



MINUTES

APPALACHIAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 2022 – 10:30 A.M.
ZOOM MEETING
GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

Members Present:

Sen. Thomas Alexander, Brandy Amidon, Dennis Claramunt, Rep. Neal Collins, Roy Costner, Rep. West Cox, Joe Dill, Ed Elliott, John, Elliott, Ennis Fant, Ensley Feemster, Lillian Brock Flemming, George Fletcher, Mike Forrester, Sandra Gantt, Jane Hall, Henry Jolly, Ruth Littlejohn, Willis Meadows, Dana Moore, E. Riley, Terrence Roberts, Cindy Wilson

Guests Present:

Jenny Boulware, Brittany Chapman, Jeff Cunningham, Susan Cyr, Eric Dillon, Stephanie Jackson Amell, A. Patterson, Jason Zacher.

Staff Present:

Chip Bentley, John Chiles, Lance Estep, Trey Eubanks, Brooke Ferguson, Steve Pelissier, Arlene Young, Don Zimmer

Call to Order

Chairman Forrester called the meeting to order. Mr. Riley offered the invocation. Mr. Pelissier introduced guests, Jenny Boulware, Jason Zacher, Stephanie Jackson Amell, and Eric Dillon. He recognized a new board member, Sandra Gantt, who was appointed by the Anderson County Municipal Association and is a member of Pendleton Town Council. Mr. Pelissier introduced the new ACOG accountant, John Chiles, whose primary function is to work with the Aging Program. Chairman Forrester asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the December 3, 2021, board meeting. Mr. Ed Elliott made a motion to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Riley. The motion was approved unanimously. The financial statement was accepted as information.

Main Street South Carolina Program and Downtown Development Economic Incentives Toolkit

Chairman Forrester introduced Jenny Boulware, Main Street South Carolina Manager. Ms. Boulware explained the organization's approach to working with communities to grow their downtown economies and excel at redevelopment in their downtown districts. She discussed the process in detail and gave success highlights from several cities in South Carolina.

Annual Update of Transportation Safety Targets

Chairman Forrester called on Jane Hall, Committee Chair, and Lance Estep, Planning Director, to report on the recent Transportation Committee meeting. Mr. Estep reviewed the updated safety performance measures and targets. He also answered questions from the board. The Transportation Committee recommended the adoption of the statewide safety targets. The motion was approved unanimously.

Action Item

South Carolina Legislative Update

Chairman Forrester requested that Jason Zacher, Executive Director of the Upstate Chamber Coalition, give the SC Legislative update. Mr. Zacher went over the Chamber's recent successes and what to expect in the upcoming year. He discussed their state agenda for 2022. Brooke Ferguson also addressed legislative priorities of the SC Association of Counties, the Municipal Association of SC, and the SC Economic Development Association.

Nominations for Anderson and Pickens Counties Regional Board Members to Serve the January – December 2022 Term

Chairman Forrester called for nominations for Anderson and Pickens Counties for the January – December 2022 term for Regional Board Members. Ms. Wilson, from Anderson County, nominated Rockey Burgess. Mr. Costner relayed that Pickens County is continuing to talk with prospective members. Chairman Forrester approved the Anderson County nomination.

Action Item

Board Officer Nominating Committee Report

Chairman Forrester called on Dennis Claramunt, Committee Chair, to discuss the recent Nominating Committee meeting. Mr. Claramunt announced that the Nominating Committee recommended that the current officers serve another term: Mike Forrester, Chairman, Neal Collins, Vice-Chairman, and Cindy Wilson, Secretary. He asked for other nominations. After no other nominations were put forth, Mr. Riley made a motion to close the nominations. Mr. Dill seconded the motion. Mr. Fletcher made a motion to accept the Nominating Committee's recommendation

for the current officers to serve another term, January – December 2022. The motion was approved unanimously.

Action Item

Executive Director's Report

Chairman Forrester asked Mr. Pelissier to give the Executive Director's report. Mr. Pelissier explained that a requirement for regional board members is that they must have previously served on the ACOG board. Pickens County has had a few long-term members fill that role since the 1970's, making a replacement difficult to find.

The next board meeting will be held on February 25, 2022, at 10:30 AM in the ACOG Board Room. Members may also attend through Zoom.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:50 AM.

Mike Forrester, Chairman

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

