



## MINUTES

APPALACHIAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2019 – 10:30 A.M.  
COUNCIL BOARD ROOM  
GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

### Members Present:

Francis Crowder, Cindy Wilson, Mack Durham, Terence Roberts, Dennis Claramunt, Henry Jolly, Ed Elliott, David Cauthen, Rep. Mike Burns, Joe Dill, Butch Kirven, George Fletcher, Don Godbey, Ennis Fant Sr, Rep. Grady Butler, Rep. Mike Forrester, Jane Hall, Larry Chappell, Jack Mabry, Manning Lynch, Mildred Tillerson, Dana Moore, John Elliott, Roy Costner III

### Guests Present:

Mr. Maceo Nance | SC Dept. of Commerce; Ms. Mary Haley | City of Anderson Economic Development Division; Mr. Joel Dill; Mr. Daniel Gamble

### Staff Present:

Steve Pelissier, Chip Bentley, Brooke Ferguson, Tim Womack, Arlene Young, Dani Vankirk

Chairman Joe Dill called the meeting to order. Invocation lead by board member Grady Butler. Steve Pelissier welcomed all guests and presenters. A motion to adopt August 23, 2019 meeting minutes was approved unanimously by the Board.

### South Carolina Department of Commerce – Overview

Mr. Maceo Nance, Director of Targeted Rural Strategy and Special Projects, SC Department of Commerce

#### > History and Purpose

- Opportunity zones were established through the 2017 federal Tax Reform Legislation. Their purpose is to encourage private sector investment in economically distressed areas.

- 
- States became eligible to designate up to 25% of their low-income census tracts (as defined by the legislation) as opportunity zones. By investing in a designated zone, an investor can defer the payment of capital gains taxes, in some cases permanently.
  - Every county in South Carolina has at least one opportunity zone.
- > **Mission and Challenges of the Opportunity Zones**
- The responsibility of the opportunity zone fund manager is to target investments in areas that generate the largest returns for investors.
    - > Investment banks and other fund managers develop opportunity zone investment funds.
    - > As a result, opportunity zones are most viable in urban areas that are adjacent to already vibrant locations. The greatest areas of opportunity zone investments are in San Jose, Ca, Oakland, CA, San Diego, Ca, Washington, DC, Chicago, IL, and Atlanta, GA.
  - To attract investments, many local areas have developed marketing material targeted to the investment funds. Because of the small size of Opportunity Zones in South Carolina, the state has had trouble attracting funds.
    - > In response, the South Carolina Department of Commerce provides a small grant program to develop marketing material. Applications are made through the Targeted Rural Strategies Office at SC DOC.
    - > If an investment is held for five years, a 10% capital gains reduction is received. An investment held for seven years receives a 15% reduction, and an investment held for at least ten years receives a 100% capital gains reduction.
    - > There's no required reporting of opportunity zone investments or outcomes.

### **Youth Entrepreneurs of Anderson**

Ms. Mary Haley Thompson, Project Manager, City of Anderson Economic Development Division

Ms. Thompson provided an overview of the Youth Entrepreneurs of Anderson program and its successes. The program is an annual partnership with local school districts to train and mentor high school students in the foundations of small business start-up and operations.

- > High schools identify students who have limited interest in school due to an inability to see the long-term benefits of an education. Through an intensive program, the participants quickly see a tangible result of their work.
- > Over the course of several weeks, students learn about product development, production, marketing, and sales. Their goal is to develop a business they can operate with an extremely low investment of no more than \$ 100 immediately upon the conclusion of the program.

- 
- > The program has been especially successful at directing and motivating at-risk students. For example, Ms. Thompson identified one participant from the Alternative School who is a gifted artist. Her successful business, which is completely web based, is to develop tattoo designs. Clients take her designs to a tattoo artist for application.
  - > Another participant discovered that material used in swimsuits is effective at removing mascara. She purchases the material, cuts it into small squares, packages it, and sells the product over the internet. She netted over \$ 7,000 in her first year.

### ACOG Senior Nutrition Program

Ms. Dani Vankirk, Nutrition Program Manager, SC Appalachian Council of Governments

Ms. Vankirk provided a briefing on ACOG's Senior Nutrition Program. ACOG provides meals to vulnerable adults through our Congregate Dining and Home Delivered Meal Programs.

The Appalachian Council of Governments (ACOG) receives federal funds through the Older Americans Act, in addition to state and local funds to provide meal services to adults 60 and over and their spouses of any age. Isolation is one of the top issues older adults in our region experience. The lack of social contact and a support system often results in depression and an overall decline in health. To combat isolation, our 26 local congregate meal sites provide more than just a meal. Congregate sites provide exercise, art classes, games, activities, and host speakers for educational programming on topics impacting the aging population, their families and caregivers. Eating meals at congregate dining facilities, even if just once a week, greatly reduces the sense of isolation many elderly residents in our communities experience.



In 2010, there were **162,000 citizens 65+** in our region



In 2010, **27%** of our senior citizens **were living alone**



The 2019 senior population in our region is estimated to be **227,000 people, a 40% increase.**

- > ACOG works with providers in each county to deliver this service. Over the first two months of the fiscal year, ACOG served 17,532 meals, representing a 13% increase over the same period last year.
- > For the current fiscal year, ACOG has a new provider in Anderson County; a consortium involving Meals On Wheels, Anderson County Parks and Recreation, and Anderson Interfaith Ministries. With the change, ACOG went from one congregate dining site in the county to five sites.

- 
- > In addition to nutrition, congregate dining sites provide socialization, entertainment, activities, and health education. ACOG provides transportation to sites for people who are unable to get there on their own.
  - > For people who are home bound, the Home Delivered program provides nutritious meals five days a week and ensures that someone will check on the resident each day.

### Congregate Dining By County | July 1 - August 31, 2019

	Participants		Meals	
	Total	'18-'19 Change	Total	'18-'19 Change
Anderson County	138	↑ 53.3%	1,774	↑ 84.4%
Cherokee County	138	↑ 9.5%	3,522	↑ 4.6%
Greenville County	408	↑ 17.2%	5,590	↑ 2.1%
Oconee County	66	↑ 3.1%	1,387	↑ 18.6%
Pickens County	76	↑ 22.6%	1,075	↑ 10.6%
Spartanburg County	237	↑ 19.7%	4,184	↑ 18.6%
<b>Region Total</b>	<b>1,063</b>	<b>↑ 19.7%</b>	<b>17,532</b>	<b>↑ 13.3%</b>

#### Executive Director's Report

Mr. Steve Pelissier, Executive Director

Mr. Steve Pelissier, concluded the meeting with information on various topics.

- > Reminder: SCARC Conference on November 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>, 2019 in Myrtle Beach; please provide registration information to Office Manager Denise Ernul if you plan to attend.
- > Next meeting October 25, 2019.

**The next Board Meeting will be at 10:30 am on October 25, 2019. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon.**

---

Mr. Joe Dill, Chairman

The South Carolina Appalachian Council of Governments has complied with the Freedom of Information Act in scheduling and conducting this meeting