



MINUTES

LOWER SAVANNAH COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS FULL BOARD MEETING **Orangeburg County Conference Center** **August 14th, 2025**

LSCOG Board Members Present:

Aiken County: Danny Feagin (Vice Chair), Ron Felder, Det Haislip, John Simmons
Allendale County: John Chaney, Willa Jennings (Chairwoman), Tawni Major, Deshawn Maner, William Robinson
Bamberg County: Marvin Dueck, Wilma Edmonds, Sharon Hammond, Larry Haynes (Past Chair), Harold Johnson
Barnwell County: Freddie Houston, Thomas L. Williams, Lonnie Hosey
Calhoun County: Richard Carson, James Haigler, Virgil Jacobs, John McLauchlin, Russell Ott
Orangeburg County: Deloris Frazier, Joseph Garvin, Johnny Ravenell, Vernon Stephens, Harry Wimberly, Bradley Hutto

LSCOG Board Members Excused:

Aiken County: Gary Bunker
Allendale County: Albert (Butch) Sauls
Bamberg County: Jerry Bell
Barnwell County: David Kenner
Calhoun County: Josh Rabon
Orangeburg County: Michael Butler, Janie Cooper-Smith

LSCOG Board Members Absent:

Aiken County: Lessie Price, Andrew Siders
Barnwell County: Andy Hogg, Travis Hooper (Treasurer), Enterick Lee
Calhoun County: Helen Carson

LSCOG Staff Present:

Dr. William Molnar, Nora Sanders, Ashley Baker, Jessica Coleman, and Emory Langston

Guests Present: Brian Heape *SCDOT*, Julie Barker *SCDOT*, Leah Quattlebaum *SCDOT*, Anna Chappelle *Bamberg County*, Mary Berry Ulmer *OCSD*, Skyler Hutto *OCDP*, Jerry Govan *SC House Dist. 93*, Hattie Jackson, *Town of Allendale*, Clifford Goodwin *OCSD*, Randall Young *JMT*, Johnny Wright, *Orangeburg County*, Dr. Gerald Wright, *Bamberg County*, Doris Wright, *Bamberg County*, Haram Yisra-El

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Willa Jennings called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

INVOCATION

Mr. Johnny Ravenell gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Joseph Garvin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AMEND THE AGENDA

Chairwoman Jennings made a motion to amend the agenda to move Senator Hutto up on the agenda, due to his having to leave early.

Mr. Richard Carson made a motion to amend the agenda, seconded by Mr. Joseph Garvin. The motion passed unanimously.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Senator Bradley Hutto provided an update on current legislative items affecting the Region.

ROLL CALL AND RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Chairwoman Jennings presented Past Chairman Dr. Gerald Wright with a Gavel Plaque for his service as the Council Chairman for 2024-2025.

APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Chairwoman Jennings asked for approval for the June 12th, 2025, Full Board Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Vernon Stephens motioned to approve the meeting minutes for June 12th, 2025, seconded by Mr. Freddie Houston. The motion passed unanimously.

SC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PRESENTATION

Ms. Leah Quattlebaum, SCDOT Deputy Secretary for Planning, Ms. Julie Barker, SCDOT Director of Preconstruction, and Mr. Brian Heape, SCDOT District 7 Administrator, gave a presentation on transportation issues in the Lower Savannah Region. There was much discussion amongst those present and the SCDOT Representatives.

SCDOT SECTION 5310 RURAL TRANSIT RANKING

Dr. Molnar asked for approval of the 2023-2024 Section 5310 Rural Vehicle Application Funding List, as ranked by the Executive Committee. The three (3) applicants are: 1.) Orangeburg DSNB, 2.) Bamberg Co. Office on Aging, and 3.) Calhoun DSNB.

Mr. Freddie Houston motioned to approve the 2023-2024 Section 5310 Rural Vehicle Application Funding List, seconded by Mr. Vernon Stephens. The motion passed unanimously.

COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (CEDS) UPDATE

Ms. Emory Langston presented the 2025 annual update to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) 2022-2027 for the Lower Savannah Region. As part of the annual review and maintenance of the CEDS, LSCOG has made a targeted update in response to recent guidance from the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA). Specifically, two sections referencing equity and climate resilience have been voluntarily removed from the CEDS document.

Mr. William Robinson motioned to approve the 2025 annual update to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) 2022-2027, seconded by Ms. Sharon Hammond. The motion passed unanimously.

DETERMINATION OF DISTRESSED AREAS

Ms. Langston presented a resolution to codify the process for determining distressed communities within the Region. This was in response to the changing federal Opportunity Zone legislation.

Mr. William Robinson motioned to approve the resolution to codify the process for determining distressed communities, seconded by Mr. Joseph Garvin. The motion passed unanimously.

BUDGET UPDATE FOR FY 2025-2026

Ms. Ashley Baker provided an update on the 2025-2026 budget. Since the last board meeting, the COG received its 3-year EDA grant and planning grant, and South Carolina Department on Aging funds.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT

Chairwoman Jennings asked Dr. Molnar to present the Executive Director's Report.

Dr. Molnar reported on the following:

- Long-Range Transportation Plan is progressing. The last public meeting will be held at the Williston Town Hall, Tuesday, October 21st from 5 – 7 pm.
- Executive/Budget Committee Meeting – September 11th, 2025
- LSCOG Board Meeting October 9th, 2025, in Allendale County
- NADO Annual Training Conference in Salt Lake City, October 14th – 17th, 2025
- SC COGs Annual Meeting in Myrtle Beach, SC November 23rd – 25th, 2025

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Freddie Houston seconded by Mr. Vernon Stephens. The motion passed unanimously. Chairwoman Jennings adjourned the meeting at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

William Molnar, Ph.D.
Executive Director