

MINUTES

FULL BOARD MEETING
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS CONFERENCE ROOM
FEBRUARY 25, 2011

- MEMBERS PRESENT: Ed Elliott, Renee Cariveau, Ernest Riley, Dennis Claramunt, Eddie Moore, Rick Laughridge, Ted Mattison, Carthel Crout, Francis Crowder, Rufus Foster, Joe Dill, Don Godbey, Dan Rawls, Bennie Cunningham, Bob Winchester, Reg Dexter, Mike Forrester, Dale Culbreth, O'Neal Mintz, Jane Hall, Elbert Tillerson, Loretta Smith, and Chet Morris.
- GUESTS PRESENT: George Long, Appalachian Development Corporation; Laura Harmon, Greenville Works; and Jennifer Noel, Upstate SC Economic Development Alliance.
- STAFF PRESENT: Steve Pelissier, Doug Burns, Beverly Allen, Dirk Reis, Don Zimmer, and Debbie Courson.

The meeting was call to order by Chairman Elliott. The invocation was offered by Mr. Tillerson. On motion by Mr. Culbreth, seconded by Mayor Godbey, the minutes of the January 28, 2011, meeting were unanimously approved.

Greenville Regional Collaborative for Workforce Development

Ms. Harmon stated that Greenville Works is a partnership between twelve education, workforce development, and economic development organizations focused on implementing long-term economic and workforce strategies in Greenville County. The partnership was formed based on needs identified through two years and more than 260 visits to businesses by the Greenville Business Retention and Expansion Program. Two-thirds of companies visited identified workforce as a key issue in their business, with needs ranging from entry-level worker readiness to a lack of availability in several areas of high-skill jobs. Greenville Works partners have committed monetary and human

resources to the Greenville Works model. Through the combined resources of partners, Greenville Works has the necessary base to drive a unified workforce development strategy.

Ms. Harmon stated that the National Fund for Workforce Solutions is a collaboration between the nation's top foundations and a nationwide network of companies, workforce intermediaries, government agencies, and foundations. The National Fund sparks innovation and investment as leaders work hand in hand to create practices and drive systems that help employers and employees succeed in a post-recession economy. Regional collaboratives work together to target financial resources and strategic thinking on creating jobs and careers.

In February, the National Fund selected the Upstate region of South Carolina as one of six new investment sites, in addition to twenty four existing sites across the country. It is the only National Fund site represented in the Carolinas. Though the application was submitted by an initial collaborative of Greenville-based organizations, their intent is to develop a regional collaborative to reflect the unique character of the upstate SC area labor market particularly the advanced manufacturing sector. As such, the Appalachian Council of Governments, which represents a multi-county region in the Upstate, was selected as the regional collaborative's fiscal agent. Membership in the Upstate Regional Collaborative will be cultivated from public, private, and non-profit organizations throughout the region that align or contribute funding and strategic efforts to meet the needs of advanced manufacturing sector employers with career opportunities, as well as the needs of job seekers and employees who seek to develop stable advanced manufacturing careers. The focus will be on bridging the skills gap to assist low income workers in developing the skill requirements needed by competitive employers throughout the region.

Activity Report of the Upstate South Carolina Economic Development Alliance

Ms. Noel stated that the SC Upstate Alliance is designed to market and brand the ten counties of Upstate South Carolina, resulting in the creation of new jobs and to simulate capital investment. She stated that there are seven regional alliances across South Carolina with the Upstate Alliance focusing on relationship marketing and traditional marketing. The Alliance provides a GIS system to showcase assets, conduct research for the Upstate to be leveraged for economic development purposes, host inbound events for prospective companies and business leaders to showcase the region, and executes internal and external public relations efforts with the end goal being jobs.

She stated that in 2010 they announced 16 new companies and expansions from 25 existing companies that totaled \$1,902,555 in capital investments and 6,524 jobs.

Since its inception, the Alliance has announced over \$5 billion in capital investments and 20,000 jobs.

Legislative Report

Mr. Burns provided a report on activities of the 2011 session of the South Carolina General Assembly, with emphasis on issues of importance to local governments.

Next, Mr. Burns, in response to a request from the Board, presented a draft letter of support for local government flexibility and home rule in addressing fiscal challenges facing the state and local jurisdictions. Mayor Godbey made motion to accept the draft letter and resolution as presented. Ms. Smith seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Appointment of Board Officers Nominating Committee Chair and Members

Chairman Elliott made the following appointments to the Nominating Committee: Thomas Alexander as Chairman, Joe Dill and Loretta Smith.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Chairman

THE SOUTH CAROLINA APPALACHIAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS HAS
COMPLIED WITH THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT IN SCHEDULING
AND CONDUCTING THIS MEETING.