

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jane Hall, Dennis Claramunt, Neil Smith, Ted Mattison, Mack Durham, Ed Elliott, Rufus Foster, Henry Jolly, David Cauthen, Dennis Stroupe, Grady Butler, Don Godbey, Lillian Flemming, Ernest Riley, Bob Winchester, Reg Dexter, Larry Bagwell, Margaret Thompson, and Elbert Tillerson.

GUESTS PRESENT:

Laura Turner and Teresa Thomas with Sen. Lindsey Graham's office; Rep. Neil Collins, Pickens County; and Mary Heatherly, SC Silver Haired Legislature.

STAFF PRESENT:

Steve Pelissier, Doug Burns, Don Zimmer, Dirk Reis, Chip Bentley, Karen Carter, David Shellhorse, Lance Estep, and Debbie Courson.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Hall. The invocation was offered by Mr. Tillerson. On motion by Mr. Godbey, seconded by Mr. Foster, the minutes of the December 5, 2014, meeting were unanimously approved with one correction; Mr. Grady Butler was present.

SC Silver Haired Legislature

Ms Heatherly, Appalachian Region Caucus Chair, provided an overview of the Silver Haired Legislature and outlined its 2015 policy agenda. She stated that this caucus is made up of seniors around the state. This is a non-artisan group created by the S. C. General Assembly in 1999 to discuss issues and concerns of the elderly population and develop resolutions for these issues and concerns. Ms. Heatherly stated that providing funds for family caregiver services and a senior guardian ad litem program are the organization's top priorities for the current year.

Economic Development Services Update

Mr. Shellhorse provided a mid-year briefing on ACOG economic development activities, emphasizing InfoMentum and the Entrepreneur Friendly Community Initiative. He explained how essential this information is to businesses that are looking at our region to bring their products, goods, and services. Attached is a list of key websites for the ACOG Economic Development Services.

Transportation and Transit Update

Mr. Bentley provided an update on transportation and transit activities as well as changes taking place at the state level. He stated that staff will be updating the Long Range Transportation Plan, which addresses funding shifts and enhancing coordination with the MPO's plans and local input. He stated that because of the change in MPO's boundaries and the funding shifts from rural to urban, the COG's guideshares are reduced. The funding balance at the beginning of FY2015 was \$9.4 million, with potential for some current projects to see cost increases.

South Carolina Legislative Preview

Mr. Burns provided a preview of the 2015 South Carolina legislative session, with emphasis on matters of importance to local governments. Those items included: budget development, ethics reform, local government funds, roads, and schools.

Mr. Godbey made motion to send a letter of support for full funding of the Local Government Fund (LGF) to members of the General Assembly. Mr. Jolly seconded the motion. The Board, after discussion, asked Mr. Godbey to amend the motion to also specifically express opposition to HR3374, which would re-establish the LGF at a lower level, which he did and Mr. Riley seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to authorize the Chair to send the letter.

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

Chair

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