



MINUTES

LOWER SAVANNAH COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS FULL BOARD MEETING

Aiken County Government Complex – Sandlapper Room **June 12th, 2025**

LSCOG Board Members Present:

Aiken County: Gary Bunker, Danny Feagin (Treasurer), Det Haislip, Lessie Price, John Simmons, Melissa Oremus

Allendale County: John Chaney, Willa Jennings (Vice Chair), Tawni Major, Deshawn Maner, William Robinson, Albert (Butch) Sauls

Bamberg County: Jerry Bell, Sharon Hammond, Larry Haynes, Gerald Wright (Chair)

Barnwell County: Andy Hogg, Travis Hooper, Freddie Houston, David Kenner, Thomas L. Williams

Calhoun County: James Haigler, Virgil Jacobs, Josh Rabon

Orangeburg County: Michael Butler (Past Chair), Joseph Garvin, Vernon Stephens, Harry Wimberly

LSCOG Board Members Excused:

Aiken County: Ron Felder

Bamberg County: Wilma Edmonds

Barnwell County: Enterick Lee

Calhoun County: Richard Carson

Orangeburg County: Janie Cooper-Smith, Deloris Frazier, Johnny Ravenell

LSCOG Board Members Absent:

Aiken County: Andrew Siders

Bamberg County: Marvin Dueck

Calhoun County: Helen Carson, John McLaughlin

LSCOG Staff Present:

Dr. William Molnar, Nora Sanders, Ashley Baker, Jessica Coleman, Alanna Berrie, Hannah Stone, Toccara Reese, Sterling Howell, and Emory Langston

Guests Present: Debbie Jordan *SCPRT*, Scott Neely *Dominion Energy*, Hattie Jackson, Linda Bell, Doris Wright, Albert Black, Shambra Garvin, and Nina Haynes

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Gerald Wright (Chair) called the meeting to order at 6:36 pm.

INVOCATION

Ms. Lessie Price gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Det Haislip led the Pledge of Allegiance.

06.12.25 FULL BOARD MEETING

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.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Wright asked for approval of the meeting agenda.

Mr. Gary Bunker 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 April 10th, 2025, Full Board Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Danny Feagin motioned to approve the meeting minutes for April 10th, 2025, seconded by Ms. Sharon Hammond. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Wright asked for approval for the May 8th, 2025, Executive Committee Meeting minutes.

Mr. Vernon Stephens motioned to approve the meeting minutes for May 8th, 2025, seconded by Mr. Larry Haynes. The motion passed unanimously.

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND (LWCF) PRESENTATION

Ms. Deborah Jordan presented on behalf of LWCF and other grant programs.

HOUSING PROGRAM PROJECT UPDATE

Mr. Sterling Howell gave an update on the Sproutwood Trace multifamily project proposed in Barnwell County. There was much discussion around the drainage in that area potentially getting worse once built. It was decided that Barnwell members would write a letter to Barnwell County about addressing these drainage concerns.

Taft Mills Group will continue to work with their civil engineer to design a solution that should improve the current flooding issue and will update the City of Barnwell.

Mr. Thomas Williams motioned to approve the Sproutwood Trace Project with a notation of presenting drainage system concerns to contractors, seconded by Mr. Joseph Garvin. The motion passed with one vote in opposition.

LSRHC ANNUAL ACTION PLAN ALLOCATION

Mr. Howell gave an update on the LSRHC HUD HOME Funding awarded for the upcoming FY 2025-2026 and presented the FY 2025-2026 projected allocation budget for the Annual Action Plan, and how the allocated funding will be utilized.

Mr. Houston motioned to approve the LSRHC Annual Action Plan, seconded by Mr. William Robinson. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE LSCOG RPWP

TAC Chairman Houston presented the RPWP for approval. There was discussion about who to file an official complaint with and Dr. Molnar stated he would ask the SCDOT Secretary to join the next Board Meeting in August 2025.

Mr. Danny Feagin motioned to approve the LSCOG RPWP, seconded by Ms. Hammond. The motion passed unanimously.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Representative Melissa Oremus gave an update on current state legislative items affecting the LSCOG region.

FEDERAL UPDATE

Dr. Molnar provided an update on federal actions and the proposed One Big Beautiful Budget Act (OBBBA) that affects the LSCOG region.

BUDGET REVIEW FOR FY 2025-2026

Ms. Ashley Baker delivered a presentation on the budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026, outlining the anticipated significant changes. The budget proposed to the Council acknowledges that adjustments will be made in the fall, aligned with the upcoming disbursement of State funds.

Mr. Robinson motioned to approve the budget for FY 2025-2026, seconded by Mr. Houston. The motion passed unanimously.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. David Kenner presented the nominating committee's 2025-2026 slate of officers. The presented officers are as follows: Chair -Willia Jennings (Allendale County), Vice Chairman – Danny Feagin (Aiken County), Treasurer – Travis Hooper (Barnwell County), and Past Chairman – Dr. Gerald Wright (Bamberg County).

Mr. Houston made the motion to approve the presented slate of officers for 2025-2026, seconded by Mr. Robinson. 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 Council is currently conducting its Long-Range Transportation Plan. The two public meeting in May – Sandy Run (Calhoun County) and Holly Hill (Orangeburg County) – were sparsely attended. However, we did receive a good survey turnout.
- The Executive Board nomination form is in each packet. Dr. Molnar asked each county to get together after the meeting and decide who will be their Executive Committee members.

- Our next Board meeting is August 14, 2025, in Orangeburg County.
- The NADO Training Conference will be held in October, in Salt Lake City, Utah. He asked each county to discuss amongst themselves who will attend. He also noted that the South Carolina annual training meeting is scheduled for November 23-25, 2025, and is open to all board members. Finally, he noted that the cost of these events has become very expensive and will be brought up at the September Executive Committee meeting.
- The September Executive Committee meeting will also be the annual meeting for the HOME Consortium.

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Feagin seconded by Mr. Gary Bunker. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

William Molnar, Ph.D.
Executive Director