

MINUTES

FULL BOARD MEETING
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS CONFERENCE ROOM
SEPTEMBER 28, 2012

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ernest Riley, Dennis Claramunt, Jane Hall, Terence Roberts, Rick Laughridge, Ted Mattison, Carthel Crout, Francis Crowder, Ed Elliott, Grady Butler, Joe Dill, Don Godbey, Wayne McCall, Bennie Cunningham, Bob Winchester, Reg Dexter, Neil Smith, Mike Forrester, O'Neal Mintz, Elbert Tillerson, Loretta Smith, Chet Morris, Junie White, and Jan Scalisi.

GUESTS PRESENT: Dianna Turner, City Administrator, City of Travelers Rest; Mayor Perry Eichor, City of Simpsonville; David Mueller, President, Appalachian Development Corporation; and Kam Turner, Congressman Trey Gowdy's Office.

STAFF PRESENT: Steve Pelissier, Doug Burns, Don Zimmer, Dirk Reis, Beverly Allen, Carol Andersen, Chip Bentley, David Shellhorse, 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 Mrs. Smith, the minutes of the August 24, 2012, meeting were unanimously approved.

City of Travelers Rest Economic Development and the Impact of the Swamp Rabbit Trail

Ms. Turner, Administrator for the City of Travelers Rest, briefed the Board on their revitalization efforts in the City's downtown. She stated that even with the slow economy, the City was able to bring in 20 new businesses to their downtown. They received an Enhancement Grant from DOT and were able use hospitality and local accommodation taxes, as well as C-funds from the Greenville County Legislative Delegation Transportation Committee, to build business opportunities based on the existence of the Swamp Rabbit Trail. She stated that private property owners invested in properties and made significant improvements.

SC Village Renaissance Program, ACOG Region Applications

Mr. Shellhorse summarized the Village Renaissance Grant Program that is run through the SC Department of Commerce's (SCDOC) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. The program promotes redevelopment in targeted neighborhoods near downtown districts in cities and towns across the state. There are 3 phases, beginning with a planning phase. In phases 2 & 3 the SCDOC works with the community to implement projects identified in the planning phase by utilizing CDBG funds.

In 2010, the City of Gaffney and City of Pickens were chosen to participate in the Village Renaissance Program. In Phase 1, the City of Gaffney received \$25,000, and the City of Pickens received \$20,000 to develop neighborhood plans for their targeted areas. The plans for each community were completed by the Council of Governments and approved by SCDOC in early 2012. In Phase 2, the City of Pickens was awarded \$350,000 to improve sewer service in the neighborhood south of downtown. Gaffney received \$500,000 for drainage improvements, extending sidewalks, demolition of dilapidated houses, and safety projects in the Big Mill Village. Phase 2 will last two years, and each community will be eligible to apply for additional funding as part of Phase 3 of the program if they have CDBG-eligible projects identified.

Appalachian Region 2013 – 2017 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

Mr. Smith stated that this document had been discussed at the past couple of meetings, and made motion to approve the CEDS five-year plan. Mr. Mintz seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Mr. Godbey commented that he would like the CEDS Committee to meet one-half hour before the regular Board meeting and to report to the COG Board quarterly on its progress.

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There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Chairman

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