



Sam Bennett

Sam Bennett currently serves as the Vice President of Administration for the South Carolina Public Service Authority, also known as Santee Cooper. In February of 2020, he will move to a new role as the President and Chief Operating Officer of Sea Pines Community Services Associates, Inc., located in Hilton Head Island, SC.

He is a graduate of Winthrop University with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and holds a Masters Degree in Public Administration from the University of South Carolina in Columbia, with a concentration in public budget and finance.

After receiving his Masters Degree, Sam served 6 years as the Assistant City Administrator for Goose Creek, South Carolina, population 27,000 residents. While in this position, Sam led the Goose Creek's economic and redevelopment efforts, following the Charleston Naval Base closure. In addition to this work, he served as Director of numerous city departments, including Finance, Utilities, Public Works and Planning.

In 2001, Sam accepted the position of City Manager of Clinton, South Carolina, a community of 10,000 residents. While in this role, Sam's direct reports included the Directors of Public Works (Water/Sewer/Storm Water/Property Maintenance), Finance, Planning and Public Safety Departments. He created partnerships with the South Carolina Department of Commerce, the local business community, Presbyterian College and several community organizations to complete numerous beautification projects, revitalize the downtown business district and implement several neighborhood improvement strategies.

While at Clinton, Sam served as the city's representative on the Piedmont Municipal Power Agency Board of Directors serving as chair of the Agency's Legislative Committee and serving on the Finance and Rates Committee. His statewide involvement in the utilities industry and expertise in local government, was a major influence on Sam joining Santee Cooper several years later.

After 6 years in Clinton, Sam was recruited to become the City Administrator of North Augusta, South Carolina a community with 23,000 residents. At North Augusta, all city departments reported to Sam, while he reported to the Mayor and City Council. In addition to the day to day operations of the City, he also managed a large capital construction program, that included construction of a new municipal complex, the expansion of several large parks, road construction projects, major stormwater upgrades, large utilities projects, downtown redevelopment and beautification projects on major city entrance ways and corridors.

During his 4 years in North Augusta, Sam also served as President of the South Carolina City and County Manager Association, chaired the South Carolina Municipal Insurance Trust and served on the Board of Directors of the Municipal Association of South Carolina. These roles required him to be very active with various state and federal agencies, as he represented the diverse interests of South Carolina municipalities.

In 2011, Sam was recruited to join Santee Cooper as their Manager of Economic Development. He developed the strategic plans for Santee Cooper's Business Development activities. Across the State and over the course of 4 years, his team generated over 20 industrial projects, \$1.5B in industrial investments and over 8,000 new jobs in South Carolina. He served as Santee Cooper's lead negotiator on the South Carolina team, for the \$1.1B Volvo Cars recruitment effort.

In 2015, Sam was promoted to the position of Vice President of Administration. He chaired Santee Cooper's Technology Portfolio Committee, which provides oversight and direction on all corporate technology matters, projects and purchases. Additionally, Sam served on the Human Resources and Standards Committee, providing leadership and guidance for all corporate goals, human resource policies, compensation and bonus structures, internal technical standards, safety matters and initiatives.

Sam and his wife Tracey, have three children. Outside of work, Sam enjoys golfing and fishing and he looks forward to joining the Sea Pines CSA family in February of 2020.