

MINUTES

FULL BOARD MEETING
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS CONFERENCE ROOM
AUGUST 26, 2011

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ed Elliott, Renee Cariveau, Ernest Riley, Dennis Claramunt, Eddie Moore, Rick Laughridge, Ted Mattison, Carthel Crout, Francis Crowder, Rufus Foster, Henry Jolly, Lottie Gibson, Grady Butler, Joe Dill, Don Godbey, Dan Rawls, Bennie Cunningham, Bob Winchester, Reg Dexter, Larry Bagwell, Mike Forrester, O'Neal Mintz, Jane Hall, Elbert Tillerson, Loretta Smith, and Chet Morris.

GUESTS PRESENT:

Mayor Junie White, City of Spartanburg; Jody Bryson, S.C. Technology and Aviation Center; Lynn Furrh and Jack Stone, SC Family Farm Initiatives; and George Long, Appalachian Development Corporation.

STAFF PRESENT:

Steve Pelissier, Doug Burns, Don Zimmer, Carol Andersen, Beverly Allen, Dirk Reis, Chip Bentley, and Debbie Courson.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Elliott. The invocation was offer by Mr. Tillerson. On motion by Mr. Rawls, seconded by Mr. Dexter, the minutes of the June 24, 2011, meeting was unanimously approved.

South Carolina Technology and Aviation Center (SCTAC)

Mr. Jody Bryson, President and CEO of SCTAC, stated that this is the new name for the Donaldson Center. He stated that SCTAC is designed to meet the unique needs of technologically advanced businesses in a global economy. The center features an

attractive combination of advanced manufacturing, distribution, and aviation facilities, and is conveniently located in Greenville, S.C., providing easy access to air, interstates, rails, and ports. In addition to the benefits of the available infrastructure and multimodal transport options, the park is also recognized as a mayor aircraft maintenance and modification center capable of completing major structural repairs, inspections, and other service needs.

An 8,000-foot concrete runway, coupled with two rail spurs and the interstate 85 corridor, complements aviation and industrial development. There are more than 80 technologically advanced companies that keep facilities at the park, including industry leaders such as Lockheed Martin, 3M, and Michelin. There are tax advantages, lower-than-average constructions costs, and a highly skilled workforce that is nationally recognized for workplace education and industry partnership. Greenville Technical College assists industry by training personnel to meet their specific needs. SCTAC receives no millage from the City of Greenville or from Greenville County. SCTAC is completely self-sustaining and has a professional staff of nine.

South Carolina Family Farm Initiative

Ms. Lyn Furrh, with the S.C. Family Farm Initiative, stated that while small and mid-size farms comprise a significant portion of the economy of S.C., these operations face multiple challenges. She stated that there are 27,000 farms including timber farms in South Carolina and about half of them will be gone in the next 10 years because of low yields, increased regulation, and imports, which are increasing 10% every year.

She stated that Bytech Technologies is applying for a grant to assist farmers with ever increasing technological challenges related to both federal compliance and with a lack of local access to processing facilities. These challenges make it difficult for farmers to compete. When small to mid-size farms go out of business, jobs are lost and our regional economy suffers. Bytech believes that local produce is part of the solution to the tremendous healthcare challenges we face as a state and as a region. She stated that it is well documented that South Carolina is among the nation's leaders in its rate of obesity. The importance of readily available and healthy local produce cannot be understated.

2011 Appalachian Regional CEDS (Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy) Progress Report

Mr. Bentley stated that this is the final progress report for the 2007 CEDS plan before the COG develops a new plan next year. He stated that CEDS is a requirement of the Economic Development Administration, whose main focus is to support local economic development efforts to create jobs nationwide. The EDA provides grants to help

communities attract industry and generate long-term private sector jobs. Their focus is supporting projects directly related to job creation and workforce development. EDA uses CEDS as a tool to assess grant requests and the progress report is a requirement of EDA to assess progress in each region and to give staff a chance to update projects.

Mr. Bentley stated that there have been 502 projects included in CEDS since 2007. Four of the six counties have endorsed their elements. Anderson and Greenville Counties will be taking it up in early September. Staff will bring this back to the Board in September for adoption and the report will be submitted to EDA by September 30, 2011.

Proposed By-Law Amendment to Move ACOG Board Officer Elections from March to January.

Mr. Pelissier stated that currently, ACOG officer elections are held in March, with new officers taking their positions in April. He is proposing that elections be moved to January, with the beginning of the new terms remaining in April. This would allow the newly elected officers more time to become familiar with their positions. Also, the Appalachian Regional Commission holds a conference in March of each year, which provides a good orientation for incoming officers. By moving the elections up to January, newly elected officers would have the opportunity to attend that conference.

Mr. Pelissier noted that a vote on a by-laws amendment requires 30 days notice. Therefore, the matter is on the agenda for information only in August. Action will be requested at the September board meeting.

2011 Legislative Wrap-Up

Mr. Burns gave a final report on actions of the General Assembly for the first half of the 2011-2012 term. He stated that not much had happened since the last Board meeting. The General Assembly recessed and later returned and overturned most of the Governor's vetoes on the budget and they passed a redistricting plan. He stated that they are in recess until January.

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

Chairman

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