

MINUTES

FULL BOARD MEETING
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS CONFERENCE ROOM
OCTOBER 23, 2009

MEMEBERS PRESENT:

Judy Gilstrap, Ed Elliott, Eddie Moore, Rick Laughridge, Bob Waldrep, Rufus Foster, Grady Butler, Don Godbey, Bennie Cunningham, Ernest Riley, Bob Winchester, Reg Dexter, Neil Smith, Connie Bowers, Randy Crenshaw, Mike Forrester, Dale Culbreth, O'Neal Mintz, Jane Hall, Bob Briggs, and Elbert Tillerson.

GUESTS PRESENT:

Larry Finney, CPA, Greene, Finney, and Horton; Shannon Baxter-Clemmons, Executive Director, S.C. Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Alliance; and Ralph Haggard, Cherokee County.

STAFF PRESENT:

Steve Pelissier, Joe Newton, Becky Hall, Beverly Allen, Dirk Reis, Carol Andersen, Chip Bentley, Dave Mueller, and Debbie Courson.

The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Gilstrap. The invocation was offered by Rev. Butler. On motion by Mr. Elliott, seconded by Mr. Smith, the minutes of the September 25, 2009, meeting was unanimously approved.

Gauging the Financial Health of Your Community

Mr. Newton stated that it happens often to cities and counties across South Carolina; local officials are told that their town (or county) is months behind in submitting tax withholdings and fine payments; restricted reserves have been tapped to cover current expenses; and now there is no money to make payroll this week. Mr. Larry Finney, CPA with Greene, Finney, and Horton, stated that this scenario is playing out with increasing frequency, and not just in the smallest communities. In all cases, there are telltale signs

that could alert council members before a bad situation becomes critical-if elected officials know what to look for. He stated that it is important for officials to have a good perspective on financial statements for the purpose of making decisions. Officials should identify key measurements, use historical financial information to develop trends, determine what the information means and use it to take action and make decisions.

The Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Industry in South Carolina

Shannon Baxter-Clemmons, Executive Director of the South Carolina Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Alliance, provided an overview on the industry and the technology of hydrogen and fuel cells. She stated that the SCHFCA is a non-profit partnership of government, business, academia and citizens working together to form the economies of local communities, the state and the nation, to enable energy security and to limit our environmental footprint with the use of hydrogen and fuel cell technologies that are cost-effective, convenient and produced with local resources. The Alliance was founded in January 2006 and is supported by thirteen core institutions and organizations.

Ms. Baxter-Clemmons stated that the SCHFCA currently views itself in Phase 1 of a comprehensive strategy to implement and commercialize hydrogen and fuel cell technologies in the state. Phase 1, the 2008-2012 Market Preparation phase, is characterized by pre-commercial activities to lay the groundwork for implementation to follow. It will require non-competitive market preparation activities, continued research to solve fundamental challenges, improved technology transfer and the formation of a transitional fueling infrastructure that will limit stranded capital investment. Industry will need strong government and nonprofit partners to pave the way for an easier market transition.

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

Mr. Bentley stated that this was presented at the September Board meeting. 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. After a brief discussion, the Board voted unanimously to delay action until the December meeting.

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

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