

MINUTES

FULL BOARD MEETING
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS CONFERENCE ROOM
AUGUST 28, 2009

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Judy Gilstrap, Wallace Shaw, Ed Elliott, Dennis Claramunt, Eddie Moore, Rick Laughridge, J.W. Sanders, Janie Wilson, Grady Butler, Joe Dill, Butch Kirven, Thomas Alexander, Bennie Cunningham, Ernest Riley, Bob Winchester, Reg Dexter, G. Neil Smith, J. Connie Bowers, Heyward McDonald, Randy Crenshaw, Dale Culbreth, O'Neal Mintz, Jane Hall, Bob Briggs, Renee Cariveau, Elbert Tillerson, and Loretta Smith.

GUESTS PRESENT:

Lamar Bailes, Oconee County; Paul Corbeil, Oconee County Council; and Sara Knuckles, Department of Transportation Commission.

STAFF PRESENT:

Steve Pelissier, Joe Newton, Becky Hall, Beverly Allen, Glenda Manigault, Debra Brown, Juanita Colman, Carol Andersen, Chip Bentley, Dirk Reis, Dave Mueller, Jennifer Vissage, and Debbie Courson.

The meeting was called to order by Chairwomen Gilstrap. The invocation was offered by Rev. Sanders. On motion by Mr. Laughridge, seconded by Rev. Sanders, the minutes of the June 26, 2009, meeting was unanimously approved.

Adoption of the FY 2010-2013 Appalachian Region Area Plan for Aging Services

Ms. Allen stated that the Regional Aging Advisory Committee had met August 26, 2009, to review the Area Plan for Aging Services. She stated that the plan is a 4-year plan and the mission is to help seniors and their caregivers maintain their dignity and independence in their homes and communities. The ACOG is the designated regional

lead agency for the development of a comprehensive, coordinated and cost effective long term care system. It is the vision of the Area Agency on Aging to work with others to create a complete and responsive system of services; focus attention on meeting the needs of older people and adults with disabilities; plan, develop new programs, educate the public, advocate with legislators, and provide direct services that include the involvement of older adults and others representing the diversity of the community; promote a comprehensive long-term care system; and support intergenerational partnering, planning, and policy development.

On motion by Rev. Sanders, seconded by Mr. Shaw, the Board unanimously approved the FY 2010-2013 Appalachian Region Area Plan for Aging Services.

Appalachian Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) 2009 Progress Report and Update

Mr. Bentley stated that staff has completed work on the CEDS Update for 2009, which updates the full plan adopted by the Board in 2007. The CEDS is a document that is designed to bring together public and private sectors in the creation of an economic roadmap for the region with the purpose of diversifying and strengthening the regional economy. The document serves as a guide for establishing regional goals and objectives, developing and implementing a regional plan of action, and identifying investment priorities and funding sources. A project must be included in the CEDS to be eligible to receive grant funding from the U.S. Economic Development Administration. Mr. Bentley stated that this is information only at this time and that the full CEDS report will be brought to the Board in September for action.

Overview of the ACOG Regional Water Quality Planning Program

Mr. Bentley stated that beginning this fall, and for the next 18 months, the ACOG will be working to update the 208 Regional Water Quality Plan. He stated that ACOG is designated by the S.C. Department of Health & Environmental Control as the 208 Planning Agency for the Appalachian region. The update will focus on two main components. The first component consists of goals and policies that establish a regional water quality framework for addressing emerging issues. This component will concentrate on the regional water quality framework, including an introduction to 208 planning, a general description of the region, institutional designations and responsibilities, administrative procedures, and regional policies. The second component will focus on individual basin management plans that will provide more specific guidance for decision-making in those areas. Those plans will examine growth projections, water quality issues, management and policy issues, and recommendations for implementation

to provide more specific guidance for the development of regional wastewater treatment systems within each of the region's watersheds.

CDBG and ARRA Energy Grants

Mr. Reis stated that the S.C. Department of Commerce recently awarded \$1,000,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to benefit low- and moderate – income people in the Appalachian Region. He stated that Cherokee County was awarded \$500,000 for the Bear Creek Road Water Project. The project will serve 105 people, with 94 being low-income persons. The total project is expected to cost \$583,250. The City of Seneca and Oconee County were awarded \$500,000 to undertake Phase III of a project to upgrade the sewer system in the Utica Mill Village. Mr. Reis stated that because the neighborhood is outside of the City, but has public sewer provided by the City, a joint application was submitted. The project is designed to alleviate problems associated with an undersized and overflowing sewer line presently causing a safety and health issue for residents. The total project cost is estimated to be \$617,355.

Next, Mr. Reis updated the Board about the availability of grants from the State Energy Office for energy conservation measures. He stated that \$841,338 is allocated to the Appalachian Region and is available to local governments with the exception of Anderson County, Greenville County, Spartanburg County, and the cities of Greenville and Spartanburg, which are receiving a direct appropriation of funds. The applications for the funds, which must result in a 2.5 return on investment, were due on August 28. A committee of six Board members will rank the applications and forward the results to the State Energy Office.

Report from the ACOG Board Executive Committee

Mr. Pelissier stated that the Executive Committee had met earlier to discuss aspects of the recent Appalachian Development Corporation's action to separate membership and the boards of directors. The primary topic for consideration was the utilization of RLF grant

funds owned by ACOG that traditionally have been administered by the ADC. Mr. Pelissier stated that in considering the disposition and best use of the ACOG revolving loan grant funds, there are four primary options as listed:

1. Re-acquire the ARC and SC Budget and Control Board revolving loan funds from the ADC and administer them in-house with ACOG staff.
2. Enter into a sub-recipient agreement with the ADC to continue the administration of the ARC and Budget and Control Board funds. The agreement would include provisions for ACOG to guide the utilization of its funds, monitor their usage, and receive payments from the ADC to support economic development initiatives of the ACOG, which is a purpose of those grant programs.
3. Transfer ownership of the grant funds to the ADC.
4. Conduct an RFP process to seek proposals for the administration of the programs, in which the ADC could be a respondent.

Mr. Pelissier stated that in determining the best option, the primary considerations for ACOG are to identify how the funds can be utilized most effectively and to limit risk and liability to the Council of Governments. It is the agency's desire for the resource provided by these grant funds to provide the greatest impact to the region as possible. He stated that since they are owned by ACOG, we have the ultimate responsibility for reporting requirements, compliance with federal regulations, and financial management.

Mr. Pelissier stated that the Executive Committee voted unanimously to approve option #2 and is recommending this to the Board for their consideration.

On motion by Mr. Dexter, seconded by Ms. Smith, the Board voted unanimously to approve option #2.

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.