

MINUTES

FULL BOARD MEETING
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS CONFERENCE ROOM
JANUARY 22, 2010

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Judy Gilstrap, Ed Elliott, Eddie Moore, Bob Waldrep, J.W. Sanders, Dennis Moss, Janie Wilson, Rufus Foster, Joe Dill, Don Godbey, Ernest Riley, Bob Winchester, Reg Dexter, G. Neil Smith, J. Connie Bowers, Tom Hendricks, Randy Crenshaw, O'Neal Mintz, Jane Hall, Bob Briggs, Renee Cariveau, Elbert Tillerson, and Loretta Smith.

GUESTS PRESENT:

Barry Frost, Fire Chief and Ryan Cothran, Acting Administrator, City of Duncan; David Burns, Local Census Office Manager, U.S. Bureau of Census.

STAFF PRESENT:

Steve Pelissier, Joe Newton, Dirk Reis, Chip Bentley, Beverly Allen, Carol Andersen, Debra Brown, Aliza Tourkow, and Debbie Courson.

The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Gilstrap. The invocation was offered by Rev. Sanders. On motion by Mr. Godbey, seconded by Ms. Cariveau, the minutes of the December 4, 2009, meeting was unanimously approved.

Duncan Shipwreck Cove Water Park

Mr. Frost with the City of Duncan stated that the water park opened last summer and serves as an innovative economic development resource for the city. Mr. Frost stated that the area started with a park on 3 acres of land owned by the town. The town initiated a hospitality tax and was able to use those funds to construct the Phase One water park. He stated that many people and organizations came together to fulfill this vision to build a

world-class facility for Upstate families and vacationing families from around the country. Mr. Frost stated that over 50,000 people visited in 2009 (62 days), 47% were from Spartanburg County and 17% from out of State, with net sales over \$300,000. He stated that Phase II and Phase III are in the future for this water park, which will address older children.

Census 2010, Complete Count

Mr. David Burns, the local census office manager with the U.S. Bureau of Census, gave a brief update on recruiting efforts, time lines, question and answer centers, and be counted locations.

He reminded everyone of the importance of the census in that it is used to distribute hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funding to states and localities for public programs in education, community health care, public transportation, housing and other areas.

Upstate Roundtable Twenty-Year Strategic Plan for Wastewater Treatment in the Enoree, Reedy, and Saluda River Basins

Mr. Bentley stated that this has been brought to the Board several times. He explained that the purpose of the Roundtable is to provide a framework to meet the long range wastewater treatment needs in the Enoree, Reedy, and Saluda river basins. The consortium is seeking an endorsement of the plan from the ACOG Board and is asking that it be incorporated into the Regional Water Quality Management Plan. On motion by Mr. Godbey, seconded by Ms. Hall, the Board voted unanimously to table this motion until questions are answered by ReWa.

Air Quality Update

Since March 12, 2008, when the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the strengthened National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ground-level ozone, many Upstate communities have been concerned with the region's ability to meet the new standard. EPA revised the ozone standard from 0.080 parts per million (ppm) to a level of 0.075 ppm. Five of the six Upstate counties were at risk of not meeting the new standard and being designated in whole or part as non-attainment areas. That designation would bring additional permitting requirements for new industry and roads and a potential loss of federal funds for roadway projects that would negatively affect the region's future growth development.

The EPA was set to make final non-attainment designations by March 12, 2010. However, on September 16, 2009, the (EPA) announced it would reconsider the 2008 NAAQS for ground-level ozone. The stay postponed the non-attainment designation process while the standard was reconsidered. On January 7th, EPA announced a proposed revised range for Ozone levels to 0.060 ppm to 0.070 ppm, well below the revised level in the 2008 standard. The good news was that the non-attainment designation was postponed from March of 2010. The bad news is that with a lower standard the designation process will begin again; designations are expected to be completed by August 2011.

The stay of the new Ozone standard provides our region a short reprieve from non-attainment designation but does not remove the threat of it. During this stay, DHEC will continue to work with EPA, the COG, and local governments to implement the best course of actions to bring cleaner air sooner to South Carolina.

Legislative Preview

Mr. Newton provided a report on legislation pending in the 2010 session of the General Assembly, with emphasis on issues of importance to local governments which included: FY 2011 Budget, local government fund, comprehensive tax reform, point of sale, cigarette tax, and municipal oversight/accountability.

Committee Appointments

Chairwomen Gilstrap made the following committee appointments:

Janie Wilson, Cherokee County, was appointed to the Executive Committee, and Rufus Foster, Cherokee County, was appointed as an Executive Committee Alternate. Mr. Ed Elliott, Cherokee County, was appointed to the Budget Committee. Eddie Moore, Anderson County, was appointed to the Transportation Committee. Lastly, Ed Elliott, Connie Bowers, and Joe Dill were appointed as ACOG representatives to the S.C. Association of Regional Councils.

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

Chair

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