



MINUTES

APPALACHIAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 2021 – 10:30 A.M. ZOOM MEETING GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

Members Present:

Sen. Thomas Alexander, Rocky Burgess, Rep. Mike Burns, Grady Butler, David Cauthen, Larry Chappell, Dennis Claramunt, Roy Costner, III, Rep. West Cox, Francis Crowder, Joe Dill, Ed Elliott, John Elliott, Ensley Feemster, Lillian Brock Flemming, Mike Forrester, Don Godbey, Henry Jolly, Butch Kirven, Ruth Littlejohn, Rep. Steven Long, Willis Meadows, Dana Moore, E Riley, Jeff Roberts, Terence Roberts, Russell Stall, Marta Wahlen, Cindy Wilson

Guests Present:

Kevin Bronson, Pamela Christopher, Eric Dillon, Rep. Roger Nutt, Phillip Quinlin, Rep. Anne Thayer, Emily Thomas, Mark Williamson

Staff Present:

Chip Bentley, Lance Estep, Brooke Ferguson, Steve Pelissier, Tim Womack, Arlene Young, Don Zimmer

Chairman Forrester called the meeting to order. The invocation was offered by Mr. E. Riley.

Chairman Forrester asked for the introduction of new board members and guests. Rep. Thayer introduced her replacement, Rep. West Cox, Chairman of the Anderson County Legislative Delegation. Chairman Forrester introduced Rep. Steven Long from Spartanburg. Mr. Pelissier introduced Rocky Burgess, the Mayor of Williamston, in Anderson County. Then, Mr. Pelissier introduced three returning members of the board who will now serve in their new role as Regional Members: George Fletcher, Henry Jolly, and Jane Hall.

Emily Thomas, a guest from SCDOT, will speak later in the meeting.

Chairman Forrester thanked retiring board members, Mack Durham, Rep. Roger Nutt, and Rep. Anne Thayer, and wished them well in their future endeavors. Mr. Pelissier added his appreciation for their loyalty and support. Outgoing board members will receive plaques as additional recognition for their time of service.

Data-Driven Highway Safety Analysis in the Appalachian Region

Chairman Forrester introduced Emily Thomas from SC Dept. of Transportation, who reported on Data-Driven Highway Safety Analysis. Ms. Thomas began her report by pointing out that South Carolina leads the nation in both fatalities, at approximately 1,000 per year, and serious injury crashes, at approximately 3,000 per year. She then provided data specific to the ACOG region. She highlighted statistics regarding roadway departure, the most common type of crash in the region. She also discussed types of roadways where these crashes occur and roadway departure countermeasures. Ms. Thomas provided information about intersection crashes including primary contributing factors and intersection countermeasures. Mr. Fletcher asked if South Carolina's ownership of so many roads, with a lack of funding for maintenance, could be a factor in some of the statistics mentioned. Ms. Thomas confirmed that this could be the case. Mr. Fletcher followed up by asking if adaptive stoplights were helping in our region. Ms. Thomas has not yet researched this subject. The extensive SC Strategic Highway Safety Plan is available online at SCDOT.org.

Annual Update of Transportation Safety Targets in the Appalachian Region

Chairman Forrester called on Butch Kirven to report on the Annual Update for Transportation Safety. Mr. Kirven stated that the Regional Transportation Committee received an update from SCDOT. ACOG had the choice of setting safety targets specific to our area or adopting and supporting statewide safety targets. The committee recommended that the ACOG adopt the SCDOT statewide safety targets in order to meet Federal Highway Administration guidelines. The motion from the committee was unanimously approved.

- **Action Item**

South Carolina 2021 Legislative Preview

Chairman Forrester asked Brooke Ferguson, Economic Development Director, to give the legislative update for the upcoming year. Ms. Ferguson gave an overview of items of interest to local governments. She discussed SCAC policy positions. She reported on a list of the Municipal Association's advocacy initiatives, as well as the Upstate Chamber Coalition's policy agenda. Then Ms. Ferguson explained items on the SCEDA Legislative Agenda.

December 4, 2020, Board Meeting Minutes and December 31, 2020, Financial Statement

Chairman Forrester recalled that the minutes from the last meeting had not yet been approved. He asked if there was a motion to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2020, board meeting. Mr. Ed Elliott noted that his name was left off the attendance. Chairman Forrester asked for approval of the minutes pending the correction of the members present. Mr. Don Godbey made a motion to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ed Elliott. The motion was approved unanimously. The financial statement was accepted as information.

Election of Board Officers to Serve a Term of April 2021 - March 2022

Chairman Forrester requested that Dennis Clairmont speak for the Nominating Committee. Mr. Clairmont presented the proposed officers for the term beginning April 2021: Mike Forrester, Chair, Rep. Neal Collins, Vice-Chair, and Cindy Wilson, Secretary. He asked if there were any other nominations. When no other nominations were put forward, Mr. Joe Dill moved that the nominations be closed. The motion was seconded by Mr. Don Godbey. The vote for the new slate of officers was carried unanimously.

- **Action Item**

Executive Director's Report

Chairman Forrester asked Mr. Steve Pelissier to provide the executive director's report. Mr. Pelissier asked Mr. Costner if Pickens County was ready to nominate a person for the Regional Board Member position from the county. Mr. Costner replied that they were in discussion with a potential member but would wait until the February meeting to make the nomination. Mr. Pelissier also reported the deaths of two former board members, Bob Nash and Gracie Floyd. Both members served ACOG for 12 years.

Member Reports

Chairman Forrester commented on Mayor Brandy Amidon's work in Travelers Rest. He was impressed with a recent Op-Ed she had written concerning the town, as well as with the growth and improvement in the area.

The next board meeting will be held on February 26, 2021, at 10:30 AM through Zoom.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 AM.

Mike Forrester, Chair

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