



MINUTES
LOWER SAVANNAH COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
FULL BOARD MEETING

Clemson University Edisto Research & Education Center - Blackville
February 12, 2026

LSCOG Board Members Present:

Aiken County: Gary Bunker, Danny Feagin (Vice Chair), Ron Felder, John Simmons
Allendale County: John Chaney, Willa Jennings (Chairwoman), Tawni Major, William Robinson, Albert (Butch) Sauls
Bamberg County: Jerry Bell, Marvin Dueck, Larry Haynes (Past Chair), Harold Johnson
Barnwell County: Andy Hogg, Travis Hooper (Treasurer), Freddie Houston, David Kenner, Enterick Lee, Thomas L. Williams
Calhoun County: Helen Carson, James Haigler, Virgil Jacobs, John McLauchlin
Orangeburg County: Deloris Frazier, Joseph Garvin, Johnny Ravenell, Vernon Stephens, Harry Wimberly

LSCOG Board Members Excused:

Aiken County: Det Haislip, Lessie Price
Allendale County: Deshawn Maner
Bamberg County: Sharon Hammond
Calhoun County: Richard Carson, Josh Rabon
Orangeburg County: Michael Butler, Janie Cooper-Smith

LSCOG Board Members Absent:

Aiken County: Andrew Siders
Bamberg County: Wilma Edmonds

LSCOG Staff Present:

Dr. William Molnar, Ashley Baker, Jessica Coleman, Emory Langston, Andre Anderson, and Veronica Williams

Guests Present

Linda Bell, *Bamberg County*, Joyce Landrum, *Allendale County*, Hattie Jackson, *Town of Allendale*, Barbara Kearse, *Barnwell Clerk to Council*, Dennis Sumpter, *Orangeburg County*, Hilary Hindman, *Barnwell County*, Roger Riley, *Barnwell County*, Rob Bedenbaugh, *JMT*, Connie Munn, *SCDOA Director*, Rosaland Kenner, *Barnwell County*

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Willa Jennings called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

INVOCATION

Mr. William Robinson gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Travis Hooper led the Board in the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL AND RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

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

AWARDS PRESENTED

Chairwoman Jennings presented the 2025 Annual Awards to Board Members who were not present at the Annual Banquet held in December 2025.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chairwoman Jennings asked for approval of the meeting agenda.

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

APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Chairwoman Jennings asked for approval for the October 9, 2025, Full Board Meeting Minutes.

Mr. William Robinson motioned to approve the meeting minutes for October 9, 2025, seconded by Ms. Albert Sauls. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF LSRHC MINUTES

Chairwoman Jennings asked for approval for the November 13, 2025, Lower Savannah Regional Housing Consortium Meeting Minutes and reminded the board only the Executive Committee Members, which is acting as the LSRHC's technical advisory board could vote.

Mr. Robinson motioned to approve the November 13, 2025, Lower Savannah Regional Housing Consortium Meeting Minutes, seconded by Mr. Larry Haynes. The motion passed unanimously.

AGING FUNDING UPDATE

Director Connie Munn provided a financial and programmatic update regarding the Older Americans Act and initiatives of the South Carolina Department on Aging. She referenced the Program Instruction dated October 20, 2025, and reviewed requirements related to the Regional Aging Advisory Council (RAAC), compliance standards, and the July 1, 2026, compliance date. She also discussed the RAAC's advisory role in the Area Plan and the requirement to remain separate from the governing board.

Chairwoman Jennings advised that significant Bylaw revisions are forthcoming. Dr. Molnar stated the proposed changes will be presented to the RAAC Committee next week, followed by review by the Executive Committee and the Full Board.

CEDS UPDATES

Ms. Emory Langston provided an overview of the upcoming Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) update, referencing the CEDS Development Timeline. She briefly outlined the planning process and advised Board members to expect a survey and upcoming county meetings to gather input.

LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AREA UPDATE

Mr. Andre Anderson provided a Workforce Development update, including Program Year (PY) 2024 Dislocated Worker fund utilization and the required corrective action plan following the region falling short of the 70% state expenditure benchmark. He discussed strategies implemented to improve utilization, including Incumbent Worker Training (IWT) grants and enhanced financial monitoring. He also highlighted recent apprenticeship activities throughout the six-county region and reported on the continued expansion and marketing of the mobile workforce unit.

SAFETY PERFORMANCE TARGET PRESENTATION

Dr. William Molnar presented the Safety Performance Targets requested by SCDOT and FHWA. He noted that accident rates and fatalities have declined, with continued emphasis on roadway and infrastructure safety. He advised that the Board may adopt the State's targets or develop regional targets; due to time constraints, he recommended adopting the State's targets, which were approved by the TAC on January 21, 2026.

Mr. Gary Bunker motioned to approve the recommended Safety Performance Targets, seconded by Mr. Stephens. The motion passed unanimously.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENTS

Mr. Freddie Houston requested approval of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments as presented in the agenda materials, including:

- Denmark-Olar High School TAP Sidewalk Project
- Hwy 78 & Old Barnwell Road intersection improvements
- Oakwood-Windsor Elementary School entrance improvements
- FFY 2025 Section 5311 Rural Area Program Suballocations (Aiken Area Council on Aging, Lowcountry Regional Transportation Authority – Allendale County, Bamberg County Council on Aging, Barnwell County, and Orangeburg County Transit)
- Partial funding for a rural transit position

He noted that the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) approved these items on January 21, 2026.

Mr. Danny Feagin motioned to approve the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments as presented, seconded by Mr. John Simmons. The motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL AND BUDGET UPDATE

Ms. Ashley Baker provided a financial and budget update to the Board. She stated that the FY 2024–2025 audit is currently being worked on. She also shared that she was working on a new

format for the Revenue & Expense Statement and the Income Statement. Her hope is the new format will be easier to understand and will improve how financial information is presented.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT

Dr. Molnar reported on the following:

- Following Ms. Munn's presentation, the region will need to fill seats on the Regional Aging Advisory Committee (RAAC) based on the guidance provided. He requested each county begin identifying possible members. Bylaw revisions will be forthcoming.
- The FY 2024–2025 SCCOGs Impact Report.
- The recent House Subcommittee presentation focused on return on investment (ROI).
- The Senate Subcommittee presentation date has not yet been determined.
- He noted that a flyer listing upcoming meetings was included in the board packages and highlighted the following:
 - RAAC – February 19th
 - T-Bred – February 24th
 - MASC – February 24th
 - TAC – March 5th
 - Executive Committee – March 12th
 - Full Board Meeting – April 9th (Calhoun County)
 - Workforce Board – April 14th
- The SCDOT Modernization Committee House Bill (5071) and Senate Bill (831) numbers were provided.
- The Work from Home policy is being reviewed. This is viewed as a tool to help attract and retain more qualified individuals in higher skill-level positions, given the current job market.

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Freddie Houston seconded by Mr. Vernon Stephens. The motion passed unanimously. Chairwoman Jennings adjourned the meeting at 7:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

William Molnar, Ph.D.
Executive Director