**MINUTES**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**PEE DEE REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

**6:00 PM, MONDAY, April 10th, 2023**

**PDRCOG CONFERENCE CENTER**

**FLORENCE SC**

The Executive Committee of the Pee Dee Regional Council of Governments held its meeting on Monday, April 10th, 2023, at 6:00 PM in the conference room of the COG’s Conference Center in Florence.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

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| Carolyn Prince, *Vice-Chairman*  John Q. Atkinson  Harold Moody | Mary Anderson  Leon Johnson |  |
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| **MEMBERS ABSENT** |  |  |  |
| K.G. Rusty Smith, Chairman |  |  |  |
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**COG STAFF PRESENT**

Johnny Brown, Executive Director

Joette Dukes, Workforce Development Director

Kim Ethridge, Community Development Director

Lindsay Privette, Economic Development Director

Sandy Watford, Engineer

Dunae Shaw, Engineering

Alicia Pippin, Executive/Administrative Assistant

In the absence of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Carolyn Prince called the meeting to order and determined that a quorum was present.

**ACTION ON MINUTES**

After review of the minutes of the last Board of Directors meeting, which was held Feb 13th,2023, a motion to approve these minutes as written was made by Mr. John Atkinson and seconded by Mr. Leon Johnson \*All were in favor.

The invocation was given.

**Director’s Time:**

Mr. Brown announced the commencement of staff reports.

**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM REPORT:** Mrs. Joette Dukes, Workforce Development Director, distributed the Workforce Department report. Program Year 2022 Funding report was discussed with the board. It was brought to the board’s attention that the previously pending Rapid Response grant has now been approved and awarded. 100% of the funding (75k) has been passed through Pee Dee Cog to the sub-contractor, Eckerd Connects, to provide direct training and supportive services to dislocated workers. If the funds are spent by June 30th, we can request additional funding.

The Career National dislocated Worker grant ($491,751)- is an active 2-year grant. In collaboration with Upper Savannah COG, we requested a modification to extend the grant to 2024, and to add additional funding. Most of the enrollments of participants utilizing this grant are from the Pee Dee. We will keep you all informed if this modification is approved.

Engage, Build, and Serve grant: a sub award was made to Eckerd to hire a new business services staff person to work directly with businesses. Incumbent worker training is also available. The completed round received 8 applications from 3 counties: Chesterfield, Darlington, and Florence. A total of 112k was requested by those businesses. The recommendations will be presented to the Workforce Board tomorrow for approval.

Questions were opened to the board.

Ms. Dukes reported that the Workforce program is responding to the closure of Stanley-Black and Decker.

**COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM REPORT** Ms. Kim Ethridge distributed the Economic & Community Development Department Report. Ms. Ethridge reported on ongoing projects and was also happy to report that the first of 14 CDBG program firetrucks was delivered in Darlington County the last week of March. Ms. Ethridge announced 3 new applications. 1. Chesterfield County- new water line along Hillian Edwards Rd. from Hwy 9 to 49. 2. City of Johnsonville- upgrade pump station #4 & water/force mains 3. City of Dillon- upgrade the Cannon Court and Maple Swamp pump stations.

EDA- Lindsay Privette reported on ongoing projects. Ms. Privette reported on SCIIP applications. There is still a delay, but since extra funding was added, approximately 70 percent of the projects should be awarded. We hope to hear news about this funding in May.

Last month we had a very well attended quarterly networking meeting. There were presentations from Mike Shealy, with the office of broadband and state revolving fund & the Francis Marion small business network. The broadband survey information is available, and we can supply marketing items.

Brownfields program- We are looking for sites to do Phase I assessments on. DHEC has funding available for these assessments in the Pee Dee area. The board was asked to please contact us if this service is needed.

Questions were opened to the floor.

**TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM REPORT**

Mr. Dunae Shaw gave a report on the transportation program. This program is projected to expand in the next 3-5 years. Staff attended the 2023 MPO/COG Academy in Columbia on March 30th. We received information regarding the mobility program/2020 Census and its effect on MPOs and COGS. On April 18th staff will attend an onsite scoping meeting to discuss a timeline, cost estimates, and other alternatives.

At the previous TAC meeting we discussed all ongoing projects in the region. At that meeting SCDOT presented the 2022 STAMP System Performance Report, which was provided to the board prior to this meeting, and is in tonight's packet as well. We are asking the board for approval.

**\*Action: Approve SCDOT’s STAMP System Performance Report 2022. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Leon Johnsons and seconded by Mr. John Q. Atkinson \*All were in favor.**

**ENGINEERING REPORT:**

Mrs. Sandy Watford distributed the engineering projects report. Sandy discussed the list of projects with the board. To highlight: Central Place Lance in Chesterfield County is going out for bid. The bid opening is April 25th.

Questions were opened to the floor.

**Financial Statement**: March 2023 financial statement was distributed as information to the Board.

It was reviewed by the board, and questions were opened to the floor.

**New Business:**

**A motion was made to enter Executive Session by Mr. John Q. Atkinson for discussion of an employment matter as permitted by SC SECTION 30-4-70(a)(1) and seconded by Mr. Leon Johnson. \*All were in favor.**

**A motion was made to exit the Executive Session by Mr. John Q. Atkinson and seconded by Mr. Leon Johnson. \*All were in favor.**

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. John Q. Atkinson and seconded by Mr. Leon Johnson \*All were in favor.