



MINUTES

LOWER SAVANNAH COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS **FULL BOARD MEETING** **Bamberg County Airport** **April 10th, 2025**

LSCOG Board Members Present:

Aiken County: Gary Bunker, Danny Feagin (Treasurer), Ron Felder, Det Haislip, John Simmons
Allendale County: Tawni Major, Albert (Butch) Sauls
Bamberg County: Jerry Bell, Wilma Edmonds, Sharon Hammond, Gerald Wright (Chair)
Barnwell County: Freddie Houston, Enterick Lee
Calhoun County: Richard Carson, James Haigler
Orangeburg County: Deloris Frazier, Joseph Garvin, Johnny Ravenell, Vernon Stephens

LSCOG Board Members Excused:

Aiken County: Lessie Price
Allendale County: Willa Jennings (Vice Chair), William Robinson
Barnwell County: Andy Hogg, David Kenner, Thomas L. Williams
Calhoun County: Josh Rabon
Orangeburg County: Janie Cooper-Smith, Harry Wimberly

LSCOG Board Members Absent:

Aiken County: Andrew Siders
Allendale County: John Chaney, Deshawn Maner
Bamberg County: Marvin Dueck, Larry Haynes, Justin Bamberg
Barnwell County: Travis Hooper
Calhoun County: Helen Carson, Virgil Jacobs, John McLauchlin
Orangeburg County: Michael Butler (Past Chair)

LSCOG Staff Present:

Dr. William Molnar, Nora Sanders, Ashley Baker, Jessica Coleman, Hannah Stone, and Andre Anderson

Guests Present: Erin Queen, Chief Asset & Performance Manager *South Carolina Department of Transportation*

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Gerald Wright (Chair) called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.

INVOCATION

Ms. Wilma Edmonds gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Sharon Hammond lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

04.10.25 FULL BOARD MEETING

ROLL CALL AND RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Wright asked for approval of the meeting agenda.

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

APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Wright asked for approval for the February 13th, 2025, Full Board Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Joseph Garvin motioned to approve the meeting minutes for February 13th, 2025, seconded by Mr. Richard Carson. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Wright asked for approval for the April 3rd, 2025, Executive Committee Meeting minutes.

Mr. Houston motioned to approve the meeting minutes for April 3rd, 2025, seconded by Ms. Tawni Major. The motion passed unanimously.

PRESENTATION OF SCDOT STAMP SYSTEM PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Ms. Erin Queen presented updates to the 2024 STAMP System Performance Measures.

Ms. Sharon Hammond motioned to approve the STAMP System Performance Measures, seconded by Mr. Feagin. The motion passed unanimously.

PRESENTATION OF THE PUBLIC TRANSIT AGENCY SAFETY PLAN

Ms. Hannah Stone presented updates to the 2025 Public Transit Agency Safety Plan.

Mr. Houston motioned to approve the Public Transit Agency Safety Plan, seconded by Mr. Joseph Garvin. The motion passed unanimously.

WIOA PRESENTATION

Mr. Andre Anderson shared information on the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and LSCOG's Workforce Program.

PRESENTATION OF THE 2024-2025 REVISED BUDGET

Dr. Molnar presented the 2024-2025 Revised LSCOG Budget. First introducing, Ms. Ashley Baker as the new LSCOG Finance Director. Dr. Molnar discussed the funding decreases from FY 2023-2024 to FY 2024-2025. He also discussed the delays and reductions with the 2025 federal Continuing Resolution, of which some funds that normally get released in January are projected to not be released until May or June 2025. If these funds get released, DOGE will make cuts to

several programs that directly affect LSCOG programs, and the current budget, such as the Economic Development Administration, which funds planning grants that assist with administrative and technical assistance services for Community and Economic development projects. The EDA staff have been reduced and funding has not been released. Dr. Molnar gave an overview of what is going on with Aging funds, the recently abolished Administration for Community Living, the Older American Act, SC Department on Aging, and local contracts. The Department of Health and Human Services Administration of Community Living (ACL) is being dismantled. ACL programs fund Aging programs, such as Ombudsman, Family Caregiver, Meals, etc. With these and other factors, the current Council budget is a negative \$65,000. He stated that the deficit will be reduced if we receive our EDA Planning Grant and/or other funds being held in Washington DC.

APPOINTMENT OF THE NOMINATION COMMITTEE

Dr. Wright appointed Mr. Micheal Butler (Orangeburg County), Mr. David Kenner (Barnwell County), and Mr. Freddie Houston (Barnwell County) as the Nominating Committee for the LSCOG 2025-2026 Slate of Officers. The slate of officers will be presented at the June 12th, 2025, board meeting in Aiken.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT

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

Dr. Molnar reported on the following:

- LSCOG Strategic Action Plan Retreat Recap
- SCCOGs presented our state budget request to the Legislature. The 10 COGs are asking for the same allocated amount we received last year, plus the \$1M to be divided equally amongst us.
- April is Fair Housing Month
- Executive/Budget Committee Meeting May 8th, 2025, at Clemson University Edisto Research in Blackville, SC
- New Board Member Orientation – June 12th, 2025, at 5:00 pm
- LSCOG Board Meeting June 12th, 2025, at Aiken County

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Vernon Stephens seconded by Mr. Garvin. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

William Molnar, Ph.D.
Executive Director