

MINUTES

FULL BOARD MEETING
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS CONFERENCE ROOM
FRIDAY, AUGUST 26, 2016 – 10:30 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dennis Claramunt, Neil Smith, Joe Dill, Terence Roberts, Ted Mattison, Francis Crowder, Mack Durham, Ed Elliott, Henry Jolly, Grady Butler, Don Godbey, Lillian Flemming, Gaye Sprague, Bob Winchester, Reg Dexter, Bill Brockington, Neil Smith, Ensley Feemster, Neal Collins, Mike Forrester, Jane Hall, Elbert Tillerson, and Junie White.

GUESTS PRESENT:

Laura Turner, Senator Graham's office; Elizabeth Edwards, Congressman Duncan's office; Amanda, Greenville News; Chris Carter, Administrator, City of Westminster; Elizabeth Kovacs, SC Department of Commerce; and Joel Dill, Greenville County.

STAFF PRESENT:

Steve Pelissier, Don Zimmer, Chip Bentley, Dirk Reis, Tim Womack, and Debbie Courson.

The meeting was called to order by chairman Claramunt. The invocation was offered by Rev. Butler. On motion by Mr. Godbey, seconded by Mayor White, the minutes of the June 24, 2016 meeting were unanimously approved with one correction. Board member Neil Collins was present for the May and June meetings.

Workforce Development Program of the SC Department of Commerce

Ms. Kovacs stated that the SC Department of Commerce has 12 Regional Workforce Advisors who will focus on ensuring South Carolina's workforce continues to be one of the best in the nation. The advisors will serve as a connection for the business industry demands. The intent of the advisors is to bridge gaps at the local level between those who educate our students and those in the business community who rely on a talented labor pool. Every person who wants a job should have one. At the same time, businesses with job openings are having a hard time identifying qualified candidates. This is a problem that can be fixed with enhanced communication between the business and education communities.

She stated that the regional workforce advisors connect business to K-16 schools and the workforce by: helping businesses partner with schools to develop a workforce for industries, including apprenticeships, and job shadowing experiences; relaying information to educators about workforce needs; bridging the gap between workforce needs and workforce development; and advocating industry needs inside the education system.

The advisors also help businesses reach students, educators and parents to relay information about job descriptions, salaries and general information about industry; serve as a support system for the emerging workforce; help businesses learn about what is being done in schools to identify ways to improve workforce development; and assist businesses in locating labor talent to fill their workforce needs.

The regional workforce advisors give teachers, administrators, school counselors, and career specialists a direct connection to business and are a resource to help students reach goals, and connect to career opportunities.

Changes to the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act and Ethics Act

Ms. Kazia discussed new income disclosure requirements for the South Carolina Statement of Economic Interest. As of January 1, 2017, one must include on the SEI the source and type of income individual and members of the immediate family received in the previous year. Immediate family includes: spouse; a child residing in the household; and anyone claimed as a dependent for tax purposes last year. Sources of income not required to be reported on the SEI include: income received pursuant to a court order; income from savings, checking or brokerage account (with some exceptions), retirement income; pension income; annuity income; IRA income; disability income; or deferred compensation.

**Appalachian Region Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) 2016
Annual Progress Report**

Mr. Bentley briefly explained that this document is required to be updated every five years, with annual updates and progress reports to be completed in the intervening years. For projects to be eligible for US EDA grant funding, they must be identified as a priority of a CEDS. ACOG is the designated agency for developing and maintaining the CEDS covering the SC Appalachian region. Mr. Bentley stated that the CEDS committee had met prior to the Board meeting and provided an overview of findings. He stated that the Board will be asked to approve the finalized CEDS Progress Report for submittal to the US EDA at the September Board meeting.

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Pelissier stated that at the June Board meeting, staff was requested to draft a letter to federal legislators representing the region to express concerns with rights granted to railroads in federal law. The Board approved sending the letter. Gaye Sprague abstained from voting. After discussion, the Board voted to amend the letter requesting that they repeal the law that exempts the railroads and add "please reply to letter". On motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mayor White, the Board voted unanimously to amend and forward the letter to the local legislators. Ms. Sprague was not in the room during the vote.

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.