



MINUTES

LOWER SAVANNAH COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS **FULL BOARD MEETING** **Calhoun County Museum** **February 13, 2025**

LSCOG Board Members Present:

Aiken County: Ron Felder, Lessie Price, John Simmons
Allendale County: Willa Jennings (Vice Chair), Tawni Major, Deshawn Maner, William Robinson, Albert (Butch) Sauls
Bamberg County: Jerry Bell, Larry Haynes, Gerald Wright (Chair)
Barnwell County: Andy Hogg, Freddie Houston, Enterick Lee, Thomas L. Williams
Calhoun County: James Haigler, Virgil Jacobs, John McLauchlin, Helen Carson, Josh Rabon
Orangeburg County: Joseph Garvin, Johnny Ravenell, Vernon Stephens, Harry F. Wimberly

LSCOG Board Members Excused:

Aiken County: Gary Bunker, Danny Feagin (Treasurer), Det Haislip
Allendale County: John Chaney
Bamberg County: Sharon Hammond, Marvin Dueck
Barnwell County: David Kenner
Orangeburg County: Michael Butler (Past Chair), Janie Cooper-Smith

LSCOG Board Members Absent:

Aiken County: Andrew Siders
Barnwell County: Travis Hooper
Calhoun County: Richard Carson
Orangeburg County: Deloris Frazier

LSCOG Staff Present:

Dr. William Molnar, Nora Sanders, Ashley Baker, Jessica Coleman, Emory Langston, Sydney Kinard, and Andre Anderson

Guests Present: Henry Porter, Deputy Director Office of Environmental Programs, Erin Porter, SCDOT, Matt Phillips, Phillips CPAs and Advisors, LLC

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Willa Jennings called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

INVOCATION

Mr. James Haigler gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. John McLauchlin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL AND RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Dr. William Molnar, Executive Director, conducted the roll call. A quorum was present. Guests and LSCOG staff were introduced.

RECOGNITION OF FORMER/NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Dr. Gerald Wright recognized Theresa Taylor (Allendale County and Vice Chair), Clint Carter (Bamberg), Jason Stapleton (Barnwell County), Ben Kinlaw (Barnwell County), and Daniel Alexander (Barnwell County) as members that are leaving the LSCOG Board and expressed appreciation for their years of service. Dr. Wright welcomed new members Andy Hogg (Barnwell County), Enterick Lee (Barnwell County), Travis Hooper (Barnwell County), and John Chaney (Allendale County). He also welcomed Ms. Willa Jennings (Allendale County) as the new Vice Chair carrying out the remainder of Ms. Taylors' term.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Wright asked for approval of the meeting agenda.

Mr. Freddie Houston made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. John Simmons. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Wright asked for approval of the October 2024 Full Board Meeting Minutes.

Mr. McLauchlin motioned to approve the meeting minutes for October 2024, seconded by Mr. Joseph Garvin. The motion passed unanimously.

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

In the absence of Mr. Danny Feagin, Treasurer, Ms. Ashley Baker, LSCOG Assistant Finance Director, presented the financial report for December 2024 as information.

PRESENTATION OF SC DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES (SCDES)

Mr. Henry Porter presented information from the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services. Mr. Porter discussed the 208 Permitting Program, the Brownfield Program, air quality in urban Aiken County, and water resources.

PRESENTATION OF SAFETY PERFORMANCE TARGETS AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES FOR SCDOT

Ms. Erin Porter presented the Safety Performance Targets and Performance Measures. These are annual state performance measurements that must be approved by all COGs and MPOs.

Mr. William Robinson motioned to approve the Safety Performance Targets and Performance Measures as presented, seconded by Mr. Houston. The motion passed unanimously.

REGIONAL PROJECT UPDATE ON SOUTH CAROLINA INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT PROGRAM (SCIIP)

Ms. Sydney Kinard presented, for informational purposes, the Regional Project Update on SCIIP. Discussing where the nine (9) LSCOG SCIIP projects are in their project cycles. All other projects have gone out to bid or are currently under construction. The only lagging project is in the City of Denmark where we are waiting for the DES permit.

PRESENTATION OF AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Mr. Matt Phillips, CPA of Phillips CPAs and Advisors, LLC., presented the audited financial statement of LSCOG for the period ending June 2024. Mr. Phillips stated that the audit was clean with no discrepancies.

Following discussion, Mr. Houston made the motion to approve the June 2024 audited financial statements, seconded by Mr. Larry Haynes. The motion carried unanimously.

SOUTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (SCAC) LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Mr. Robinson gave an update of the current SCAC Legislative Priorities as information.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Wright requested a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss financial contractual matters.

Motion to go into Executive Session by Mr. Simmons, seconded by Mr. Haynes. The motion was passed unanimously.

Dr. Molnar requested that Ms. Nora Sanders, Assistant Executive Director, Mr. Andre Anderson, WF and ADTRC Interim Director, and Ms. Ashley Baker, LSCOG Assistant Finance Director, remain in Executive Session. The room was cleared except for LSCOG board members, Dr. Molnar, and above requested staff.

Chairman Wright called for a motion to come out of Executive Session.

Motion to come out of Executive Session by Mr. Simmons, seconded by Mr. Garvin.

Chairman Wright acknowledged that no decisions were made, and no votes were conducted during Executive Session.

Ms. Major made the motion to move \$100,000 in unassigned, state non-reoccurring funds and \$100,000 in LSCOG savings into the aging program. These funds will ensure that the Council can meet Home Delivered meal contact until/if federal funds become available in this fiscal year. The motion was seconded by Mr. Stephens. The motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT

Chairman Wright asked Dr. Molnar to Present the Executive Director's Report.

Dr. Molnar reported on the following:

The meeting schedule for the next 3 months and the upcoming board retreat, March 28th, in North Augusta. He asked all those attending to please fill out the forms so we can get a head count for meals, hotel, etc.

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Simmons seconded by Mr. Haynes. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

William Molnar, Ph.D.
Executive Director