



## MINUTES

**APPALACHIAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2020 – 10:30 A.M.  
ZOOM MEETING  
GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA**

**Members Present:**

Sen. Thomas Alexander, Brandy Amidon, David Cauthen, Larry Chappell, Dennis Claramunt, Rep. Neal Collins, Roy Costner, III, Joe Dill, Mack Durham, Ennis Fant, Sr., Ensley Feemster, Lillian Brock Flemming, Mike Forrester, Don Godbey, Ray Graham, Butch Kirven, Manning Lynch, Dana Moore, E Riley, Jeff Roberts, Terrence Roberts, Rep. Ann Thayer, Marta Wahlen, Cindy Wilson

**Guests Present:**

Connally Bradley, John Fargher, Marcy Loucks, Mark Williamson

**Staff Present:**

Chip Bentley, Brooke Ferguson, Steve Pelissier, Amanda Plumley, Tim Womack, Arlene Young, Don Zimmer

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

Chairman Forrester asked if there was a motion to approve the minutes of the October 25, 2020 board meeting. Ms. Wilson noted that the date on the minutes was incorrect. Chairman Forrester asked for approval of the minutes pending the correction of the date. Mr. 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.

Chairman Forrester recognized Amanda Plumley, Volunteer Ombudsman Coordinator, for 5 years of service. When Ms. Plumley began working with the Friendly Visitor Program, there was one volunteer. Now she has 42 volunteers. Her program is considered the best of its kind in South Carolina and she is often asked to train other volunteer coordinators. Chairman Forrester then recognized Don Zimmer, Finance Director, for 10 years of service. Mr. Zimmer is known for precisely tracking funds and always being in compliance with regulations. He is often asked to provide technical assistance and support for other COGs.



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## **Appalachian Council of Governments FY 2020 Audit Report**

Chairman Forrester introduced Marcy Loucks, CPA from McKinley, Cooper & Co. Ms. Loucks reviewed the independent auditor's report for the FY ending June 30, 2020. She pointed out the management's discussion and analysis section, explaining that it gives current and prior year comparisons showing any big changes. She also reviewed the financial statements. Ms. Loucks discussed the statement of activities including the income statement and the profit/loss statement, noting big changes in Aging Services this year. General discussion with Ms. Loucks concluded that ACOG has very little debt, current assets well exceed current liabilities. The main long-term liability that exists is the net pension. The board and Ms. Loucks also discussed the amount of depreciation listed due to the age of the building. ACOG qualifies as a low risk auditee due to strong accounting practices.

## **Appalachian Development Corporation Annual Report**

Chairman Forrester asked Connally Bradley, Executive Director of Appalachian Development Corporation (ADC), to provide a report on the status and current activities of the program. Mr. Bradley gave an overview of three small business lending programs offered: the Small Business Administration (SBA) 504 program and Appalachian Loan Funds (ALF) – ARC and USDA. He discussed the benefits of ADC financing and how the agency's funds are utilized. Mr. Bradley reviewed the different types of loans, terms of the loans and the types of businesses served. He explained how the ACOG's funds were used and showed examples of successful businesses that have received that funding.

## **Update on SC CDBG CARES Act Funding Opportunity**

Chairman Forrester called on Arlene Young, Grant Services Director, to give the grants report. Ms. Young reported that through the CARES Act, the state of South Carolina is receiving \$40 million for COVID mitigation related services and facilities. \$8 million has been set aside for new or increased Public Services Programs for non-CDBG entitlement areas around the state. \$858,483 is the allocation that entities in the ACOG region may apply for. Ms. Young discussed eligibility requirements and that applications will be accepted beginning March 1, 2021. \$3 million is available for Public Facilities to prepare, prevent, or respond to COVID. These funds are granted in a competitive cycle with an emphasis on schools. Ms. Young again discussed eligibility requirements and no bid applications that will be accepted beginning March 21, 2021. The SC Housing Authority will administer \$25 million to non-profits, public housing authorities, and government organizations to help with short term housing assistance. Agencies will need an updated community needs assessment including COVID information to apply for this grant. ACOG will be reaching out to eligible applicants to assist with this process. The above numbers reflect the actual amounts to be awarded minus administration fees.

### **By-Laws Amendment Discussion on Regional Board Members**

Chairman Forrester requested that Mr. Pelissier present the consideration of change to By-Laws regarding regional board members. The change proposes that all six counties be able to recommend a regional member to the board. Nominees must have previously been on the board, will serve for a 1 year term, and will be accepted or rejected by the Chair of the Board of Directors. There was discussion about the number of board members overall. The vote to change the By-Laws was unanimous. Mr. E. Riley abstained from the vote since he is a regional member.

Chairman Forrester called for nominations for regional board members for 2021. Spartanburg County nominated Jane Hall. Cherokee County nominated Henry Jolly. Greenville County nominated George Fletcher. Anderson County nominated Francis Crowder. Oconee County nominated E. Riley. Pickens County will hold their nomination until the January 2021 meeting. Chairman Forrester approved the five nominated members to the board.

### **Action Item**

#### **Executive Director's Report**

Chairman Forrester asked Steve Pelissier to provide the executive director's report. Mr. Pelissier called on Tim Womack to remind the board of the Senior Angel Tree Project discussed last month. Through the project, long-term care residents receive personal products, necessities and a special gift from their Christmas wish list. Mr. Womack discussed donation options. Due to multiple commitments, Representative Ann Thayer announced her resignation from the ACOG board. Representative West Cox will fill in for the rest of her term.

During the member's report, it was stated that economic development was growing in Spartanburg, Greenville, and Anderson.

The next board meeting will be held on January 22, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. through Zoom.

**There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:35 noon.**

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Representative Mike Forrester, Chairman

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

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