

County Council Coalition Meets to Provide Input on SCAC's Draft Legislative Policy Positions

SCAC steering committees presented policy positions for the 2022 Session of the S.C. General Assembly at the fall meeting of the County Council Coalition (CCC) on October 20 at Embassy Suites, Columbia. Guest speakers addressed several topics. New CCC officers also were elected.

CCC President James T. McCain Jr. (Sumter County Council Chairman) presided.



SCAC Steering Committees Present Policy Positions

The following four SCAC policy steering committees presented draft policy positions during the meeting:

- County Government and Inter-

governmental Relations, chaired by Joseph B. Dill, Greenville County Council Member;

- Land Use, Natural Resources and Transportation, chaired by Charles T. Edens, Sumter County Council Member;
- Public Safety, Corrections and Judicial, chaired by Julie J. Armstrong, Charleston County Clerk of Court; and
- Revenue, Finance and Economic Development, chaired by Belinda D. Copeland, Darlington County.

Pickens County Council Vice Chairman Roy Costner, SCAC Legislative Committee Chairman, officiated during the steering committee reports.

Delegates, representing South Carolina's 46 counties, reviewed and discussed each committee's recommendations to help shape SCAC's legislative policy positions. SCAC policy steering committees met again on November 6 & 7 prior to presenting policy positions to SCAC's Legislative Committee at the Association's 2022 Legislative Conference, to be held at the AC Hotel, Greenville (Dec. 1 & 2).

Speakers Discuss Several Topics of Interest to South Carolina County Officials

The CCC Meeting included three guest speakers.

Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director, S.C. Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office, provided a South Carolina Economic Update.

"The makeup of the state's population has shifted dramatically since 1970," Rainwater said. "The population in the 65 plus age range is projected to surpass the under 18 age range by 2027, and the working age population from age 18 to 65 continues to shrink relative to total state population. The state's population growth is driven by migration into South Carolina. In 2021, deaths in the state exceeded births."

The labor shortage has
(Continued on next page)



(Inset-above) County Council Coalition President James T. McCain Jr. (Sumter County Council Chairman) presides over the fall meeting of the County Council Coalition at Embassy Suites, Columbia, on Oct. 20.

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driven growth in wages, but wage growth should slow if the slowing economy reduces the number of job openings. Private sector wage growth has also far outpaced the public sector since the pandemic, and competition for workers is driving up wages. Still, wage and salary growth are lagging behind in the government sectors.

“The U.S. labor market remains at historic levels of tightness as employers compete over a smaller pool of available potential workers,” Rainwater said. “Individuals also retired at higher rates during the pandemic.

“Some workers have re-entered the labor market, but current

estimates place retirements 54,000 higher than they were during 2021,” he added. “Many South Carolinians left the labor force during the pandemic. An estimated 45,000 more individuals than expected remained outside the workforce during the past year.”

The U.S. price inflation hit a 40-year high in 2022, averaging 8.3 percent for the first eight months. Inflation was caused by inflation, including supply chain issues, the war in Ukraine, the labor shortage and consumer behavior.

Rainwater concluded his presentation by focusing on the General Fund.

“For Fiscal Year 2021-22, the state’s General Fund ended \$880.1 million above what was estimated, at 23.1 percent compared to 15.2 percent,” he reported. “Fiscal Year 2022 revenue grew \$2.57 billion over Fiscal Year 21, but the impact for Fiscal Year 2023 is unclear.

“Fiscal Year collections are running \$457.6 million ahead of forecast, and employment growth has exceeded February expectations,” Rainwater added. “Personal income is also growing well above our historical trend, and it’s expected to continue to be elevated through Fiscal Year 2022-23.”

Ran Reinhard, Disaster Recover, Mitigation, and Operations Director, S.C. Office of Resiliency, talked about the S.C. Office of Resilience Grant Programs.

Reinhard explained the five grant programs:

1) **Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG – DR)**. The CDBG – DR grant program, funded by HUD and limited to six years, is limited to housing, infrastructure, economic development, and mitigation; and 30x (See CCC Meeting, P. 4)



CCC President James T. McCain Jr. turns the report of the policy steering committees over to Roy Costner III, Chairman of the SCAC Legislative Committee. Also pictured are: (left to right) Joseph B. Dill, Charles T. Edens, Julie J. Armstrong, and Belinda D. Copeland.



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ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES**

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COUNTIES CONNECT:

A LEGISLATIVE ACTION DAY

Mark your calendar for **SCAC's Counties Connect: A Legislative Action Day** that will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2023, at the Hilton Columbia Center/UofSC Alumni Center in downtown Columbia. Formerly known as the association's Mid-Year Conference, this event provides an opportunity for county leaders to connect with their local delegation members and advocate for county priorities.

The program will begin at 10:00 a.m. with a legislative briefing from SCAC staff followed by a group visit to the State House while the House and Senate are in session. Lunch will be provided at the Hilton Columbia Center/UofSC Alumni Center, and the program will continue in the afternoon with presentations on timely topics. A legislative reception will be held that evening at The Palmetto Club and Institute of Government classes will be offered on Thursday, Feb. 23. The association will share registration information the first week of January.

SCAC looks forward to your participation in this important event!

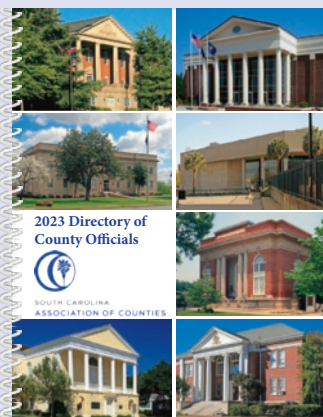
SCAC's 2023 Directory of County Officials

SCAC's 2023 *Directory of County Officials* will be published and distributed in February. So, order a copy if you want to know "Who's Who" in South Carolina county government.

The *Directory* identifies all elected and appointed county officials in the state. This popular, award-winning publication also identifies SCAC's Officers, Board of Directors and Corporate Partners; Regional Councils of Government; Federal and State Officials; and State Senators and Representatives. Addresses and telephone numbers are included for all county officials, state officials and members of the S.C. General Assembly.

Cost: \$25.00 per copy (including tax, postage, shipping and handling).

- To order your copy of the 2023 *Directory of County Officials*, please contact:



SOUTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

PO Box 8207
Columbia, SC 29202-8207

803-252-7255

E-mail: smorgan@scac.sc

SCAC Steering Committee Meetings Held Sept. 6–7 & Nov. 1–2



Charleston County Clerk of Court Julie Armstrong (left) chaired the Public Safety, Corrections and Judicial Steering Committee (below) on Sept. 6 at the SCAC Office where all four steering committees met on Sept. 6 & 7. The four committees met again virtually on Nov. 1 & 2.



Institute of Government for County Officials Held on

Dan Koon (right), Deputy Director, S.C. Human Affairs Commission, taught the Understanding and Seeking Differences class at the Institute of Government on Oct. 19 (below). The following classes were also held: Public Speaking, The Property Taxation Process, and Financial Management.



HUD determined counties (FEMA Individual Assistance declared). For more information, contact: Scott Sharpe at Scott.Sharpe@scor.sc.gov or (803) 530-0338.

2) **Community Development Block Grant – Mitigation (CDBG – MIT).** The CDBG – MIT grant program, funded by HUD and limited to 12 years, is limited to infrastructure, buyouts, match of federal funds, and plans and studies; and to 17x determined counties (impacted by Pee Dee and Santee watersheds). The next application window for infrastructure is April-May of 2023. For more information, contact: Phleisha Lewis at Phleisha.Lewis@scor.sc.gov or (803) 543-0018.

3) **S.C. Disaster Relief and Resilience Reserve Fund (DRF).** The DRF grant program, funded by the state, has a pre-disaster (Resilience Planning) and post disaster (Disaster Relief and Hazard Mitigation programs) components. Disaster Relief programs can include: disaster case management; infrastructure repairs for those not eligible for CDBG-DR grant or other federal assistance; loans and grants for immediate cash flow assistance for local governments; grants for voluntary agencies, and governments for

equipment, and infrastructure repair tied to a FEMA lifeline; and assistance for verifiable disaster losses of agricultural commodities. For more information, contact: Anu Nair at Anu.Nair@scor.sc.gov or (803) 807-3066.

4) **S.C. Resilience Revolving Fund.** The fund, funded by the state, is available for the State of South Carolina; state agencies; local governments; and S.C. Land Trust nonprofit organizations accredited by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission. Eligible projects may include buyouts of repetitive loss properties, and buyouts of properties for floodplain restoration. For more information, contact: Don Simmons at Don.Simmons@scor.sc.gov or (803) 822-9578.

Reinhard also talked about the ARPA – Funded Stormwater Infrastructure Program (ASIP), funded by the U.S. Department of Treasury, that is available for counties and municipalities statewide. The application deadline for this year's program ended on Oct. 31.

Jared Q. Libet, Assistant Deputy Attorney General, S.C. Attorney General's Office, provided an update on the Opioid Recovery Fund. He provided an overview of national settlements against the three major opioid distributors (Cardinal, McKesson, and AmerisourceBergen), and claims against one opioid manufacturer (Johnson & Johnson aka Janssen).

A poster for the 2023 Scholarship Program. The background is a blurred image of many graduation caps (mortarboards) with red tassels. In the top right corner is the South Carolina Association of Counties logo, which consists of a circular emblem with a palmetto tree and the text "SOUTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES". The main title "2023 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM" is centered in large, white, sans-serif font. Below the title, on the left, is the text "Presidential Scholarship: Lexington County". To the right of this, under the heading "Board of Directors Scholarships:", are two columns of text: "Berkeley County" and "Dillon County" on the left, and "Calhoun County" and "Lancaster County" on the right. At the bottom left, a white rectangular box contains the text "Apply by 2/1/23". At the bottom right, the text "For More Information :" is followed by the phone number "803-252-7255" and the website "www.sccounties.org/scac-scholarship-programs".


SOUTH CAROLINA
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

2023
SCHOLARSHIP
PROGRAM

Presidential Scholarship:
Lexington County

Board of Directors Scholarships:
Berkeley County
Dillon County
Calhoun County
Lancaster County

Apply by 2/1/23

For More Information :
803-252-7255
www.sccounties.org/scac-scholarship-programs

The total payments to states and subdivisions is approximately \$26 billion, and South Carolina's share is approximately \$361 million. Distributor payments will be made over 18 years. Janssen payments will be made over 10 years.



Jared Q. Libet
Assistant Deputy Attorney General
S.C. Attorney General's Office

Libet explained in detail the strict requirements that money received in the national settlements be used for approved opioid abatement strategies.

He then provided a detailed overview of the state-subdivision agreement, noting that an agreement had been made with 100 percent participation by counties and municipalities (municipalities where more than 10,000 people were asked to sign-on to the settlement). The agreement also allocates more than 92

percent of South Carolina's funds for opioid abatement.

The S.C. Opioid Recovery Act (Act No. 222), to be codified as Title 11, Chapter 58, has three primary purposes:

- 1) To create the opioid abatement fund,
- 2) To create the board and authorize the board to disburse opioid abatement funds, and
- 3) To bar future claims by state and local government entities against the distributors and Janssen.

"This statutory bar was important, as five percent of our recovery is contingent on no future litigation," Libet said. "In addition, Janssen will accelerate the next four years of payments into 2022."

The applications for guaranteed political subdivision funds and discretionary funds were posted Oct. 24, 2022, on the SCORF Board's website.

There are two upcoming deadlines:

Dec. 2, 2022—Application deadline for guaranteed political

(Continued on next page)

SCAC President Debra Summers Honors Steve Willis for Service



SCAC President Debra B. Summers (Lexington County Council Member) presented a plaque to Steve Willis (former Lancaster County Administrator) at the association's board meeting on August 4 to recognize his dedicated service and contributions to the SCAC.

County Officials Speak and Ask Questions at CCC Meeting

Among the many county officials who spoke and asked questions after speakers addressed the CCC Meeting on Oct. 20 were: (left to right) Dorchester County Administrator Jason L. Ward, Lancaster County Council Vice Chairman Brian Carnes, and Richland County Council Vice Chairwoman Jesica Mackey.



subdivision funds prior to SCORF Meeting on Dec. 8, 2022.

Jan. 15, 2023—Application deadline for requests for discretionary funds prior to first SCORF Meeting in 2023 (TBD).

For more information, visit the SCORF Board's website at: scorf.sc.gov.

All three presentations made during the CCC Meeting are posted on SCAC's website at: www.sccounties.org/news/fall-2022-county-council-coalition-presentations-available.

Insurance Trusts Continuing Education Meeting

By Robert E. Benfield, ARM, AINS
Director of Insurance Services

The S.C. Counties Workers' Compensation Trust and the South Carolina Counties Property & Liability Trust held their annual Continuing Education Meeting on October 5, in Columbia.

The purpose of the meeting, attended by 61 county officials, was to promote risk management, claims, and insurance education. Attendees heard from several speakers on a variety of risk management and claims topics.

Topics were presented as follows:

- MUSC Burn Center Cost Savings—Lang Kelly, SCAC
- Corporate Pharmacy New Forms & Digital Access—Rachael Stephenson, SCAC
- WC Subrogation—Colleen Motley, SCAC
- Constitutional Audits: How to Protect Your County—



Robert Benfield, ARM, AINS
Director of Insurance Services
SCAC



Chris W. Hinson
Senior Adjuster, SCCP<
SCAC



Van Henson, CPM
Risk Manager
SCAC



Insurance Trusts Continuing Education Meeting, Embassy Suites, Columbia, Oct. 5

Todd Williams, Orangeburg County Divisional Director; and Director Michael Brown, Florence County Detention Center

- Risk Management Round Table—Van Henson, Mark McKinney; Kelly Benson, SCAC; and Todd Williams, Orangeburg County Divisional Director
- Vehicle Accident Mitigation Program (VAMP) Update—Robert Benfield and Van Henson, SCAC
- Moonlighting: Fifty Shades of Gray!—Pam Selkinghaus & Robert Benfield, SCAC
- SCCPLT New Glass Claims Coverage & Reporting—Chris Hinson, SCAC
- SCCPLT Property Appraisals Update—Mark McKinney, SCAC
- Claims Portal Access Update—Robert Benfield, SCAC
- Risk Management Update & Risk Management Awards Submissions—Robert Benfield & Van Henson, SCAC

Attendees asked questions, provided valuable input, and shared their experiences in dealing with the issues being discussed. They were asked for their input on future training topics, OSHA classes, and additional risk management services.

Risk Management Award applications were e-mailed to

members mid-October, and the submission deadline is November 30. The Risk Management Awards will be presented during our Annual Trusts Membership Meeting on January 25.

If you have any questions about the topics covered during the Continuing Education Update, or would like additional information, please e-mail Van Henson at Vhenson@scac.sc

Thirty-One Keep SC Beautiful Affiliates Recognized

PalmettoPride, in partnership with the S.C. Litter Control Association, hosted the 2022 Litter Summit in Myrtle Beach in early September. Keep SC Beautiful (KSCB), a division of PalmettoPride and state affiliate for Keep America Beautiful, Inc. (KAB), and the SC Litter Control Association held an awards luncheon during the conference.

This year, two KSCB affiliates were recognized for outstanding litter prevention and beautification efforts:

- Keep Orangeburg County Beautiful's SC Jeans for Teens as the KSCB Program of the Year, and
- Keep Aiken County Beautiful's Trash Bash at the Border for the KSCB Event of the Year.

KSCB also presented 31 affiliates with Affiliate Recognition Awards for being in good-standing with KAB:

- Keep Aiken County Beautiful
- Keep Anderson County Beautiful
- Keep Bamberg County Beautiful
- Keep Beaufort County Beautiful
- Keep Charleston Beautiful
- Keep Conway Beautiful
- Keep Dorchester County Beautiful
- Keep Florence Beautiful
- Keep Georgetown Beautiful
- Keep Greenville County Beautiful
- Keep Greenwood County Beautiful

(Continued on next page)

NEWS BRIEFS

Now Available – 2022 County Profiles

Published in October, the biennial **2022 County Profiles** contains updated county facts and statistics gathered from a variety of state and federal sources. Each county is represented with a one-page profile that includes general government information; a brief county history; recent population trends; economic data; tax data; and county financial and employment figures. Profile statistics are also organized in county tables that correlate to the information used in the one-page county profiles. These tables allow users to quickly compare all 46 counties in any category of interest, such as population, county millage rates, or county employment. County Profiles, along with each individual county profile, is published online at [SCCounties.org](https://www.sccounties.org).

Now Accepting 2023 SCAC Scholarship Program Applications

Each year, SCAC's Presidential Scholarship Program awards one \$2,500 scholarship to a graduating high school senior who is a resident of the same county as SCAC's President. Because Lexington County Council Member Debra B. Summers is the current SCAC President, the 2023 Presidential Scholarship will be awarded to a Lexington County resident. For 2023, SCAC's Board of Directors Scholarship Program will also award \$2,500 scholarships to four graduating high school seniors who are residents of counties chosen by lot by the association. Berkeley, Calhoun, Dillon, and Lancaster counties were selected in the 2023 draw, and a Board of Directors Scholarship will be awarded to a resident of each county. For more information, including how to apply online, visit the SCAC scholarship webpage at [SCCounties.org/scac-scholarship-programs](https://www.sccounties.org/scac-scholarship-programs).

Historic Preservation Grant Fund

The S.C. Department of Archives & History announced that the new Historic Preservation State Grant Fund is now accepting applications. The purpose of the State Grant Fund is to support historic preservation projects that benefit local communities through the physical repair and rehabilitation of South Carolina's historic buildings. Eligible applicants are nonprofit organizations and institutions, local governments, and federal or state-recognized Native American tribes. To access the application and for additional information about grant requirements visit scdah.sc.gov/historic-preservation/programs/grants/state-grants.

Application for Opioid Recovery Funds

The S.C. Opioid Recovery Fund Board (SCORF) is now accepting applications for SC Opioid Recovery Funds from counties. The first deadline to submit applications for funds from the Discretionary Subfund is Jan. 15, 2023. All funding requests must be for an approved abatement strategy listed in the settlement agreement. To apply for funds as well as a list of other described opioid recovery fund uses and opioid abatement strategies visit scorf.sc.gov/apply-for-funds. For more information, contact Kent Lesesne, Director of Governmental Affairs, SCAC, at klesesne@scac.sc.



- Keep Hampton County Beautiful
- Keep Horry County Beautiful
- Keep Jasper County Beautiful
- Keep Lancaster County Beautiful
- Keep Laurens County Beautiful
- Keep the Midlands Beautiful
- Keep Myrtle Beach Beautiful
- Keep Newberry County Beautiful
- Keep North Charleston Beautiful
- Keep North Myrtle Beach Beautiful
- Keep Oconee Beautiful Association
- Keep OneSpartanburg Beautiful
- Keep Orangeburg County Beautiful
- Keep Pickens County Beautiful
- Rock Hill Clean and Green
- Keep Sumter Beautiful
- Keep Wadmalaw Beautiful
- Keep Walterboro Beautiful
- Keep Williamsburg Beautiful
- Keep York County Beautiful

SCAC Launches New Online Planning and Zoning Orientation Courses



SCAC has launched an updated online planning and zoning orientation course that consists of four modules. Each module lasts approximately 1.5 hours. Officials who complete all four modules will earn six hours of orientation training credit approved by the SC Planning Education Advisory Committee.

Planning and zoning officials in South Carolina are required by state law to complete a minimum of six hours of orientation training within one year of appointment or hiring. Thereafter, a minimum of three hours of continuing education training is required annually.

SCAC's planning and zoning training classes are offered at no cost to county planning and zoning officials. To access the courses, you can use your Member Portal credentials that you use to register for events and other training opportunities. If you do not have an account, you can create one at: SCCounties.site-ym.com/.

For additional information, visit SCAC's website at SCCounties.org/planning-zoning-education, or contact Ryan Tooley at rtooley@scac.sc.

There are 36 affiliates in the KSCB network, and two pre-certified affiliates. For more information, contact info@palmettopride.org.

PalmettoPride is working toward a litter-free South Carolina. Created as a legislative initiative to fight litter and help beautify South Carolina by engaging citizens to take action in their communities through education, enforcement, awareness and pickup. Visit PalmettoPride.org.

SCAC to Host Orientation for Newly Elected Council Members

SCAC will host the Orientation for Newly Elected Council Members on Thursday, December 8, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the DoubleTree Hotel, located at 2100 Bush River Road in Columbia. The orientation will be offered free of charge to anyone who has recently been elected to serve on county council.

The session is designed to provide an overview of the roles and responsibilities of county officials, and the association's programs and services. Participants will learn about the state ethics act, the Freedom of Information Act, and county risk management and liabilities. Participants who complete the day-long orientation will receive six credit hours toward their Level I certification in the Institute of Government for County Officials.

Registration for the event is available on SCAC's website at SCCounties.org.



Ten S.C. County Officials and Staff Graduate from NACo Leadership Academy

Ten South Carolina county officials and staff graduated in July from the NACo Leadership Academy, a 12-week online program that empowers county leaders with fundamental leadership skills. Across the country more than 4,600 county employees have participated.

Graduating from the NACo Academy were:

- Sarah Brock, Clerk to Council, Beaufort County
- Courtney Coffey, Assistant Deputy Treasurer, Beaufort County
- Alexys Frazer, Assistant Operations Manager, Beaufort County



- Jennifer Hinson, Senior Accountant, Berkeley County
- Jennifer Jump, Exec. Asst. to County Administrator, Orangeburg County
- Laurie Parker, Data Analyst, Beaufort County
- Seth Riddley, Assistant to the County Administrator, Anderson County
- Kristen Salisbury, Clerk of Council, Charleston County
- Allison White, Data Analyst, Beaufort County

- Lauren Willis, Human Resources Manager, Berkeley County
- Congratulations to everyone who completed the program. Through the SCAC/NACo partnership, South Carolina counties are eligible for a reduced registration fee.
- To learn more about the High Performance Leadership Academy and to register, visit NACo's website at [NACo.org](https://www.naco.org). Registration for the next cohort is now open.

SCAC Launches 2023 Setoff Debt Collection and GEAR Programs

SSCAC launched the 2023 Setoff Debt Collection program and the Government Enterprise Accounts Receivable (GEAR) program for county participants with a full-day workshop held at the DoubleTree Hotel in Columbia on August 18th. These programs assist county entities with collecting debts that may otherwise go uncollected.

The Setoff Debt Collection program allows the S.C. Department of Revenue (SCDOR) to collect delinquent debts through state tax return garnish-



Keith Wicker
*Coordinator, Administrative
Special Projects
SCDOR*



Alex Smith
*Deputy General Counsel
SCAC*

ments. The GEAR program allows SCDOR to use additional collection tools such as payment plans and wage garnishments.

Keith Wicker, Coordinator for Administrative Special Projects, S.C. Department of Revenue, provided the welcome address. Alex Smith, SCAC Deputy General Counsel, presided.

About 250 local government officials and staff representing participating or interested entities in all 46 counties attended the free training. The 2022 Workshop marks the in-person return of the workshop after a two-year COVID induced hiatus.

SCAC staff works closely with SCDOR staff and provides comprehensive program, legal, and technical assistance to counties participating in the programs. SCAC services are offered free to those entities participating in the programs.

The Setoff Debt and GEAR Collection programs have proven very successful in allowing county participants to collect delinquent debts. SCAC is currently assisting more than 280 county entities with participation in these debt collection programs.

To date in 2022, SCAC has returned nearly \$100 million to participants. Since 1993 when counties began to participate in the debt collection programs, SCAC has returned more than \$1.5 billion to the counties.

For additional information about the SCAC's debt collection programs and services, contact SCAC staff at 1-800-922-6081.



2023 Annual Setoff Debt and GEAR Workshop, DoubleTree Hotel, Columbia, Aug. 18



BE REVOLUTIONARY!

1770-1783 | 2020-2033

**YES, THERE WILL BE FIREWORKS,
BUT SO MUCH MORE!**

**YOUR COUNTY 250 COMMITTEE CAN:
TELL YOUR COUNTY'S REVOLUTIONARY ERA STORIES
& SUPPORT HISTORIC TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE**



Step 1) Make your County 250 Committee official by passing a resolution in support of [County Name] County 250 Committee (see sample resolution at SouthCarolina250.com/local-county-250-committee/).

Best Practices:

- Decide if the county or another agency or non-profit will be "the bank" for the committee. (Please note for SC250 grants Local Governments may designate third-party recipients like non-profit organizations to receive grant money.)
- As the County 250 Committee gathers stakeholders, encourage them to be intentional about inclusion - representing all members of your community.
- Also, encourage the Committee to not just recruit local historians but people from other sectors, too (teachers, tourism/marketing gurus, artists, etc.).



Step 2) Apply for start up funding. All officially recognized County 250 Committees are eligible for a non-competitive \$3000 grant meant to support initial organizational and planning expenses.

Best Practices:

- Learn more and apply at SouthCarolina250.com/County250OrganizingGrants/
- Beyond this organizing grant, six more grant programs are coming soon and will help with everything from museum style panels to site acquisition.



Step 3) Research your Revolutionary Era assets and plan for tourists.

Best Practices:

- There will be an SC250 Grant to assist counties with this study!
- Celebrate your county's specific people, places, principles, and events.



Turning the Tide of the War: SC has over **400+** documented battles, skirmishes, and bloodshed associated with the American Revolution in South Carolina - demonstrating the importance of Southern Campaigns to the founding of our country.



History Means Business: Ninety Six, SC (home to a little under 2000 people) saw over 95,000 visitors at the American Revolution National Park site during 2020. The Liberty Trail (SC Battleground Preservation Trust & American Battlefield Trust) will connect sites such as this one and many more.

For More Info Visit SouthCarolina250.com or Call 803-898-3392.

S.C. Aquatic Connectivity Team Seeks Partnerships with Local Governments

By Shawna Fix (SARP), Morgan Wolf (USFWS), Kat Hoenke (SARP), Members of the South Carolina Aquatic Connectivity Team (SC ACT)

Culverts are a part of your everyday life. They are essential structures that allow us to safely cross over streams, and allow streams to continue to function. To maintain stream function, it is imperative that culverts are properly installed and maintained.

Underfunctioning culverts come with many consequences: the risk of failure during large storm events; the need for more frequent



Example of a perched culvert. (Photo by SCDNR)

(elevated with a drop above the stream surface) or undersized culvert (one that impedes bankfull flows) impact aquatic organism movement.

Partnerships between local governments and conservationists can address problem culverts. Lancaster County partnered with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to replace three culverts causing frequent flooding and fragmenting the habitat of a federally endangered freshwater mussel, the Carolina heelsplitter, and the host fish the mussel depends on to reproduce. Working with Lancaster County, the USFWS was able to ensure the new culverts were bottomless which allows for adequate flows and aquatic organism passage through the culvert.

This unique government partnership leveraged available funds, making the most of limited financial resources for this kind of infrastructure improvement. For each project, the county was typically responsible for engineering, utility replacements, debris removal, traffic control considerations, and some material and equipment cost. The USFWS completed the purchase, construction, and installation of the new culverts.

Since completion of the new culverts, public safety has

improved in the area; even hurricane and tropical storm events have not caused overtopping or damage. Host fish for the Carolina heelsplitter, that these mussels are reliant upon for dispersal of their young, can now freely move throughout the majority of federally designated critical habitat, approximately four stream miles, in Gills Creek. Both Lancaster County and USFWS look forward to continued collaboration to repeat the success of this project for the public and aquatic organisms like the Carolina heelsplitter.

Whether undersized or not properly maintained, culverts can result in considerable financial burden and personnel time spent for local governments who must address these structures repetitively. Underfunctioning culverts impact people, but also the health of streams and aquatic fish and wildlife species. A perched



Downstream view before



Downstream view after (Photos by Morgan Wolf, USFWS)

improved in the area, even hurricane and tropical storm events have not caused overtopping or damage. Host fish for the Carolina heelsplitter, that these mussels are reliant upon for dispersal of their young, can now freely move throughout the majority of federally designated critical habitat, approximately four stream miles, in Gills Creek. Both Lancaster County and USFWS look forward to continued collaboration to repeat the success of this project for the public and aquatic organisms like the Carolina heelsplitter.

To further these successes, a partnership called the SC Aquatic Connectivity Team (SC ACT) has since formed with organizations including the USFWS, American Rivers, U.S. Forest Service, Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership, SC Department of Natural Resources, SC Department of Transportation, Trout Unlimited, and The Nature Conservancy. This team works together to reconnect stream habitat through the removal of obsolete dams and replacement of underfunctioning culverts.

The SC ACT is seeking additional partnership opportunities with local governments that desire a community win-win for public transportation improvements and aquatic organism passage.

If you're interested, please contact Kat Hoenke, SC ACT Culvert Sub Committee Lead, Kat@SoutheastAquatics.net.

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SOUTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

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SCAC's 2022-23 Conference Calendar

2022

Dec. 1 & 2

Legislative Conference, AC Hotel, Greenville

Dec. 8

Newly Elected Officials, DoubleTree,
Columbia

2023

Jan. 24 & 25

S.C. Insurance Trusts Membership Meeting,
Omni, Hilton Head Island

Feb. 22

Counties Connect: A Legislative Action Day

Feb. 23

Institute of Government, USC Alumni Center,
Columbia

July 31 & Aug. 1

Institute of Government

Aug. 1-3

Annual Conference, Wild Dunes, Isle of
Palms

TBD

Setoff Debt/GEAR

NACo's 2023 Conference Calendar



Feb. 11 - 14

Legislative Conference, Washington Hilton,
Washington, D.C.

July 21 - 24

Austin, Tex.

SOCIAL MEDIA



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South Carolina
Association of
Counties



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Follow SCAC on social media to learn what's happening at the State House and how SCAC's programs and services can benefit your county. Share what's happening in your county. Let's promote the many ways our counties are making a positive difference for our citizens across the state.

Did You Know?

S.C. State Ethics Commission:

Did you know that newly elected officials have to file a Statement of Economic Interests prior to being sworn-in? Pursuant to Section 8-13-1110(A) of the Ethics Act, "no public official may take the oath of office or enter upon his official responsibilities unless he has filed a statement of economic interests."

Please make sure you are in compliance with this statute prior to being sworn-in as a public official.



S.C. State Ethics Commission

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