**MINUTES**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**PEE DEE REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

**6:00 PM, MONDAY, MAY 8TH, 2023**

**PDRCOG CONFERENCE CENTER**

**FLORENCE SC**

The Executive Committee of the Pee Dee Regional Council of Governments held its regular meeting on Monday, May 8th, 2023, at 6:00 PM in the conference room of the COG’s Conference Center in Florence.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

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| K.G. Rusty Smith, ChairmanCarolyn Prince, *Vice-Chairman* John Q. Atkinson, Secretary/TreasurerHarold Moody |  Mary Anderson Leon Johnson |  |
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| **MEMBERS ABSENT** |  |  |  |
| N/A |  |  |  |
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**COG STAFF PRESENT**

Joette Dukes, Workforce Development Director

Pam Watts, Finance Director

Kim Ethridge, Community Development Director

Lindsay Privette, Economic Development Director

Sandy Watford, Engineering

Dunae Shaw, Engineering Technician

Alicia Pippin, Executive/Administrative Assistant

Chairman, KG Rusty Smith called the meeting to order and determined that a quorum was present.

An invocation was given by Mrs. Joette Dukes.

**ACTION ON MINUTES**

After review of the minutes of the last Board of Directors meeting, which was held April 10th,2023, a motion to approve these minutes as written was made by Mr. John Atkinson and seconded by Dr. Carolyn Prince. \*All were in favor.

**STAFF REPORTS:**

**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM REPORT:** Mrs. Joette Dukes, Workforce Development Director, distributed the Workforce Department report. Joette reviewed funding sources with the board. The US Department of Labor announced the allocations for the new FY beginning July 1, have been released. Unfortunately, South Carolina will receive another reduction in funding. The decrease will be 5-6 percent less in adult and youth funding, 8.5 percent less in dislocated worker funding. The funding will be allocated to the local Workforce area through formula funding. We are hoping that our local area will not sustain a huge reduction due to the large number of layoffs we have had over the past year. We will have more specific funding information next month.

Mrs. Dukes shared a chart that shows the state’s labor force rate participation percentages, in which all the counties are ranked. Joette discussed this chart with the board.

The Workforce department participated in the campaign called “SC at Work” road trips, which visits with the mobile career one-stop. Mullins, Clio, McColl, Dillon, and Hamer were visited last week. 233 job seekers, 39 employers, and 16 community partners participated in the events.

Carolina’s hospital system has completed its transition to MUSC, they have indicated a willingness to participate in the healthcare grant. The Marion hospital as well as Black River Healthcare has agreed to participate, so the grant will be modified to include MUSC.

Questions were opened to the board.

**COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM REPORT** Mrs. Lindsay Privette distributed the Economic & Community Development Department Report and reviewed it with the board.

We have received news of the rural infrastructure authority’s SCIIP grants. Lindsay reviewed the projects submitted by the COG, amount requested, and amount funded. A full list of state grant awards was provided, and the local grant awards were highlighted. The COG is responsible for administrating several of these grants ($92 million in awards)- 19 projects. As a region, we did very well. Projects need to be completed by June 2026.

Questions were opened to the floor.

**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 has gone out for bid and awarded to Furr (only bidder, and in budget).

Questions were opened to the floor.

**TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM REPORT**

Mr. Dunae Shaw gave a report on the transportation program. The next upcoming TAC meeting is scheduled for June 8th, 2023, at 10:30. Dunae called attention to the Rural Planning Work Program document and budget which was previously distributed for board review. The budget figure handout was discussed with the board.

**\*Action: A motion to approve the FY 2023-2024 – FY 2024-25 Budget Table in the Cog’s Rural Planning Work Program (RPWP) was made by Mr. Leon Johnson and seconded by Dr. Carolyn Prince \*All were in favor.**

**Financial Statement**: April 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.**

**A motion was made to name Mrs. Joette Dukes as Interim Director of PDRCOG, and to extend the close date of applications for Executive Director to June 30th, 2023, by Mr. Leon Johnson, and seconded by Mr. Harold Moody. \* All were in favor.**

**Adjournment:**

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