



LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Economic Development, Transportation, and Natural Resources Subcommittee

Study of the Rural Infrastructure Authority: Executive Summary

The full report of the Economic Development, Transportation, and Natural Resources Subcommittee's study of the Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA), issued on October 16, 2019, is available on the House Legislative Oversight Committee's [webpage](#).

Finding

The **Subcommittee has one finding** arising from its study of the agency:

Finding

1. The Subcommittee supports legislative action to provide resources to support statewide access to broadband services, including in rural communities.

Recommendations

The **Subcommittee has five recommendations** arising from its study of the agency. All recommendations are to the General Assembly and relate to modernization of laws.

Recommendations to the General Assembly

1. Consider clarifying the role and responsibilities of RIA's Local Government Division by repealing S.C. Code of Laws § 1-11-25 and amending § 11-50-30.

This removes references to an obsolete program and reflects the duties this division had at the time of its transfer to RIA.

2. Consider clarifying RIA's role in coordination of state infrastructure development efforts by amending S.C. Code of Laws § 11-50-30(C).

This could facilitate agency efforts to assess statewide needs and support regional approaches.

3. Consider removing outdated accounting requirements by repealing S.C. Code of Laws § 1-11-26.

For example, this section requires maintenance of a separate bank account for grant funds, which is no longer required with modern accounting practices.

4. Consider updating terminology related to counties in which eligible rural infrastructure projects can be located by amending S.C. Code of Laws § 11-50-40(13).

This replaces the terms "distressed or least developed" with "Tier III or IV," in accordance with related sections of law.

5. Consider defining "environmental facilities" in the Rural Infrastructure Act by amending S.C. Code of Laws § 11-50-40.

Adding this definition makes this section consistent with other laws governing RIA programs.

Purpose of Oversight Study

To determine if agency laws and programs:

are being implemented and carried out in accordance with the intent of the General Assembly



should be continued, curtailed, or eliminated,

the Committee and Subcommittee evaluate:

the application, administration, execution, and effectiveness of the agency's laws and programs;

the organization and operation of the agency;



any conditions or circumstances that may indicate the necessity or desirability of enacting new or additional legislation pertaining to the agency.

S.C. Code Ann. § 2-2-20(B) and (C)

Study Process

Full Committee schedules agency for study and gathers initial information

Subcommittee investigates through meetings and information requests

Subcommittee publishes report

Full Committee considers Subcommittee report and may conduct further investigation

Full Committee publishes report

Public Input

- 66** Responses to an online public survey
- 3** Constituents testify
- 1** Online comment received

Subcommittee Membership

The Honorable William M. (Bill) Hixon (chair)
The Honorable Lee Hewitt

The Honorable Mandy Powers Norrell
The Honorable Marvin R. Pendarvis

Study Milestones

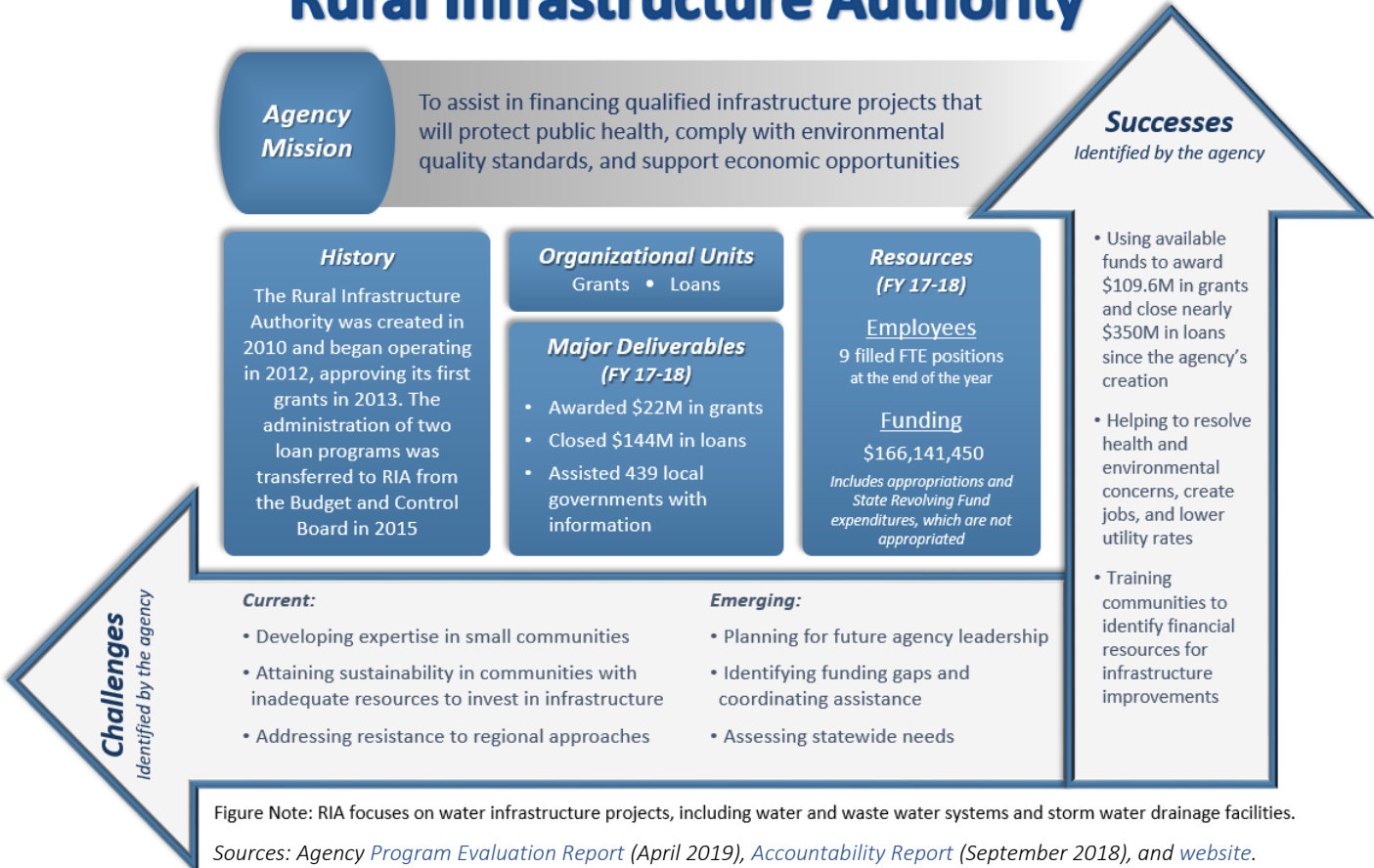
MEETINGS

Full Committee	Subcommittee
12/5/18	6/19/19
6/25/19	7/18/19
	9/9/19

AGENCY REPORTS

March 2015	Seven-Year Plan Report
September 2018	Annual Accountability Report
April 2019	Program Evaluation Report

Rural Infrastructure Authority



Legislative Oversight Committee

<https://www.scstatehouse.gov/CommitteeInfo/HouseLegislativeOversightCommittee.php>
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