



MINUTES

LOWER SAVANNAH COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Clemson Extension
64 Research Road, Blackville, SC 29817
September 11th, 2025

LSCOG Executive Board Members present:

Aiken County: Danny Feagin (Vice Chair), Ron Felder, John Simmons
Allendale County: Willa Jennings (Chairwoman), Tawni Major, William Robinson
Bamberg County: Sharon Hammond, Larry Haynes (Past Chairman)
Barnwell County: Thomas L. Williams
Calhoun County: James Haigler
Orangeburg County: Joseph Garvin

LSCOG Executive Board Members excused:

Aiken County: Gary Bunker
Allendale County: John Chaney
Bamberg County: Wilma Edmonds
Barnwell County: David Kenner

LSCOG Executive Board Members absent:

Barnwell County: Freddie Houston, Travis Hooper (Treasurer)
Calhoun County: John McLaughlin, Josh Rabon
Orangeburg County: Vernon Stephens, Harry Wimberly

LSCOG staff present:

Dr. William Molnar, Nora Sanders, Ashley Baker, Jessica Coleman, Sterling Howell, Dana Waters

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Willa Jennings called the Executive Committee meeting to order at 12:00 pm.

INVOCATION

Ms. Sharon Hammond gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Danny Feagin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Dr. William Molnar (LSCOG Executive Director) conducted a roll call. A quorum was present.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Chairwoman Jennings requested the adoption of the agenda.

Ms. Sharon Hammond made the motion to adopt the agenda, seconded by Mr. Larry Haynes. The motion carried unanimously.

HOME-ARP SUPPORTIVE SERVICE PROPOSALS

Mr. Sterling Howell requested the Executive Committee's approval of three HOME-ARP proposals for the use of Supportive Service and Operating Funds.

Mr. William Robinson made the motion to approve three HOME-ARP proposals, seconded by Mr. Joseph Garvin. The motion carried unanimously.

REHABILITATION PROJECTS

Mr. Howell requested approval for four county homeowner rehab projects to meet Lower Savannah Regional Housing Consortia (LSRHC) and HUD standards.

Mr. William Robinson made the motion to approve four county homeowner rehab projects, seconded by Mr. Ron Felder. The motion carried unanimously.

LSRHC CAPER APPROVAL

Mr. Howell presented the Lower Savannah Regional Housing Consortia (LSRHC) Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) and requested approval to submit to Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Mr. William Robinson made the motion to approve the LSRHC CAPER and submit this to HUD, seconded by Mr. Danny Feagin. The motion carried unanimously.

AMENDMENT TO LSRHC ANNUAL ACTION PLANS

Mr. Howell requested approval to amend the Annual Action Plans for funds associated with the Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) funds.

Mr. Danny Feagin made the motion to approve the amendments to the Annual Action Plans for funds associated with the CHDO funds, seconded by Mr. Thomas L. Williams. The motion carried unanimously.

UPDATE TO CITIZENS PARTICIPATION PLAN GUIDELINE

Mr. Howell requested approval of the September 2025 update to the Citizens Participation Plan Guideline, which changes the last page to replace the Technical Review Committee with the Lower Savannah Council of Governments Executive Board as the framework for ongoing HUD program planning and implementation.

Mr. Thomas L. Williams made the motion to approve the update to the Citizens Participation Plan Guideline, seconded by Mr. William Robinson. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF 2025-2026 BUDGET REVISION

Ms. Ashley Baker presented the Budget Revision for FY 2025-2026 for approval.

Ms. Sharon Hammond made the motion to approve the FY 2025-2026 Budget Revision, seconded by Mr. Larry Haynes. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Molnar reported to the Executive Committee that Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA) for LSCOG staff were not included in the budget due to uncertainty with federal and state funding. With some funding now received and additional clarity on expected funding, Dr. Molnar requested the Board's approval to include a COLA in the budget for staff. Board members discussed scenarios of either a 2% or 3% COLA.

Mr. Thomas L. Williams made the motion to approve a 3% COLA for LSCOG employees starting January 1st, 2026, seconded by Ms. Sharon Hammond. The motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Molnar discussed:

- The Boards yearly travel cost incurred
- Aging Program Funding Update
- LSCOG Strategic Plan – Populations and Consolidation
- Next LSCOG Board Meeting – October 9th, 2025 in Allendale County
- NADO Annual Training Conference – October 14-17th, 2025 in Salt Lake City, UT
- Next LSCOG Executive Meeting – November 13th, 2025 in Blackville, SC
- SC COG's Annual Training Meeting – November 23rd-25th, 2025 in Myrtle Beach, SC
- LSCOG Annual Meeting – December 11th, 2025 in Blackville, SC

ADJOURN

There being no further discussion, Ms. John Simmons made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. William Robinson. Chairwoman Jennings adjourned the meeting at 1:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

William Molnar, Ph.D.
Executive Director