

MINUTES

FULL BOARD MEETING
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS CONFERENCE ROOM
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2015 – 10:30 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dennis Claramunt, Neil Smith, Cindy Wilson, Ed Elliott, Rufus Foster, Henry Jolly, Dennis Stroupe, Grady Butler, Lillian Flemming, Gay Sprague, Thomas Alexander, Bob Winchester, Bill Brockington, Margaret Thompson, Ensley Feemster, Mike Forrester, Jan Scalisi, Roger Nutt, and Thomas Foster.

GUESTS PRESENT:

Nick Hollingshad, Tommy Flynn and Myra Reece, Bureau of Air Quality, DHEC; Anna Locke, A. T. Locke & Associates; Duffy Powers, Appalachian Development Corporation; Danielle Gibbs, Sen. Scott's Office; Mike McInerney and Jill Franco, S. C. Department of Commerce; Guy Land and Earl Gohl, Appalachian Regional Commission.

STAFF PRESENT:

Steve Pelissier, Don Zimmer, Doug Burns, Tim Womack, David Shellhorse, and Debbie Courson.

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Claramunt. The invocation was offered by Mr. Jolly. On motion by Mr. Elliott, seconded by Ms. Wilson, the minutes of the September 25, 2015, meeting was unanimously approved. Mr. Pelissier noted that Ms. Hall was absent due to family illness. Also, Mr. Dill and Mr. Dexter were attending the County Assosication meeting in Columbia.

Recognition of an Employee who Recently Celebrated His 5th Anniversary with ACOG

Mr. Claramunt recognized David Shellhorse, Economic Development Services Manager, for 5 years of service to ACOG.

Comments from the ARC Federal Co-Chair

Mr. Earl Gohl, ARC Federal Co-Chair, was unanimously confirmed as federal co-chair of the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) by the U.S. Senate on March 10, 2010. He is the 11th federal co-chair to be appointed since the Commission was established by an act of Congress in 1965.

Mr. Gohl briefly commented on the ARC 2016 –2020 Strategic Plan. He stated that the new strategic plan is to guide its economic and community development efforts in Appalachian over this five-year period. As a first step in the process, ARC commissioned a research study to examine socioeconomic change in the Appalachian region since the Commission's inception.

A February 2015 report showed substantial economic progress in the Appalachian region but also remaining challenges. The research provided a foundation for the next step in the strategic planning process: gathering input from stakeholders throughout the region on the issues and challenges facing their communities, as well as on past successes and opportunities they see ahead.

He stated that input opportunities in Appalachia have included a series of listening sessions in May and June 2015 to engage a broad cross-section of citizens and local leaders in a discussion of emerging opportunities. ARC also held focus groups with development leaders in the region to gain in-depth knowledge on a range of topics. In addition, the Commission conducted an online survey to gather input from the general public. Mr. Gohl stated that this input will help in identifying ARC's vision, mission, goals, objectives, and development roles, and will serve as the basis for a new strategic plan that will guide ARC and its partner is taking action toward bringing Appalachia into full economic parity with the nation.

2015 EPA Ozone Standards

On October 1, 2015, EPA strengthened the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ground-level ozone to 70 parts per billion (ppb), based on extensive scientific evidence about ozone's effects on public health and welfare. The updated standards will improve public health protection, particularly for at-risk groups including children, older adults, people of all ages who have lung diseases such as asthma, and people who are active outdoors, especially outdoor workers. They also will improve the health of trees, plants and ecosystems.

EPA will review Ozone Levels and make determinations on what areas will be designated as non-attainment for the new standards in October 2017. The implications of being designated as a non-attainment area is that there are mandatory regulatory controls put in place that limit new emissions of NO_x and VOCs from mobile sources and industry. The first step is modeling and is done to establish current emission levels and set a level that new emissions cannot exceed. Those limits are then applied through *New Source Review* required for all new industrial emissions and *Transportation Conformity* required for any federally funded transportation projects. These measures often are seen as a limiting factor for new development in any region.

EPA will be working through the designation process and make final determinations in the fall of 2017. Those areas will then be required to develop plans to reach attainment of the new standards by 2020 at which time the regulatory controls will be put in place to help improve air quality. The good news for the Upstate is that since 2005 there has been a 28% decrease in the average ozone levels (80ppb in 2005 and 59pb in 2015). This is, in part, due to national measures implemented within the last 10 years that have improved emission standards nationwide. At the same time, there have also been many local initiatives that have helped to reduce local emissions. The collective success is reflected in the overall reduction and the fact that based on the 2015 standard there have been no exceedances since 2013. Based on current ozone levels and recent trends, it appears that the Upstate region will not be designated as non-attainment. The region will need to continue to look at ways to reduce emissions in the future to ensure that it does not violate the current or future standards.

Local Government Compliance, SC Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and US Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA)

Mr. Burns stated that several changes to the SC FOIA that limit a local government's ability to amend a meeting agenda or to go into executive session became effective on July 1st. In addition several deadlines for compliance with the federal ADA also take effect this year. He stated that

all public bodies must post meeting agendas in-house as well as on their website 24 hours prior of the meeting. Mr. Burns stated that ADA requirements went into effect 25 years ago and many agencies still have not met necessary requirements. He stated that parks are one of the major issues.

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.