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## APPALACHIAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING FRIDAY, MAY 27, 2016 – 10:30 A.M. COUNCIL BOARD ROOM GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

10:30 A.M. I. Call to Order – **Mr. Dennis Claramunt**, Chair

- A. Invocation
- B. Introduction of Guests
- C. Approval of April 22, 2016, Board Minutes (Section 1, Board Packet)
- D. Financial Statement (Section 2, Board Packet)

10:35

II. <u>Upstate Food Hub Initiative to Support Local Farmers</u> – **Ms. Mary Hipp,** Chair, and **Mr. Mike McGirr**, Founder, Feed and Seed (Section 3, Board Packet)

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The small scale nature of farming in the Upstate makes it challenging for farmers to develop products at a scale large enough to attract commercial and institutional buyers. The purpose of the Upstate Food Hub is to overcome this challenge by managing the aggregation, distribution, and marketing of food products primarily from local and regional producers to strengthen their ability to satisfy wholesale, retail, and institutional demand. Ms. Hipp and Mr. McGirr will provide an update on the development of the Upstate Feed and Seed Food Hub.

**Board Action Required:** No

Briefing:

11:05

III. <u>Greenville Area Small Business Development Center</u> – **Ms. Jill Burroughs**, Regional Director, SCSBDC (Section 4, Board Packet)

Briefing: The Greenville Area SBDC is a valuable economic development

resource in our region. Local economic development offices, chambers of commerce and other organizations regularly refer clients to the SBDC for an array of low cost and free business consultation services. SBDC is also a partner of ACOG in its delivery of both InfoMentum and the Entrepreneur Friendly Toolkit. Regional Director Jill Burroughs will provide an overview of SBDC's services in the ACOG region.

**Board Action Required:** No

11:30 IV. <u>Appalachian Region Long Range Transportation Plan Update</u> –

Mr. Lance Estep, Regional Transportation Planner

Briefing: Mr. Estep will discuss the update to the Long Range

Transportation Plan and present an overview of key issues and challenges in the rural transportation system. He will also provide a summary of projects being proposed for inclusion in

the plan to date.

Board Action Required: Not at this time.

11:50 V. <u>2016 South Carolina Legislative Update</u> – **Mr. Doug Burns**, Deputy

Director

Briefing: Mr. Burns will provide an update on activities of the South Carolina

General Assembly, with emphasis on items of interest to local

governments.

**Board Action Required:** No

11:55 VI. <u>Executive Director's Report</u> – **Mr. Steve Pelissier**, Executive Director

12:00 Noon VII. Adjourn to Lunch