

MINUTES

FULL BOARD MEETING
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS CONFERENCE ROOM
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2014 – 10:30 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jane Hall, Dennis Claramunt, Terence Roberts, Francis Crowder, Mack Durham, Ed Elliott, Rufus Foster, Henry Jolly, David Cauthen, Dennis Stroupe, Grady Butler, Joe Dill, Gaye Sprague, Willis Meadows, Ernest Riley, Bob Winchester, Reg Dexter, Bill Brockington, Margret Thompson, Mike Forrester, O'Neal Smith, Elbert Tillerson, Loretta Smith, Junie White, Jan Scalisi, and Elaine Harris.

GUESTS PRESENT:

Steve Newton, Anderson County; Scott Park, Greenville County Department of Planning and Code Compliance; Jill Francisco, ARC Program Manager, SC Department of Commerce; and Neil Collins, City of Easley.

STAFF PRESENT:

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

The meeting was called to order by Chair Hall. The invocation was offered by Mr. Tillerson. On motion by Mr. Elliott, seconded by Mr. Riley, the minutes of the August 22, 2014 meeting were unanimously approved.

Appalachian Regional Commission Program

Ms. Francisco is the ARC Program Manager with the SC Department of Commerce. She stated that South Carolina receives approximately \$2 million in ARC Area Development funds annually; however, the anticipated amount for 2015, including carryover funds, is \$3.1 million. Projects must be located in the 6-county Upstate region and eligible applicants are: state & local agencies; government entities; local governing boards; and non-profit organizations. There is a required match, which is 50% typically; however, since Cherokee County is classified as distressed, the match rate for projects in this county is 20%. She stated that for the Local Access Road Program, the state has \$14 million remaining. This project funding is 100%. She stated that for the 6-county region, 11 grants were funded in September totaling \$2,035,880.

Upstate Local Food System Initiatives

Mr. Park with Greenville County, provided information on a broad range of activities underway in the region to support and promote local agriculture. He stated that the majority of the state's locally grown crops are exported. The state's Making Small Farms into Big Business initiative seeks to expand the impact of the farm sector. The two main paths for doing this are to increase South Carolina sales of locally grown foods and to increase commercial linkages within the state economy. Linkages are built among food-related businesses so they increasingly trade with each other, producing goods, services, and raw materials for each other and for state consumers. In addition significant private and public infrastructure must be built across the state, both to build local efficiencies and to build reliable local facilities that South Carolina may depend upon to grow, store, freeze, dehydrate, preserve, distribute, and sell to local residents long into the future.

Adoption of the Appalachian Region Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs) 2014 Progress Report and Update

Mr. Shellhorse stated that this report was presented at the August Board meeting. It is now completed and is being presented to the Board for action. As the Economic Development Administration designated planning entity for the region, ACOG is responsible for producing the CEDs, which are a five-year plan identifying economic development priorities and strategies. Mr. Riley, on behalf of the Economic Development Committee, made motion to approve the CED's 2014 updated plan. The Board voted unanimously.

Agreement for Revolving Loan Services

Mr. Pelissier stated that no action would be taken at this time. He stated that ARC, SC Department of Commerce, and ACOG are very close to a final agreement for the continuation of the small business revolving loan fund program. The Board will be asked to take action at the October meeting.

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.