium (LSRHC) Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) for approval.

A motion was made by Mr. Freddie Houston and seconded by Mr. Thomas L. Williams. The motion carried unanimously.

### **2021 CEDS ANNUAL REPORT**

Ms. Langston presented the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Annual Report for approval.

A motion was made by Ms. Theresa Taylor and seconded by Mr. Freddie Houston. The motion carried unanimously.

### **PHASE 1 COVID RECOVERY AND RESILIENCY PLAN REPORT**

Ms. Emory Langston gave an update on the status of the Phase 1 COVID Recovery and Resiliency Plan for informational purposes.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Dr. Molnar gave the following report:

- The decision was made to cancel the SCCOGs Annual Conference, November 21-23 in Myrtle Beach. The conference will instead be a half-day virtual meeting that will include Dr. Albrecht from the Federal Reserve.
- We are continuing to work with our roof engineer. Board member Mr. Marvin Dueck is working with us. We will put the RFP out in December.
- There is a scheduling conflict on December 9<sup>th</sup>. The Board voted to move the LSCOG Annual Banquet from December 9, 2021, to December 2, 2021. A motion was made by Mr. William Robinson and seconded by Mr. Danny Feagin to move the meeting to Thursday, December 2, 2021. The motion carried unanimously.
- The Executive Committee Meeting scheduled for November 11th will fall on Veterans' Day. Approval was sought to move the meeting to another day to not interfere with the holiday. A motion was made by Mr. Larry Haynes and seconded by Mr. William Robinson to move the meeting to November 10, 2021. The motion carried unanimously.
- The auditors have not finished the draft audit, that is normally presented at the October board meeting, however it should be finished in a couple weeks. It was suggested that the Executive Committee approve the audit on the next Executive Committee Meeting on 11/10/21. A motion was made by Mr. Freddie Houston and second by Mr. Larry Haynes, to approve the audit at the December 2, 2021, Annual Meeting. During the discussion, there was a motion to amend the motion, by Mr.



William Robinson, second by Mr. Gerald Wright, to have the Executive Committee review and approve the audit 11/10/21 and have the executive board present their recommendations to full board for approval 12/2/2021. The amended motion passed with a 10(y) to 7(n) vote.

- Legislative Breakfasts will be held in Orangeburg on 12/8/21 and Aiken on 12/10/21.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chairman Kenner requested approval to go into executive session to discuss renewal of the Executive Director's Contract. A motion was made by Mr. Larry Haynes and seconded by Ms. Sharon Hammond. The motion carried unanimously.

All non-board members were excused from the room.

Chairman Kenner announced return from executive session where no action was taken and that the board meeting would resume.

### **APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S CONTRACT**

Chairman Kenner requested approval of the Executive Director's Contract.

A motion was made by Mr. Gary Bunker that the contract for the Executive Director be approved as reviewed and revised by the Evaluation Committee and the Executive Committee, second by Ms. Lessie Price. The motion carried unanimously.

### **GENERAL DISCUSSION**

### **ADJOURN**

Motion to adjourn made by Ms. Deloris Frazier, second by Mr. Larry Cohen. Chairman David Kenner adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

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