



MINUTES

APPALACHIAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 2022 – 10:30 A.M.

COUNCIL BOARD ROOM WITH ZOOM OPTION

GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

Members Present:

Brandy Amidon, Bob Briggs, Rockey Burgess, Rep. Mike Burns, David Cauthen, Dennis Claramunt, Rep. Neal Collins, Roy Costner, Rep. West Cox, Rick Danner, Joe Dill, Ed Elliott, Ennis Fant, Ensley Feemster, Lillian Brock Flemming, George Fletcher, Mike Forrester, Sandra Gantt, Don Godbey, Ray Graham, Robert Halfacre, Jane Hall, Henry Jolly, Butch Kirven, Ruth Littlejohn, Jack Mabry, Willis Meadows, Dana Moore, Charles Pinson, Brian Ramey, E. Riley, Jeff Roberts, Russell Stall, Cindy Wilson

Guests Present:

Chris Bailey, Shawn Bell, Susan Cyr, Joel Dill, Nanette Edwards, Warren Hart, Michael Herzberger, Mary Mason Jolly, Diane Lackey, Kit Scott, Jim Walden

Staff Present:

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

Call to Order

Chairman Forrester called the meeting to order. Mr. Riley offered the invocation. Mr. Pelissier introduced new board members, Mayor Brian Ramey of Westminster, Mayor Rick Danner of Greer, and Sandra Gantt of Pendleton. He explained that Greer had recently met the threshold of 25,000 residents and warranted a seat on the board. Mr. Pelissier then introduced guests who would speak later in the meeting. Chairman Forrester asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the February 25, 2022, board meeting. Mr. Riley made a motion to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Godbey. The motion was approved unanimously. The financial statement was accepted as information.



Recognition of ACOG Board Member and Employees

Chairman Forrester recognized board member Dana Moore, whose term is coming to an end. Mr. Forrester thanked him for his service in representing Oconee County over the past four (4) years. Two employees were acknowledged for their dedication and years of service to ACOG. Monica Ramm, in Grants Services, was awarded a plaque for five (5) years with ACOG, and Jennifer Vissage, in Planning Services, was awarded for twenty (20) years with the agency.

Broadband Opportunities in South Carolina

Chairman Forrester introduced Nanette Edwards, the executive director with the Office of SC Regulatory Staff, and Mike Herzberger, deputy director of the SC Broadband Office, to discuss broadband opportunities in South Carolina. Ms. Edwards gave an update on the status of broadband and discussed deploying it in the state. Mr. Herzberger reviewed the SCDigitalDrive.org website. He explained how counties can download broadband maps and data for planning, get GIS data, and use various survey tools. He explained how the data is frequently updated and kept relevant. Board members asked questions and gave examples of how broadband was being used in their communities.

Fountain Inn, Managing Growth and Development

Chairman Forrester asked Shawn Bell, City Administrator of Fountain Inn, to report on recent growth and development in the city. Mr. Bell gave information about the large population growth and showed a housing growth map. He discussed zoning changes and needs. He reported that a lot of investment was required in sewer rehabilitation. Mr. Bell discussed future plans for Fountain Inn and answered questions about what other towns could expect with rapid growth.

South Carolina Legislative Update

Chairman Forrester excused himself from the meeting early due to a scheduling conflict. Vice-Chairman Collins called on Brooke Ferguson, Economic Development Director, to update the board on legislative matters of interest to local governments. She reported that several members in leadership positions in the House will be retiring at the end of the current session. She gave highlights of the budget, which passed the House and will go to the Senate. Ms. Ferguson gave information about a proposed SCDHEC reorganization that would divide the agency into two parts. The two agencies would be called the Department of Environmental Services and the Department of Behavioral and Public Health.

Executive Director's Report

Vice-Chairman Collins asked Mr. Pelissier to give the Executive Director's report. Mr. Pelissier reported that the ACOG By-Laws state that officers' terms are April 1 – March 31 of each year. Chairman Forrester will make committee assignments at the April board meeting. He stated that



members who are good with their current assignments do not need to do anything. Returning members who would like to be considered for a change in assignments should contact Chairman Forrester or himself. New members will be contacted to identify the most appropriate roles for them to fill.

Member Reports

Mr. Costner brought flyers from the Pickens County Performing Arts Center on the play "Fried Apple Pies," based on a story he wrote 10 years ago about his wife's parents, Frank and Geneva Clouse of Liberty, SC. The show runs for two weekends beginning April 1, 2022.

The next board meeting will be held on April 22, 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 meetin
