

**MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
UPPER SAVANNAH COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
430 HELIX ROAD
GREENWOOD, SOUTH CAROLINA
MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2022**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Buddy Agan, Diane Anderson, Jackie Brown, John Calhoun, Dean Campbell, Edith Childs, Jim Coleman, Frank Daniel, Ken Durham, Otis Grier Jr., Charlie Henry, Shirley Jenkins, Charles Jennings, Wes McAllister, Marian Miller, Sen. Floyd Nicholson, Willie Norman, David Sawyer, Ernie Segars, Brandon Smith, Don Smoak, Albert Talbert, and David Tribble.

MEMBERS ABSENT: John Carter, Amelia Herlong, Theo Lane, Sen. Shane Massey, Miliken Matthews, Matthew Miller, Rep. Anne Parks, Roy Smith Jr., Melissa Spencer, Faye Thomas, and Sen. Danny Verdin.

STAFF PRESENT: Patricia Hartung, Sam Leaman, Ann Skinner, Rick Green, Melissa Phillips, Keith Smith, David Hays

Call to Order	<p>Meeting was held in person with the option to attend via conference call. Jim Coleman gave the invocation and Chairman Albert Talbert called the meeting to order.</p> <p>The August 22, 2022, minutes were approved unanimously upon motion by Jim Coleman, seconded by Diane Anderson.</p> <p>Talbert asked Board to remember USCOG staff member Melissa Phillips in the loss of her father and Board Vice Chairman Charles Jennings whose wife is in the hospital.</p>
Transportation: SCDOT Highway Safety Targets Performance	<p>Government Services Director Rick Green announced that the SCDOT Performance Safety Targets document requires annual approval by the Board. He said federal legislation requires that each state come up with its own performance measures and safety standards that must be approved by COGs and MPOs.</p> <p>Green said traffic fatalities have decreased statewide. Buddy Agan asked why the Upper Savannah region has so many fatalities. Green said the leading cause of fatal accidents in the region is one person in a vehicle leaving the road and striking an object. Green said he has requested federal assistance to determine what is causing the roadway departures in the region. Discussion included whether cell phone usage while driving is causing the high number of accidents. After more discussion about problems such as speeding and other unsafe driving, Jim Coleman made a motion to approve the SCDOT Performance Safety Targets document, seconded by Edith Childs. The Plan was approved unanimously.</p>
Annual County Investment Report	<p>Assistant Director Sam Leaman discussed Upper Savannah's Annual County Investment Reports. Board members received a Fiscal Year 2022 report from the county that they represent. The report includes how USCOG is funded through county dues, federal and state dollars, and direct services funding. A return on investment page focuses on each county's investment, aging and workforce development direct services, rural guideshare allocation (for highway improvement projects), and direct grants for a</p>

	<p>funds total that determines return on investment. The report also includes county and region highlights. In Fiscal Year 2022, member counties invested \$154,019, which leveraged \$13,076,729 in funding, programs and services in the Upper Savannah Region for a return-on-investment ratio of 85:1 for the region.</p>
<p>COG Board Member Round Table Discussion</p>	<p>Director Patricia C. Hartung said Upper Savannah decided to dedicate this Board meeting to a roundtable discussion about the exciting activities taking place across the region. The COG presented two short videos – City of Greenwood, America in Bloom; and City of Abbeville, SC Momentum Small Town Finalist. Afterwards, Hartung invited Board members to present their own community-related project, activity or report.</p> <p>Several Board members spoke about their communities and counties, discussing topics ranging from farmer’s markets, renovations of historic buildings such as the Laurens County Courthouse, museums, festivals, restaurants in communities including Ridge Spring and Edgefield, historical sites such as the cotton gin in McCormick, the Boys and Girls Clubs, and the desire for growth but keeping their communities as they are now as great places to live and raise a family. Buddy Agan, Albert Talbert, Ken Durham, Edith Childs, Floyd Nicholson, Brandon Smith, Ernie Segars, Diane Anderson, Marian Miller, Charles Jennings, David Sawyer and Frank Daniel made comments about their respective communities and counties.</p> <p>Edith Childs said she will be retiring after 24 years on Greenwood County Council and invited the Board to a drop-in in her honor Dec. 20, 2022, at the Greenwood County Library. Buddy Agan said John Calhoun will be retiring after 33 years on Abbeville County Council.</p>
<p>In other business</p>	<p>Hartung said Director of the SC Broadband Office Jim Stritzinger, who presented to the USCOG Board in August, has announced that his office will contract with SC’s COGs to collect 30,000 surveys documenting broadband status across the state. Federal funds are available to assist in connecting those who are underserved or don’t have broadband access.</p> <p>Hartung said Upper Savannah will be preparing a one-page document mailed to home addresses of county council members providing updates from each program area for their respective counties. She said the idea is to make sure council members are informed about Upper Savannah’s activities.</p> <p>Charles Jennings thanked the Board for their prayers and cards concerning his wife, who is currently in the hospital but is improving, he said.</p>
<p>Adjourn</p>	<p>Being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.</p>


 Patricia C. Hartung
 Executive Director