

MINUTES

FULL BOARD MEETING
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS CONFERENCE ROOM
SEPTEMBER 26, 2008

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Judy Gilstrap, Wallace Shaw, Gracie Floyd, Dennis Claramunt, Michael Thompson, Rev. J.W. Sanders, Joe Dill, Bennie Cunningham, Ernest Riley, Bob Winchester, G. Neil Smith, Heyward McDonald, Lib Fleming, O'Neal Mintz, Bob Briggs, and Elbert Tillerson.

GUESTS PRESENT:

John Hansley, Deputy Administrator, Greenville County; Debbie Atkins, Assessor, Greenville County; Dr. Holly Ulbrich, Professor Emerita, Economist, Strom Thurmond Institute; Ellen Saltzman, Economist, Strom Thurmond Institute; Dr. Jim Ray, Superintendent, Spartanburg School District #3; Gina Humphreys, Finance Director, Anderson County; Jim Freeman, Assessor, Anderson County; David Day, Pickens County Assessor; Sharon West, Auditor, Spartanburg County; Ben Clary, Interim Administrator, Cherokee County; Justin Powell, City of Greenville; Lamar Bailes, Oconee County; Holland Belue, Assistant Administrator, Cherokee County; Bob Everett, Assessor, Cherokee County.

STAFF PRESENT:

Steve Pelissier, Joe Newton, Becky Hall, Carol Andersen, Chip Bentley, Nita Coleman, Vickie Williams, Dave Mueller,

Jennifer Kelly, Jimmy Pennell, Aliza
Tourkow, and Debbie Courson

The meeting was called to order by Chairwomen Gilstrap. The invocation was offered by Rev. Sanders. On motion by Mr. Riley, seconded by Rev. Butler, the minutes of the September 26, 2008, meeting were unanimously approved.

Implementation of Act 388

Mr. John Hansley, Deputy Administrator with Greenville County, stated that Act 388 was adopted in 2006 and replaced homeowners' property taxes for education operations with a higher sales tax. The law also placed a tax millage cap on local governments and special purpose districts. Later, legislation also placed a cap on increases in property tax reassessments for homeowners. He spoke to the Board on the effects to local governments of Act 388 and companion legislation, as well as implementation at the local level.

Strom Thurmond Institute Upstate Growth Modeling Project

Dr. Craig Campbell stated that an Upstate growth modeling project released by the Clemson University Strom Thurmond Institute in February makes growth and development projections for an eight-county Upstate region that includes the six ACOG counties. He stated that the study predicts that the amount of developed land in the Upstate will triple by the year 2030. The way the Upstate has been growing is characterized as spread out, low-density development connected only by roads. The results of this study should provide decision-makers better information from which to implement good growth policy for the future of the region.

2008 Annual Progress Report for the Appalachian Region Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

Mr. Bentley stated that staff has been monitoring the progress of projects identified in the 2007-2012 CEDS. Staff has received an endorsement of the Progress Report from each county council and is now seeking arrival from the COG Board for submission to the U.S. Economic Development Administration. On motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Dill, the Board voted unanimously to approve the 2008 Annual Progress Report for CEDS.

Minutes
Page Three

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

Chairman

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