**MINUTES**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**PEE DEE REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

**6:00 PM, MONDAY, February 13th, 2023**

**PDRCOG CONFERENCE CENTER**

**FLORENCE SC**

The Executive Committee of the Pee Dee Regional Council of Governments held its meeting on Monday, February 13th, 2023, at 6:00 PM in the conference room of the COG’s Conference Center in Florence.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| K.G. Rusty Smith, *Chairman*  Carolyn Prince, *Vice-Chairman*  John Q. Atkinson (mobile) | Mary Anderson  Leon Johnson |  |
|  |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **MEMBERS ABSENT** |  |  |  |
| Harold Moody |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

**COG STAFF PRESENT**

Johnny Brown, Executive Director

Joette Dukes, Workforce Development Director (zoom)

Kim Ethridge, Community Development Director

Sandy Watford, Engineer

Dusty Kertis, Finance Assistant

Alicia Pippin, Executive/Administrative Assistant

Chairman K.G. Rusty Smith 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 January 9th, 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.

**Director’s Time:**

Mr. Brown complimented staff on hard work and began staff reports.

**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM REPORT:** Mrs. Joette Dukes, Workforce Development Director, distributed the Workforce Department report. There have been no changes to the programs available funding to report on since last month’s meeting. Ms. Dukes reviewed the performance outcomes with the board. Each year the performance outcomes are negotiated with the state, and each workforce area has different goals. For each individual indicators listed, we have to meet at least 50 percent our goal. Most goals were either met or exceeded. The measurable skills gains indicator goal was not met because of the 70 percent scoring for Dislocated Workers pulled down the overall average. The good news about this indicator is that it is not “exit” based. This measures people that are still participating in the program. Questions were opened to the floor.

Joette reviewed the list of business services that were provided to individuals.

For Program Year 2021 which ended June 30th of 2022, the local workforce area failed to meet the 30 percent participant cost rate that is mandated by the State Workforce Development Board.

It is expected that of the funds available, at least 30 percent of those funds are spent directly on participants. (Transportation, childcare, training costs). There are a lot of reasons why the program did reach that 30%. There has been a large amount of money infused into our technical colleges by the state legislature. There are not many strings attached, so it is a more attractive funding. We have needed to get a little more creative. We have worked more directly with employers to put people into On the job training contracts, etc. Another thing that hurt us, is that we lost 500k in funding last year.

For this program year, we are currently over that needed percentage. We are allowed to ask for a waiver, for some reason if we are not making that percentage closer to the last quarter.

The local Workforce program is still doing a lot of great work for the Pee Dee area.

**COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM REPORT** Ms. Kim Ethridge distributed the Economic & Community Development Department Report. It was announced that we are participating in the SC BEST program, which is a DHEC funded program to fund environmental assessments on Brownfields in our region. The Pee Dee region received approximately 90k for assessment work, and we will be accepting property submissions in the next few weeks. Properties can be privately owned or owned by the government. An email was sent out to all the towns and counties announcing the opportunity.

The Community Development Program: all of the current grants are in good shape. Some are on hold, for environmental and some have construction already beginning. At a workshop @ the department of Commerce, they let us know the pots of money that they receive remain the same, however they did raise the grant amounts in several categories. Kim Ethridge explained what the raises were and gave some examples. The award amounts are more, however that does mean that the grants will be more competitive and fewer will be awarded. Ms. Ethridge asked that she be contacted with any idea for grant needs coming up. We are currently working on water/sewer grants. Those are due the first week of next month. Questions were opened to the floor.

PDCOG CDBG program has gotten 20 projects since January of last year.

**ENGINEERING REPORT:**

Mrs. Sandy Watford distributed the engineering projects report and indicated that there were no major changes from last month. Sandy discussed the list of projects with the board.

Marion: Senator Pinckney is complete and will most likely come off the list soon. We have sent final invoice.

Marion County Admin Road & Fallen Heroes memorial- the county did approve the funding. We got the contract signed. We had the contract time starts Feb. 21st, 2023.

Questions were opened to the floor.

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

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

Mr. Brown, Executive Director & the Chairman held a discussion with the board and Pee Dee COG staff concerning up and coming companies, opportunities and projects coming to the Pee Dee Region.

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