

# MINUTES

FULL BOARD MEETING  
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS CONFERENCE ROOM  
JUNE 24, 2011

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ed Elliott, Ernest Riley, Billy O'Dell, Dennis Claramunt, Rick Laughridge, Carthel Crout, Francis Crowder, Rufus Foster, Henry Jolly, Grady Butler, Joe Dill, Dan Rawls, Bennie Cunningham, Bob Winchester, Reg Dexter, Dale Culbreth, Jane Hall, and Elbert Tillerson.

GUESTS PRESENT: Gary Powers, New Carolina Entrepreneurship Task Force; and David Dykes, Greenville News.

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

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Elliott. The invocation was offered by Mr. Tillerson. On motion by Mr. Rawls, seconded by Mr. Foster, the minutes of the May 27, 2011, meeting were unanimously approved.

## New Carolina Report on High Impact Entrepreneurship

Mr. Powers, with New Carolina, stated that it is anticipated that over the next several years, most new jobs will be created by small entrepreneurial businesses. He stated that they have recently released a report identifying high impact businesses and identifying South Carolina's readiness to attract these types of operations. Mr. Powers explained that high impact firms are companies that have doubled both in sales and employment levels in a specific four-year period. In their study, firms with fewer than 20 employees accounted for 26% of employment, but 51% of net employment gains. The recommendations from the task force include: encourage a strong business climate;

develop a web-based portal targeted to entrepreneurs and the organization that serve entrepreneurs; local economic developers should strengthen existing business programs for homegrown firms; need a more comprehensive capital market strategy; and an innovation strategy.

### **FY 2012 Work Program**

Mr. Pelissier stated that ACOG has seen many changes in-house as well as changes taking place in local governments. He stated that with Joe Newton retiring and Doug Burns coming in to that position, he and Mr. Burns have been meeting with local officials throughout the region to let them know that COG can fill the gaps in local governments where they have had cuts.

Next, Mr. Pelissier briefly summarized the COG's FY 2012 work program that was approved by the Executive Committee at its meeting on June 10, 2011. On motion by Mr. Culbreth, seconded by Mr. Laughridge, the Board voted unanimously to approve the FY 2012 work program.

### **Changes to ACOG Personnel Policies**

Mr. Riley, Chair, Personnel Committee stated that the Personnel Committee had met April 29, 2011, to discuss changes to staff size, addition or deletion of positions, changes to position titles, job descriptions, or salary grades, cost of living adjustments and a range for merit increases. There will be no changes to staff titles, description or grades and no cost of living adjustments or salary increases for FY 2012.

Next, Mr. Riley stated that there are a couple of amendments to the personnel policies that require Board action. Item A. Term life Insurance. On motion by Mr. Foster, seconded by Mr. Crout, the Board voted unanimously to approve the change. Item B. Reclassification, Reorganization, Reduction in Force and Similar Actions. On motion by Mr. Riley, seconded by Mayor Jolly, the Board voted unanimously to approve the change. Item C. Meal Expenses. On motion by Mr. Riley, seconded by Mayor Jolly, the Board voted unanimously to approve the change.

### **FY 2011 Operating and Capital Budget Amendments**

Mr. Culbreth, Chair, Finance Committee, asked the Board if there were any questions on the FY 2011 Operating and Capital Budget Amendments. There being none, Mr. Culbreth made motion, seconded by Mr. Foster, and the Board unanimously approved the FY 2011 amendments.

**FY 2012 Operating and Capital Budgets**

Mr. Culbreth, Chair, Finance Committee, asked the Board if there were any questions on the FY 2012 Operating and Capital Budgets. There being none, Mr. Culbreth made motion, seconded by Mr. Foster, and the Board unanimously approved the FY 2012 operating budgets.

**Legislative Update**

Mr. Burns provided a report on activities of the 2011 session of the South Carolina General Assembly, with emphasis on issues of importance to local governments, which included: compromise on ATI, code of laws, budget compromise, immigration bill, tort reform, and Senate voted no on restructuring.

Mr. Pelissier stated that the next COG Board meeting will be held August 26, 2011.

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.