

MINUTES

FULL BOARD MEETING
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS CONFERENCE ROOM
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2015 – 10:30 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jane Hall, Dennis Claramunt, Neil Smith, Ted Mattison, Francis Crowder, Mack Durham, Cindy Wilson, Ed Elliott, Rufus Foster, Henry Jolly, David Cauthen, Joe Dill, Don Godbey, Lillian Flemming, Gaye Sprague, Willis Meadows, Ernest Riley, Bob Winchester, Reg Dexter, Bill Brockington, Mike Forrester, Elbert Tillerson, and Thomas Foster.

GUESTS PRESENT: Mike Locke, Founder, Leadership Upstate; and Jennifer Van Cleave, Lt. Governor's Office on Aging.

STAFF PRESENT: Steve Pelissier, Don Zimmer, Doug Burns, Chip Bentley, Dirk Reis, Tim Womack, Debra Brown, and Debbie Courson.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Hall. The invocation was offered by Mr. Tillerson. On motion from Mr. Godbey, seconded by Mr. Dill, the minutes of the August 28, 2015, meeting were unanimously approved with one correction to note that Mr. Tillerson was in attendance.

Recognition of two Employees who Recently Celebrated Their 5th Anniversaries with ACOG

Ms. Hall recognized Doug Burns, Deputy Director/Director of Governmental Services and Tim Womack, Director of Aging and ADRC Services, for their 5 years of service to ACOG.

Leadership Upstate

Mr. Locke, the founder of Leadership Upstate, provided the Board with an overview of this program. He stated that he has met with the directors of all chambers of commerce throughout the region. The chambers are the biggest networking organizations. With the help of the chambers their goal is developing and enhancing businesses.

ACOG Section 208 Water Quality Planning Program

Mr. Bentley briefly explained the COG's role in the 208 water quality planning program. He then advised the Board of potential amendments to the plan. This is in preparation for the Board's consideration of proposed amendments that will be presented within the next several months.

Approval of the Appalachian Region Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs) Annual Progress Report

Mr. Bentley stated that he had presented the CEDS document at the last meeting. Mr. Godbey, chair of the CED's committee is recommending the approval of this document, with two changes being made on page twelve. Mr. Durham seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved the CED's annual report. Mr. Bentley stated that unlike previous years, a printed copy of the final document is not included in the agenda packet. The document can be accessed through the ACOG website at www.scacog.org under "Latest News" section.

Letter to the SC Public Service Commission Expressing Opposition to the Duke Power Proposed Foothills Transmission Line Project

Mr. Pelissier stated that at the last Board meeting the members had requested that the Chair submit a letter to the PSC expressing opposition to a Duke Power proposal to construct transmission lines across the northern edge of the region. Mr. Dill made motion to adopt the letter of opposition, and that letter is to be sent to Duke Power and the Legislative Delegations representing the Appalachian region. Mr. Godbey seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion with two abstentions Mayor Henry Jolly and Rep. Mike Forrester.

Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Grants Recently Awarded to Communities in the SC Appalachian Region

Mr. Reis briefed the Board on ARC grants that recently have been awarded. They are: Anderson County for \$500,000; Town of Blacksburg for \$368,000; Town of Central for \$223,000;

Minutes
Page Three

City of Easley for \$250,732; City of Pickens for \$164,755; and Pioneer Rural Water District for \$500,000.

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.**