**MINUTES**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**PEE DEE REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

**6:00 PM, MONDAY, January 9th, 2023**

**PDRCOG CONFERENCE CENTER**

**FLORENCE SC**

The Executive Committee of the Pee Dee Regional Council of Governments held its meeting on Monday, January 9th, 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, *Chairman*  Carolyn Prince, *Vice-Chairman*  John Q. Atkinson (mobile) | Mary Anderson  Leon Johnson |  |
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| **MEMBERS ABSENT** |  |  |  |
| Harold Moody |  |  |  |
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**COG STAFF PRESENT**

Johnny Brown, Executive Director

Joette Dukes, Workforce Development Director (zoom)

Lindsay Privette, Economic Development Director

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 November 14th, 2022, a motion to approve these minutes as written was made by Mr. Leon Johnson and seconded by Dr. Carolyn Prince \*All were in favor.

**Director’s Time:**

Mr. Brown announced that we have one item that needs action from the board tonight and began staff reports.

**COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM REPORT** Ms. Lindsay Privette distributed the Economic & Community Development Department Report. It was announced that there were no significant status changes/award announcements from the reporting at December’s Full Board Meeting. The report was distributed to the board, and questions were opened to the floor.

**ENGINEERING REPORT:**

Mrs. Sandy Watford distributed the engineering projects report and indicated that there are no new projects listed on the report. There are a few developments, as highlighted. Central Place Lane in Chesterfield is in design. Pageland- Laney Road and Eagles Crest: Research & Comments. SCDOT: Patrick- (TAP) Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program in Research.

In Dillon County, there are development roadway & storm water reviews happening.

Marion County: Senator Pinckney Park: approved final contractor payment in Nov. 2022 (final invoice sent).

Admin Roadway is awaiting funding and notice to proceed from county.

Veterans & Fallen Hero’s Memorial is awaiting funding and notice to proceed from county. Questions were opened to the floor.

**Financial Statement**: December 2022 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, re-introduced the topic of the South Carolina Local Government Investment Pool. This was briefly discussed at the Full Board of Director’s meeting in December 2022. At the last legislative session, there was a sum of money appropriated to all 10 COGs across the state. The Rural Infrastructure Program recently advanced 500k to each COG. This funding would be used to develop and prepare applications for small towns/localities with limited staffing. We are able to utilize the State’s Local Government Investment Pool, to earn interest on the funding. This interest would have no restrictions. In order to proceed, we need the approval of the Executive Committee of the Pee Dee Regional Council of Governments.

The informational packet was reviewed by the board, and questions were opened to the floor.

**\*Action: A motion to approve the Pee Dee Regional Council of Government’s participation in the South Carolina Local Government Investment pool was made by Mr. Leon Johnson and seconded by Mrs. Mary Anderson. \*All were in favor.**

**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM REPORT:**

Mrs. Joette Dukes, Workforce Development Director, distributed the Workforce Department report. She joined us via virtual meeting (Zoom). Mrs. Dukes turned attention to the funding sources handout and discussed with the board. It was announced that there was only one new addition to the report, and that is the Engage, Build, Serve Grant. This grant was awarded this month in the amount of $325,000.00. The funding will be used to build up business services in the Pee Dee area to include additional funding for incumbent worker training, an additional staff person that works directly with businesses (contractor), and some virtual reality equipment aimed at giving people an inside look at industries. We budgeted some funding for staff development.

The Performance Update handout was discussed and reviewed with the board. Joette highlighted federally mandated performance. We typically meet or exceed all the goals established. However, there are some financial metrics aspects that are measured. The local areas in State of South Carolina have a Participant Cost Rate and are asked to expend at least 30% of the money available directly on participants within a program year. (Tuition, books, supportive services). The remainder 70% can be spent on operational costs. As of June 30th, 2022, our local area was only at 26.91%, which mean all of our elected officials were notified by DEW that the performance metric was not met. The metric has been improved over time and we are currently at 35.36%. We have 2 federally funded grants that we are able to ask them to consider expenditures as a part of a wavier request of that requirement. We are required to submit a corrective action plan.

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) requires modification of the Pee Dee Workforce Area’s Local and Regional Plans every two years. In 2020, each of the Pee Dee’s Count Councils approved the four-year plans, as required, so this year, the SC Department of Employment and Workforce (SCDEW) is only requesting that the chair and/or the clerk-to-council acknowledge with a simple email that the plans and attachments were provided to them. Our staff must submit the modified plans to SCDEW by Friday, January 13th. The most significant changes were to incorporate more current labor market information. However, that update did not result in significant changes being needed to either plan.

Questions were opened to the floor.

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