

MINUTES

FULL BOARD MEETING
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS CONFERENCE ROOM
DECEMBER 4, 2009

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Judy Gilstrap, Ed Elliott, Dennis Claramunt, Rick Laughridge, Ted Mattison, J. W. Sanders, Janie Wilson, Rufus Foster, Grady Butler, Don Godbey, Bennie Cunningham, Ernest Riley, Bob Winchester, Reg Dexter, J. Connie Bowers, Randy Crenshaw, O'Neal Mintz, Bob Briggs, Renee Cariveau, Elbert Tillerson, and Loretta Smith.

GUESTS PRESENT:

Jack Millwood, Cherokee County; David Burns, Local Census Office Manager, US Census Bureau; Toni McKinley, McKinley, Cooper and Company; and Angela Davis, Greenville News.

STAFF PRESENT:

Steve Pelissier, Joe Newton, Dirk Reis, Becky Hall, Beverly Allen, Chip Bentley, Aliza Tourkow, Samantha Jackson, and Debbie Courson.

The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Gilstrap. The invocation was offered by Rev. Sanders. On motion by Mr. Riley, seconded by Mr. Godbey, the minutes of the October 23, 2009, meeting was unanimously approved.

Presentation of the ACOG FY 2008 Audit report

Ms. McKinley, with McKinley Cooper and Company, presented the ACOG FY 2009 audit report. She stated that the 2009 audit expresses an unqualified opinion on the fair presentation of the financial statements, in all material respects, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

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

Mr. Bentley stated that this was presented to the Board in September and again in October. The purpose is to provide a framework to meet the long range wastewater treatment needs in the Enoree, Reedy, and Saluda river basins. Mr. Bentley stated that 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. He stated that he wants to make sure that information requested by local governments is provided before requesting action by the ACOG Board, but asked if there were any questions for him at this time. The Board took no action at this time.

Census 2010, Community Partnerships and Job Opportunities

Mr. Burns, the Greenville Census Bureau Office Manager, stated that the census 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. He briefly discussed opportunities for promoting Census 2010 in local communities and stated that from 1500 to 2,000 people will be hired from the Greenville-Spartanburg area to help compile the census.

Proposed Point of Sale Legislation

Mr. Newton stated that at the October Board meeting, staff was asked to provide information on the proposed Point of Sale legislation (H3272), which will be considered in the 2010 term of the General Assembly. He stated that this legislation would modify Act 388, which was adopted in 2006. That legislation capped the reassessment of property at 15% over a five-year period for properties that do not change ownership during the period. H3272 would also apply the 15% cap to properties that do experience a change in ownership. Mr. Newton commented that this bill transfers a tax break to new home buyers, prevents property from being taxed at full value, is intended to assist realtors and property buyers, and creates a tax shift to other tax classes. Mr. Godbey asked for a resolution from the Board opposing H3272 and Ms. Cariveau seconded the motion. Chairwomen Gilstrap called for a show of hands on this vote. The vote was nine to seven with Ernest Riley abstaining. Staff will draft a resolution in opposition of (H3272).

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Legislative Preview

Mr. Newton provided a preview of potential legislation to be considered by the General Assembly during its 2010 term, with the emphasis on issues of importance to local governments which are: FY 2011 Budget, local government fund, comprehensive tax reform, point of sale, and cigarette tax.

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.