

# MINUTES

FULL BOARD MEETING  
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS CONFERENCE ROOM  
FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 2015 – 10:30 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jane Hall, Neil Smith, Dennis Claramunt, Cindy Wilson, Rufus Foster, Henry Jolly, David Cauthen, Dennis Stroupe, Grady Butler, Butch Kirven, Don Godbey Lillian Flemming, Gaye Sprague, Willis Meadows, Ernest Riley, Bob Winchester, Reg Dexter, Bill Brockington, Ensley Feemster, Elbert Tillerson, Junie White, and Justin Bradley.

GUESTS PRESENT:

Brad Schneider, Executive Director, Appalachian Development Corporation; Anna Locke, Financial Consultant for the Appalachian Development Corporation; Jim Stritzinger, Executive Director, Connect South Carolina; and Elizabeth Edwards, Cong. Jeff Duncan's Office.

STAFF PRESENT:

Steve Pelissier, Doug Burns, Don Zimmer, Chip Bentley, Tim Womack, 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 Mayor White, the minutes of the May 22, 2015, meeting were unanimously approved.

### **Connect South Carolina**

Mr. Stritzinger provided the Board with an overview of Connect South Carolina. He stated that their mission is to increase high speed internet access, adoption, and use to diversify the economy and ensure South Carolina's competitiveness in the connected global economy of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. He stated that Connect South Carolina is a subsidiary of Connected Nation and operates as a non-profit in the state of South Carolina. It was commissioned by the Office of the Governor to work with the state's broadband adoption on a community-by-community basis across South Carolina. He stated the Connect South Carolina will continue to develop and update broadband data over time, ensuring that policymakers and citizens alike are equipped with this important information. They are funded by the United States Department of Commerce's State Broadband Initiative (SBI) Grant Program, through the National Telecommunications and Information Administration. Their website is [www.broadbandusa.gov](http://www.broadbandusa.gov).

### **Annual Report from the Appalachian Development Corporation**

Mr. Schneider, Executive Director of ADC, provided the annual update of the Small Business Revolving Loan Fund Program and its fund status. The Appalachian Loan Fund is a locally controlled source of low cost, long fixed rate financing for businesses whose projects will result in the creation of permanent full time jobs, and leverage private sector investment. As the borrowers repay their loans, the repaid payments capitalize the fund, to promulgate relending to other businesses that will generate additional job creations and investment and covers a 10-region area in the Upstate. Due to some issues in the recent past with this loan fund program, Mr. Pelissier requested that in addition to Mr. Schneider's annual report, that he provide the Board with answers to ten questions relative to those past issues (see attached).

### **Appalachian Council of Governments FY 2016 Work Program**

Mr. Pelissier stated that a copy of the Work Program was enclosed in the agenda packet and that it had been approved unanimously by the Executive Committee. He stated that given how late it was, he would ask for a motion and would be glad to respond to questions during the discussion. Mr. Jolly made motion to approve the FY 2016 Work Program, Mr. Claramunt seconded, and the Board unanimously approved.

### **Personnel Committee Report**

Mr. Claramunt stated that the personnel committee had met on May 22, 2015, and took action on two items. (1).The creation of positions to support the aging services Veterans Care Transitions Program, and (2) the opportunity for employee's to earn merit increases in FY 2016. On motion by the Personnel Committee, seconded by Mr. Riley, the recommendations from the personnel committee were unanimously approved by the Board.

**Finance Committee Report**

Mr. Pelissier stated that the Finance Committee had met on May 22, 2015, and took action on three items: 1. FY 2015 Budget Review; 2) and Allocation of FY 2015 Revenues over Expenditures; 3) recommendation for the FY 2016 budget and related matters. On recommendation from the Finance Committee, seconded by Mr. Riley, the Board unanimously approved the Finance Committee's recommendation.

**South Carolina Legislative Update**

Mr. Burns provided an update on activities of the South Carolina General Assembly, with emphasis on items of interest to local governments. Mr. Burns stated that the general assembly will be working on road improvements and repair servicing. They will also be discussing the Governor's budget vetos on July 6, 2015.

**Executive Director's Report**

Mr. Pelissier stated that the next Appalachian Development Corporation Board meeting will be held on August 20, 2015, at 10:30 a.m. in the conference room of the Appalachian Council of Governments.

The Board will not meet in July. The next Board meeting will be held August 28<sup>th</sup>.

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

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Chair

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