

## MINUTES

FULL BOARD MEETING  
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS CONFERENCE ROOM  
JANUARY 28, 2011

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ed Elliott, Renee Cariveau, Ernest Riley, Billy O'Dell, Ted Mattison, Carthel Crout, Lottie Gibson, Joe Dill, Don Godbey, Dan Rawls, Grady Butler, Bennie Cunningham, Dennis Moss, Bob Winchester, Reg Dexter, Neil Smith, Tom Hendricks, Trey Whitehurst, Dale Culbreth, O'Neal Mintz, Mike Forrester, and Loretta Smith.

GUESTS PRESENT:

Trey Hodges, B. P. Barber; David Mueller, Appalachian Development Corporation; and Bernell Ingram, ADC Consultant.

STAFF PRESENT:

Steve Pelissier, Doug Burns, Don Zimmer, Carol Andersen, Chip Bentley, Dirk Reis, Debra Brown, David Shellhorse, and Debbie Courson.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Elliott. The invocation was offered by Rev. Butler. On motion by Rev. Butler, seconded by Mr. Dexter, the minutes of the December 10, 2010, meeting was unanimously approved with one correction, Mr. Riley was not present.

Mr. Pelissier requested that item VI, the consideration of authorization to make application to the State Employee Insurance Program be added to the agenda. On motion by Rep. Moss, seconded by Mr. Crout, the Board unanimously approved adding agenda item VI.

### **Report on Appalachian Development Corporation (ADC)**

Mr. Mueller, Vice President and CEO of ADC, gave an overview of the corporation's lending program. For the Appalachian Regional Commission and S.C. Budget and Control Board portions of the program, which ADC administers for ACOG, Mr. Mueller noted that the loan fund currently represents 81 outstanding loans at a total value of \$7,932,533. Mr. Mueller also gave an overview of their Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program (RMAP). He stated that this program is funded through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) with the lender being the ADC. The purpose is to support the development and ongoing success of start-up and existing rural microenterprises by providing financial assistance, business training and business consulting. In addition, ADC seeks to further economic development and increased employment in the eight counties served, which include Anderson, Cherokee, Greenville, Greenwood, Laurens, Oconee, Pickens, and Spartanburg. Mr. Mueller stated that businesses located within the city limits of Greenville are not eligible for USDA programs. Mr. Mueller also noted that the ADC's annual meeting will be held in June.

### **S.C. Department of Commerce 2011 Community Development Annual Action Plan and CDBG Program**

Mr. Reis stated that the S.C. Department of Commerce has released a public comment draft of its 2011 Annual Action Plan, which includes programs eligible for CDBG grant funding over the upcoming year. He stated that the public comment period runs through February 15, 2011, and gave an overview of the targeted funding programs. Funds available for the Community Infrastructure Program is \$7,610,339. These funds must contribute to creation of healthy and sustainable communities through water, sewer, roads, drainage or other activities. Funds available for the Community Enrichment Program are \$3,000,000. This program is designed to fund facilities, services and other activities that strengthen existing communities and support a high quality of life. Funds available for the Village Renaissance Program are \$7,000,000. These funds are designed to assist in the development of sustainable communities through revitalization of in town residential neighborhoods. Projects must incorporate comprehensive strategies for linking commercial revitalization successes with improvements to neighborhoods that are generally adjacent to a downtown or a business center. Additional funding is available through this program if continued through subsequent phases. Funds available for the Ready to Go Program are \$2,000,000. This program is designed to stimulate the local

economy addressing urgent or compelling community needs and encouraging the timely implementation of CDBG-eligible projects.

Mr. Smith made motion for staff to provide input to the Department of Commerce that mill villages be included as eligible for the village renaissance program. Mr. Riley amended the motion to include older subdivisions more than a mile from the center of town. Ms. Smith seconded the motion as amended and the Board unanimously approved.

### **Gaffney and Pickens Village Renaissance Initiatives**

Mr. Shellhorse stated that staff is initiating work with the Cities of Gaffney and Pickens on planning initiatives related to targeted communities within the two municipalities. The first phase of each initiative is the development of a comprehensive renaissance (revitalization) plan. Subsequent phases will target the implementation of plan recommendation. These programs are funded through CDBG grants that provide \$20,000 - \$25,000 for planning and up to \$1 million each for implementation.

### **Legislative Report**

Mr. Burns provided a report on legislation before the General Assembly, with emphasis on issues of importance to local government, which included: photo ID for voting, Immigration, transparency in government and budget shortfall.

Mayor Godbey made a motion requesting staff to draft a letter on behalf of the COG Board stating the Board's support for home rule. Mr. Smith amended the motion to state that the Board understands how tough things are in Columbia, but that the Board requests that they give local governments the flexibility on how to address changes resulting from reductions to state funding. Seconded by Ms. Smith, the Board unanimously approved the motion.

**Consideration of authorization to make application to the State Employee Insurance Program**

Mr. Pelissier explained to the Board that the S.C. Local Government Assurance Group, which is currently the Council's health insurance provider, is going out of business as of June 30, 2011. In an effort to assist with the transition of a new health insurance carrier, staff with the State Employee Insurance Program held a meeting to discuss their health insurance program. Mr. Pelissier stated that ACOG staff is also looking into private health insurance carriers; however to be considered to participate in the State Plan, we are required to submit an application prior to February 15, 2011. Mr. Pelissier is requesting Board approval to make application with the State Employment Insurance Program as one option for the COG's future health insurance carrier. On motion by Ms. Gibson, seconded by Mayor Godbey, the Board unanimously approved this recommendation.

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

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Chairman

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