



**Board of Directors**  
**Monday, August 5, 2024**  
**6:00 PM**  
**Central Carolina Technical College**  
**506 N Guignard Dr, Sumter, SC 29150**  
**MINUTES**

**Present:**

**Kershaw County:** Alfred Mae Drakeford, John Thomas, Penry Gustafson, Jeffrey Graham, Brad Hanley, John W. Lee, Kenneth McCaskill, Sammie Tucker Jr

**Clarendon County:** Shirley Keels

**Sumter County:** Jim McCain, Anthony Gibson, James Blessingame, Earl Wilson, Chuck Wilson, Vivian McGhaney, Roland Robinson,

**Lee County:** Wayne Hancock, Travis Windham

**Absent:**

**Clarendon County:** Kevin Johnson, Dwight Stewart, Julia Nelson

**Kershaw County:** Katie Guinn

**Sumter County:** Eugene Baten, Herbert McClary, David Weeks, Gifford Shaw, Bernadette Robinson

**Lee County:** Will Wheeler

1. **Welcome and Call to order:** Chairman Sammie Tucker Jr. called the meeting to order at 6:01PM.
2. **Invocation:** Rev. John Lee led the group in the Invocation.
3. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Everyone joined in the pledge of allegiance.
4. **Quorum Determination:** The Board Clerk, Ms. Linda Jackson, informed Chairman Tucker we had reached a quorum.
5. **Agenda Adoption:** Chairman Tucker called for a motion to adopt the agenda. **Chuck Wilson made the motion, and it was seconded by Mr. Jim McCain. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.**
6. **Approval of Previous Minutes:** Chairman Tucker called for a motion to approve the minutes from April 1, 2024. Alfred Mae Drakeford made the motion, and it was seconded by Mr. Wayne Hancock. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

## 7. Special Presentation:

- a. **SCDOT Planning:** Mr. Dennis Cyphers informed us that due to the emergency declaration, SCDOT staff is currently restricted from traveling, causing us to forgo the presentation. We were, however, asked if we could share a video from the 2050 momentum. Unfortunately, the video could not play, so Mr. Cyphers provided a link QR Code for review. Mr. Cyphers also mentioned that there are changes happening at the secretary and planning levels in DOT. He expects further planning level changes in the next few months. Furthermore, Mr. Cyphers had a meeting with the new Deputy Director of Intermural and Regular Planning during a conference with other COG directors. They held a roundtable discussion on planning issues at the DOT level. We expect to receive answers from the Director soon. Additionally, there is a survey available for board members to complete.

## 8. Staff Report:

- a. **Finance:** Ms. Katorkas mentioned that the report covers the fiscal year 2023/2024, as indicated in red at the top of the document the amount shown is subject to adjustments prior to the final audited financial statements. There are still booking additional revenue and a few expenses along with other adjustments. At the time of this preparation finance had booked close to \$6.6 million dollars and expended close to \$8.2 million dollars. Since the report's preparation, finance have posted an additional \$976,000.00 in revenue and \$93,000.00 in expenses and will have additional revenue to book. Ms. Katorkas informed the board that there has been an increase of about nine percent in revenue from the prior year. She stated that one of the largest expenditures for the year was the purchase of the new building on Main Street, because it had to come from the fund balance. The change in fund balance for June 30<sup>th</sup> based on the additional revenue that was posted since this report was prepared is standing at a negative \$705,000.00 due to the building purchase. There is a couple of hundred dollars left in accrued expenses to post, and there will be a large amount of revenue that still needs to be posted for last year. She informed the Board that the cash balances were listed of pages 1 and more details about the fund balance was listed on page 4 of the handout. Chairman Tucker thanked Ms. Katorkas for always keeping the Board informed.
- b. **Aging /HHS:** The SC Department on Aging approved database utilized by the (10) Area Agency on Aging transitioned from AIM to OASIS as of July 1, 2024. In the months of May 2024 – July 2024 approximately (60) zoom training sessions were offered by SCDOA for all AAA staff and contracted providers. The GO LIVE databases for Question Pro and Case worthy rolled out July 1, 2024. However, AAA staff statewide experienced login and coding issues in the Questions Pro system, which were reported to the state. In the month of July, the Question Pro and Case worthy databases do not currently speak to one another. Meaning our Assessment and Family Caregiver staff are required to enter assessments in Question Pro save the file and re-enter client information in Case worthy and upload the Question Pro assessment file. The GO LIVE databases for the AAA and contracted providers for SERV Tracker were scheduled by SCDOA to be rolled out as follows. As of July 26,



2024, the AAA is pending AIM data to be transferred by SCDOA from AIM to Serv Tracker. Director Munn authorized the AAAs and contracted providers to enter bulk unit entries in the month of July only since the transfer of data is delayed from the original rollout schedule provided. As of July 26, 2024, the AAA is pending zoom training with SCDOA on the end of month reporting requirements. This is critical



piece to ensure reconciliation and the Payment Request for Reimbursement process for all Aging programs can be accomplished

- c. **Government Services:** Grants closing out City of Manning/Dickson-Durant Demolition – Project is currently going through the closeout process. CDBG \$308,880/Local \$34,300 3 Sumter/Shannontown Demolition – Project is currently going through the closeout process. CDBG \$283,983/Local \$31,872. 4 Schools Building Light Technology CDBG-CV- 450 (207-222nm) Wavelength FAR-UVC Light Technology have been successfully installed in the Lee, Clarendon, Sumter, and Kershaw school districts. The project is now going through the closeout process with Grants Management Guide house. CDBG-CV: \$1,515,602.54/No local match required. Pinewood Playground CDBG-CV - This project is currently being closed out by Guide house. CDBG-CV \$202,183.68/No local match required.

**Santee-Lynch Regional Water Quality Management Plan Amendment Expansion of Kershaw Lugoff Wastewater Treatment Plant Capacity** Please be informed that an amendment to the S-L Regional 208 Water Quality Management Plan (adopted 2022) is required for the Kershaw Lugoff WWTP (SC0039870) capacity expansion. The current treatment capacity of 2.0 million gallons/day will be increased to 3.0 million gallons/day, a 50% expansion. A public information meeting w held on June 19 in Camden and advertised in the Sumter Item and COG website. This expansion aligns with the endorsed goals and policies of the water quality management plan.

- d. **Workforce Development:** Press Release Excerpt (July 19, 2024): Employment and Workforce Executive Director William Floyd’s Statement June 2024 Employment Situation Columbia, S.C. – “June’s employment numbers continue to set new record highs with the number of people employed in South Carolina reaching 2,410,144, an increase of 3,632 month over month and employers reporting 2,381,500 in payroll, an increase of 6,900 over May’s number. The labor force participation rate also ticked up to 57.3% from May’s rate of 57.2%. The unemployment rate for the State increased slightly to 3.6%. Many South Carolina employers are hiring and offering viable, exciting careers. An excellent way for jobseekers to find their next job is through DEW and other workforce partners. Whether job fairs, rural outreach events, the virtual job platform, workshops and personalized assistance in the SC Works centers, or the SC Works Online Services (SCWOS) system, the state’s largest job database, there are many ways to engage our services to help with the employer-to-jobseeker connection,” said Floyd.

## 9. Committee Report:

### a. Executive Committee:

- i. **Fleet Policy:** Chairman Tucker mentioned that the Santee Regional Council of Governments lacks a fleet policy, leading to confusion during an incident. He emphasized the need for a proper protocol and stated that a document has been prepared for review and improvement. Chairman Tucker urged Board members to examine this document, make comments, and return it to staff for voting in October at the next board meeting. Please review and provide feedback promptly.
- ii. **Incident Policy:** A valuable suggestion made by the senator regarding our incident policy. It was proposed that we include contact information for both the form filler and the witness, along with an explanation for medical treatment. Additionally, it was recommended that any incident be reported to OSHA using form 301, which was provided. Chairman Tucker asked for more suggestions.

### b. Project & Planning:

**Expansion Of Kershaw (MOTION)** Dr. Parkey gave an overview of the Regional Water Quality Management Plan, specifically the expansion of the Kershaw and Lugoff wastewater treatment plant. The facility discharges to the Wateree River, and they are expanding their treatment capacity. They are doing an expansion to their treatment capacity from 2 million gallons a day to 3 million dollars a day. The recommendation for approval comes from the Projects and Planning Committee. The committee has already shown support for this amendment. Chairman Tucker inquired if the board members had any questions prior to calling for a motion. Mr. Jeffrey Graham made the motion to adopt the Regional Water Quality Management Plan, the motion was seconded by Mr. John Lee. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

## 10. Old Business

- a. **Charlotte Water Update:** Mr. Dennis Cyphers informed the Board that he had no true updates regarding the Charlotte Water Inner Basing Transfer. He stated that public outreach has been conducted with municipalities and counties in and around the Rockhill area. Chairman Tucker commended staff for attending the different meetings that was held regarding the Charlotte Water Updates.

**11. New Business: Non-Applicable**

**12. Other Business: None Applicable**

**13. Executive Session: None Applicable**

**14. Executive Director's Report:** Mr. Cyphers updated the Board on the following:

- **Workforce-**

In July the labor, health, and human services sub- committee voted to decrease the allocation of workforce funding primarily removing funding for the youth portion of WIOA and cutting in half dislocated worker funding. A vote was taken on July 29 by the full committee and was approved which includes a 4% decrease or 8.6 billion dollars cut to previous years.

**Highlights of Bill**

- Prioritizing funding for early education, childcare, child welfare, and programs for seniors and the disabled.
- Increasing funding to educate children with disabilities in every school district.
- Increasing funding for career and technical education to support local programs for students who are not seeking a college degree.
- Increasing funding for charter schools to support students and families seeking better schooling options.
- Maintaining funding for Pell Grants at the maximum discretionary amount of \$6,335, combined with mandatory funding of \$1,060 – the total Pell award for the next school year continues to be \$7,395.

- **Aging**

Mr. Cyphers stated with the Tropical storm Debby moving our way, and the Governor's emergency declaration announcement, stated that he did request that our aging director contact high-risk care facilities. My reasoning

behind this special outreach was to make sure verbally and in hard documentation that the facilities had emergency check list in place and were following correct protocol during any storm events.

- **Government Services:**

Mr. Cyphers announce that Mrs. Sylvia Frierson is vacating her position as Department head of Grants management this week to accept an opportunity with SCRC. Ms. Tammy Smith, who has been with us for 3 years, will assume all grant management responsibility.

- **Transportation:** Special note, RTA will run services tomorrow because of dialysis patients but will possibly cut service in the late afternoon. Businesses that currently use RTA for employee movements have been notified.

Changes at DOT to include overhaul of planning department.

**HOME:** almost spent all funds

**CDBG:** reduced funding over past 5 years

- **Special:**

We will be at a work from home situation for Tuesday and Wednesday due to tropical storm Debby. With Clarendon and Sumter County making announcements earlier today of school closure through Thursday we will need to follow suit.

## 15. Chairman's Remarks:

Chairman Tucker would like to express gratitude to Mr. Cyphers for exercising great caution by allowing staff to work from home during inclement weather. On behalf of the COG Board Chairman Tucker thanked Ms. Sylvia Frierson for her exceptional dedication to the COG and wished her well in her new career. He reminded the members



that it was time to complete Mr. Cyphers evaluation and encouraged the members to confirm attendance for the COG Retreat.

**16. Adjourn:**

Chairman Sammie Tucker Jr. called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Wheeler and seconded by Mr. Graham. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Linda Jackson'.

---

Linda Jackson  
Board Clerk

Approve by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Dennis Cyphers'.

---

Dennis Cyphers  
Executive Director





I certify that the public and media notifications of the above-mentioned meeting were given prior to the meeting as follows.

Public Notified:  
Manner Notified:

Yes  
Agenda was posted on

Media Notified:  
Manner Notified:

Yes  
Agenda emailed to local newspapers:  
The Chronicle and The Item