

CHAIR: Gary Brewer • **VICE CHAIR:** David Dennis • **SECRETARY:** Mike Seekings • **TREASURER:** David Chinnis • **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:** Ronald E. Mitchum

Berkeley/Charleston/Dorchester (BCD) Multi-Agency Coordination (MAC) Group

January 23, 2026

10:00 a.m.

5790 Casper Padgett Way

North Charleston, SC 29406

Barrett Lawrimore Large Conference Room

AGENDA

Call to order/Welcome

- Opening Prayer
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Introductions & Quorum Determination

Guest Presentations

- Radiological Exercise (MUSC/FBI/CFD)
- sUAS Program (Joint Base Charleston)
- VA UAS Grant Funding (Brandi Griffith, CC EM)

Old Business

- 2020-2025 Strategic Plan Being Updated/Close Out
- Update on The Knox System Proposal (CC)

Committee Reports

- Old Committees/New Committees/Strategic Plan

New Business

Next Meeting

- April 24, 2026

Meeting Adjourn

BERKELEY-CHARLESTON-DORCHESTER COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
MULTI-AGENCY COORDINATION GROUP (MAC)
Meeting Notes
October 24, 2025

The Multi-Agency Coordination Group (MAC) met on Friday, October 24, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in the Barrett Lawrimore Conference Room at Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments, 5790 Casper Padgett Way, North Charleston, SC 29406.

Multi-Agency Group (MAC) Attendees

Ron Mitchum; Rick Dangerfield; Steve Morelli; Jared Harris; Sam Gaither; Angela Raney; Joshua Ranck; Christopher Zak; Brock Clary; Cole Shirley; Scott Rywelski; Rick Gebhardt; Will Hernandez; Michael Gay; Paul Brouthers; Michael Nixon; James Brennan; Alec Dunn; Stephen Young; Justin Pierce; Ben Waring; William White; Kyle James; Jennifer Dantzler

Call to Order

Chair Ron Mitchum, Executive Director, Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Government, called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. followed by welcome, introductions, quorum determination, an opening prayer by Chaplain Angela Raney, and the pledge.

Consideration of Minutes: July 25, 2025

The Multi-Agency Coordination Group (MAC) approved the July 25, 2025; Meeting Notes as presented.

Introduction of Executive Board & Executive Director

Chair Mitchum went over with the MAC Group what it is that the COG does, what the COG can offer, how the COG is here to help the MAC Group and some of the current projects that the COG is currently working on.

Meet & Greet

Chair Mitchum had the Executive MAC Group stand and introduced themselves.

Reconvene For an Information Presentation by Charleston County EM on The Knox System – Shawn R Smetana

Shawn Smetana, Innovation Director, Charleston County Government, presented a PowerPoint Presentation of the KnoxConnect System Operation to the MAC Group, he discussed what the Knox System is, how it would be used and other helpful information. Mr. Smetana also wanted to discuss what funding would look like and grant opportunities. Mr. Smetana addressed questions and comments. The MAC Group received the Knox System Presentation as information.

Joint Base Charleston Drone Awareness – Kyle James

Kyle James, Planner II, Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Government, shared with the MAC Group that Joint Base Charleston has a grant funded study that has some recommendations that they would like to share with the MAC Group. They are currently having a problem with a lot of drones flying around Joint Base Charleston installations and other military installations around the country. Most of them are Chinese drones not meaning drones owned by China but, drones that are made and manufactured in China. Currently there is one brand that is cheaper than any American made drone. One of Joint Base Charleston recommendations is for groups that have mutual aid agreements if they would like to purchase blue drones, drones that have been approved by the US Government, they would like to offset the price difference. The Second recommendation is developing a long-term working group. There is an upstate working group that currently looks at drones. Mr. James informed the MAC Group that Mr. Chase will share a map on how drones are skirting the perimeter of their installation. The third piece that they are looking for is Park space, so there is space away from Joint Base Charleston for people to train, hobbyist, and government partners to use drones. If you are interested, please contact Mr. James and he will get you connected with Mr. Chase.

Old Business

No further business to discuss.

Committee Reports

No committee reports to discuss.

New Business

Sam Gaither, Communications Chief, Introduced Charleston County Radio Communications to talk about upcoming radio changes. Charleston County informed the MAC Group that there will be a three-phase push in the next two weeks. Phase one will be with EMS and Fire to encrypt Operations Dispatch. It will not affect anyone because EMS monitors their own systems. Phase two will affect everyone in the TriCounty and everyone that comes into the TriCounty area. Phase three will be after 2027 when the state has their new radios to handle the encryption which will allow all channels to be encrypted. Charleston also mentioned that they are working to standardize WIFI radio access throughout the TriCounty.

Next meeting

The next MAC Group meeting will be on Friday, January 23, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at BCDCOG 5790 Casper Padgett Way, North Charleston, SC 29406, Barrett Lawrimore conference room.

Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss, Chair Mitchum thanked everyone for attending today's meeting and adjourned the meeting at 11:12 a.m.

Please extend an invitation to all police chiefs, sheriffs, fire chiefs, emergency managers, coroners, and other leaders from your jurisdiction and neighboring jurisdictions to come to meet with us as we work together in strengthening and improving public safety coordination, response, homeland security planning, and emergency communication.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Dantzler