

## **MINUTES**

FULL BOARD MEETING  
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS CONFERENCE ROOM  
SEPTEMBER 23, 2011

MEMBERS PRESENT Ed Elliott, Dennis Claramunt, Ted Mattison, Carthel Crout, Francis Crowder, Rufus Foster, Henry Jolly, Grady Butler, Joe Dill, Don Godbey, Dan Rawls, Bob Winchester, Reg Dexter, Neil Smith, Tom Hendricks, Larry Bagwell, Dale Culbreth, O'Neal Mintz, Jane Hall, and Junie White.

GUESTS PRESENT: Colleen Bridger and Joe Waters, Institute for Child Success.

STAFF PRESENT: Steve Pelissier, Doug Burns, Don Zimmer, Dirk Reis, Carol Andersen, Chip Bentley, Beverly Allen, and Debbie Courson.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Elliott. The invocation was offered by Mr. Butler. On motion by Mayor Godbey, seconded by Mayor Crout, the minutes of the August 26, 2011, meeting were unanimously approved.

### **Institute for Child Success**

Ms. Bridger stated that the mission of the Institute is to provide resources for enhancing educational success. She stated that early childhood development is economic development. Business incentives and early childhood programs should be considered together because they complement each other in a balanced economic development strategy. She stated that early childhood investments, including high-quality pre-k education for three-and four-year old children, promote productivity growth and job creation. Effective early childhood programs enable children to become more creative, adaptable, team-ready employees. The majority of brain development happens between birth and age five, and early experiences have a profound impact on lifelong success.

### **Employment Law Issues Facing Local Governments**

Mr. Burns stated that he had recently attended a training session covering recent changes to employment law, as well as topics of special interest to local governments. He stated that South Carolina is an “employment at will” state, and informed the Board of the five (5) exceptions to this legal theory. He discussed in detail the exceptions to the 1964 Civil Rights Act. Next, he provided information on exempt vs. non-exempt employees.

### **Appalachian Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Progress Report and Update**

Mr. Bentley presented the progress report and update at the last Board meeting. On motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Mintz, the Board unanimously approved the CEDS progress report.

### **Proposed By-Law Amendment to Move ACOG Board Officer Elections from March to January**

Mr. Pelissier stated that, as discussed at the last Board meeting, currently ACOG officer elections are held in March, with the term for new officers commencing in April. The proposed amendment is to move the elections to January, with the beginning of the new terms remaining in April. This would allow the newly elected officers more time to become familiar with their positions. Also, the Appalachian Regional Commission holds a conference in March of each year, which provides a good orientation for incoming officers. By moving the elections up to January, newly elected officers would have the opportunity to attend that conference.

On motion by Mayor Godbey, seconded by Ms. Hall, the Board voted unanimously to move the ACOG Board Officer elections from March to January.

### **Proposed By-Law Amendment to Address a Situation in which there is no Former ACOG Board Chair Available to Chair the Officer Nominating Committee**

Mr. Pelissier stated that the ACOG By-Laws require that the Officer Nomination Committee be chaired by a former ACOG Board Chair. This presents a challenge during a period in which no former Chair is serving on the Board. The proposed amendment would address this situation.

Because of a required 30-day waiting period in ACOG By-Laws, this is being offered as information only and will be brought back to the Board in October for Board action.

**Executive Directors Report**

Mr. Pelissier stated that there are two vacancies on the Regional Aging Advisory Committee. He asked the Board to let Beverly Allen know of anyone that might be willing to serve. He reminded the Board that the next COG Board meeting will be held October 28<sup>th</sup> and the combined November-December meeting will be held on December 9<sup>th</sup>.

Chairman Elliott stated that there is a vacancy on the Executive Committee from Spartanburg County. He appointed Jane Hall to fill this vacancy and appointed Loretta Smith to fill Ms. Hall's vacancy as an alternate in Spartanburg County.

**Requested Executive Session to Discuss Personnel Matter**

Chairman Elliott excused staff and guests and the Board went into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. Afterwards the chairman ended the Executive Session.

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.