



MINUTES

APPALACHIAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2025 – 10:30 A.M.
COUNCIL BOARD ROOM WITH ZOOM OPTION
GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

Members Present:

Sen. Thomas Alexander, Bob Briggs, Rockey Burgess, Grady Butler, Rick Danner, Joe Dill, Ed Elliott, Mike Forrester, Don Godbey, Karry Guillory, Robert Halfacre, Laura Hinty, Rep. Brian Lawson, Claiborne Linvill, Ruth Littlejohn, E Riley

Guests Present:

Staff Present:

Chip Bentley, Brooke Ferguson, Jeff Guilbault, Steve Pelissier

Call to Order

Chairman Don Godbey called the meeting to order. All participants attended through Zoom. Mr. Bentley gave brief instructions on turning the mute button on and off for voting purposes.

Appalachian Region 2023-2027 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

Chairman Godbey, called on Economic Development Committee Chair, Rick Danner for an update. Mr. Danner requested that Ms. Ferguson present the 2025 CEDS Annual Performance Report for board approval. Ms. Ferguson highlighted demographic trends, economic development achievements, and labor market data for the region. She noted that population growth was modest, with Greenville County remaining the most populous, while employment increased slightly. The region saw significant capital investment and job creation. Ms. Ferguson also discussed challenges, including job losses from layoffs and closures, and mentioned ongoing research into barriers to workforce participation, with childcare being identified as a critical issue.

Ms. Ferguson reported on regional economic development and infrastructure, highlighting key achievements and challenges. She discussed rural infrastructure funding, small business growth, patent activity, and real estate market trends. She also mentioned that the planning team is working with multiple communities on various planning documents, and building permit activity is up across the region.

Chairman Godbey called for a vote on the committee's recommendation to accept the report. The vote was unanimous.

Action Item – Motion from the Committee – Unanimous Vote

The next board meeting will be on December 12, 2025, at 10:30 AM in the ACOG Board Room. Members may also attend through Zoom.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:54 AM.

Don Godbey, Chairman

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

