



MINUTES
LOWER SAVANNAH COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
 Zoom Conference Call
January 14, 2021 at 12:00 pm Meeting

Chairman Andrew Siders (P)
Vice Chairman David Kenner (E)
Treasurer James Haigler (P)
Past Chairman Dorothy Riley (E)

| | <u>County Representatives</u> | <u>Alternates</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Aiken | Roger Boyd (P) | |
| Allendale | Theresa Taylor (E) | Bill Robinson (P) |
| Bamberg | Jerry Bell (P) | |
| Barnwell | Ben Kinlaw (P) | |
| Calhoun | Roger Hill (P) | John McLaughlin (P) |
| Orangeburg | Harry Wimberly (P) | Vernon Stephens (E) |

| <u>Minority Representatives</u> | <u>Alternates</u> |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| Janie Cooper-Smith (P) | Freddie Houston (P) |
| Larry Cohen (P) | |
| Gerald Wright (A) | Sharon Hammond (P) |

LSCOG Board Members present: Lessie Price
 LSCOG staff present: Dr. William Molnar, Nora Sanders, Frances Owens, Vicki Hallee, Nathaniel Foutch, Emory Langston

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.

APPROVAL OF 11/12/2020 Executive Committee Minutes

Chairman Siders asked for approval for the 11/12/2020 Executive Committee meeting minutes. *A motion was made by Mr. Harry Wimberly and seconded by Mr. Ben Kinlaw. **The motion carried unanimously.***

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

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

APPROVAL OF CEDS PLAN

Nathaniel Foutch (*Community & Economic Development Projects Manager*) requested approval for the updated plan. *A motion was made by Mr. Bill Robinson and seconded by Mr. Freddie Houston. **The motion carried unanimously.***

Board Travel Policy

Chairman Siders stated that the Bylaws section on Compensation and the Board Travel Policy were included in the Board packets. These documents state the COG will compensate for travel expenses only. Zoom and phone meetings are not covered under the board travel policy.

Mr. Cohen asked what "other expenses" referred to in the Compensation section of the Bylaws. Dr. Molnar and Frances Owens (*Finance Director*) explained that "other" refers to any expenses related to COG business such as training, travel and/or hotel expenses and that all such expenses must have a receipt.

Mr. Bill Robinson asked that the \$40 reimbursement rate be reconsidered since this has been the rate for many years. Chairman Siders asked Mr. Robinson to make a recommendation to the board.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Molnar gave updates via email as the quality of the zoom call made it difficult for board members to hear. Below are the topics sent in the email to all Executive Committee members.

- COG staff is working with all the counties to develop a strategy in allocating the CDBG – CV funds. Preliminary spending plans need to be to the state's consultant by the end of February
- Dr. Laura Ullrich, Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, will be a guest speaker for the SC Councils of Governments. Her presentation titled National and Regional Economic Update will be held **Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 3:00pm** via Zoom (see attached flyer)
- Rep. Taylor and Rep. Cobb-Hunter are co-sponsors on H 3146, Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology (GREAT) Program. The program will be run through the SC Department of Commerce's Rural Infrastructure Authority. I have some issues with the legislation as written (significant required local match) and passed my concerns to Rep. Taylor
- I am looking for a board member with significant construction experience
- The next Board of Director's meeting is scheduled for February 11, 2021 either virtually or at another location

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Mr. Cohen stated his concern with the limited information that was shared with Board Members regarding the potential COVID exposure at the December Annual meeting.

ADJOURN

Chairman Siders adjourned the meeting at 12:27pm.

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.