

# MINUTES

FULL BOARD MEETING  
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS CONFERENCE ROOM  
FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, 2014 - 10:30 A. M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ernest Riley, Jane Hall, Dennis Claramunt, Ted Mattison, Francis Crowder, Mack Durham, Ed Elliott, Henry Jolly, Rufus Foster, Joe Dill, Don Godbey, Dan Rawls, Lillian Flemming, Gaye Sprague, Perry Eichor, Bob Winchester, Reg Dexter, Larry Bagwell, Jeff Martin, O'Neal Mintz, Elbert Tillerson, and Jan Scalisi.

GUESTS PRESENT: W.B. Cook, S.C. Department of Transportation Commission; and Elizabeth Feather, Upstate Alliance.

STAFF PRESENT: Steve Pelissier, Don Zimmer, Doug Burns, Karen Carter, Dirk Reis, Carol Andersen, 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 Mayor Jolly, the minutes of the December 6, 2013, meeting were unanimously approved.

## Upstate South Carolina Global Cities Initiative

Ms. Feather, with the Upstate SC Alliance, stated that the Upstate had been selected as an inaugural participant of the Brookings Institution's Global Cities initiative. Through this four-year program, the region will develop and implement a comprehensive global engagement strategy. In 2014 the first phase of work will begin as regional leaders conduct a market assessment of the Upstate's export landscape and work together to develop a plan to enhance the region's ability to compete internationally. Project components include: continued recruitment of new international investment, expansions related to increased export sales, and investment growth from mergers and acquisitions.

### **South Carolina Fiscal Outlook**

Mr. Pelissier stated that at the December meeting he had provided a summary report on the state budget and fiscal climate that had been presented at the SCARC Conference by Mike Shealy, who is the Budget Director for the Senate Finance Committee. At the meeting he provided a summary of the second half of Mr. Shealy's presentation, which addressed long term fiscal trends. Mr. Pelissier stated that the fiscal challenges faced by South Carolina since 2009 were common to just about every state in the nation. It is commonly assumed that the decline in revenues seen by states was a result of the Great Recession. However, a State Budget Crises Tax Force, chaired by Richard Ravitch and Paul Volker, has concluded that structural issues were a greater cause of revenue declines and remain significant looking into the future. Some of the findings of the task force included: certain large expenditures (primarily health care related) are growing at rates that far exceed expectations for revenues; the capacity to raise revenues is increasingly impaired; the federal budget crises will have serious spillover effects on state and local governments; and state budget practices make achieving fiscal stability and sustainability difficult.

### **South Carolina Legislative Report**

Mr. Burns provided a report on activities of the 2014 term of the S.C. General Assembly, with emphasis on items of interest to local governments. Those items included: Department of Administration, tax reform, abandoned buildings, ethics reform, budget, roads and bridges, and education.

### **Report from the Board Officer Nominating Committee**

Mr. Elliott stated that the nominating committee had met and is recommending the following officers for 2014 – 2015 terms. For Chair, Jane Hall; for Vice Chair, Dennis Claramunt; and Neil Smith for secretary/treasurer. Mr. Winchester seconded the committee's recommendations and the Board voted unanimously to approve.

### **Executive Director's Report**

Mr. Pelissier stated that ACOG will soon be initiating the RFP process for senior services for the period of FY 2015 through FY 2019. Services included are senior centers/activities, congregate dining, home-delivered meals, transportation, and home care. The RFP will be issued on February 17<sup>th</sup>, and the deadline for submission will be April 7<sup>th</sup>. The ACOG Board will select contractors at its May 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

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There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon.

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Chairman

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