

MINUTES

FULL BOARD MEETING
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS CONFERENCE ROOM
OCTOBER 26, 2012

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ernest Riley, Jane Hall, Dennis Claramunt, Ted Mattison, Carthel Crout, Francis Crowder, Ed Elliott, Rufus Foster, Grady Butler, Joe Dill, Don Godbey, Dan Rawls, Wayne McCall, Bennie Cunningham, Bob Winchester, Reg Dexter, Neil Smith, Larry Bagwell, Mike Forrester, Dale Culbreth, O'Neal Mintz, Elbert Tillerson, Junie White, and Jan Scalisi.

GUESTS PRESENT:

John Adair; Johnnie Lynn-Crosby, SC Works; George Long, Appalachian Development Corporation; Mayor Perry Eichor, City of Simpsonville; and Kam Turner, Rep. Trey Gowdy's Office.

STAFF PRESENT:

Steve Pelissier, Doug Burns, Dirk Reis, Beverly Allen, Chip Bentley, Carol Andersen, David Shellhorse, Debra Brown, and Debbie Courson.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Riley. The invocation was offered by Mr. Tillerson. On motion by Mr. Godbey, seconded by Mayor White, the minutes of the September 28, 2012, meeting were unanimously approved.

Chairman Riley made motion to replace item IV on the Agenda – Update on Appalachian Regional Commission Projects, with a presentation on the South Carolina Work Ready Communities Initiative. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Upstate Mediation Center, A Resource for Local Governments

Mr. Godbey stated that the Upstate Mediation Center is a non-profit organization that has been serving our region for 13 years. He stated that in some situations, local governments are required to utilize mediation at the Magistrate, Probate, and Circuit Court levels. In other situations, mediation can be a relatively low cost method for resolving disputes.

Medicare Open Enrollment

Ms. Allen stated that the federal Medicare open enrollment season runs from October 15th through December 7th. She stated that the COG's Benefits Counseling staff has already fielded hundreds of calls from seniors and their caregivers regarding potential benefits and options available, as well as requirements for enrollment. Ms. Allen stated that action taken (or not taken) by seniors during this period can have significant impacts on their eligibility for benefits and care.

South Carolina Work Ready Communities Initiative

Ms. Lynn-Crosby stated that Work Ready SC is a new employee credentialing program that tests and scores job skills for job seekers. Employers in more than 40 states now recognize this program. To earn the Work Ready SC Career Readiness Certificate, individuals must take three assessments and score at least a 3 on each. Based on those scores, a job seeker will receive either a bronze, silver or gold certificate, which can be attached to their resume and job applications to show employers that they have the skills needed for the job. The assessments test the communication and problem-solving skills that are required for 85 percent of all jobs today. The State is working in partnership with the ACT Testing Service to provide funding to administer tests at the community level. Communities have until the end of December to enroll in this program.

Report from the By-Laws Review Committee

Mr. Smith stated that in response to a request from a Board member, the Committee has reviewed the By-Laws to seek a method for retaining active and experienced members, while maintaining the overall membership balance on the Board. Mr. Smith stated that the draft regional membership language was developed during the September 28, 2012 by-laws review committee meeting. The Board will take action on this item at the November Board meeting.

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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.