



MINUTES

APPALACHIAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
FRIDAY, AUGUST 23, 2024 – 10:30 A.M.
COUNCIL BOARD ROOM WITH ZOOM OPTION
GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

Members Present:

Tom Allen, Brandy Amidon, Rick Bradley, Bob Briggs, Rockey Burgess, Rep. Mike Burns, Grady Butler, Brooke Coleman, Roy Costner, Rep. April Cromer, Rick Danner, Joe Dill, Ed Elliott, Ensley Feemster, Lillian Brock Flemming, Mike Forrester, Don Godbey, Robert Halfacre, Jane Hall, Mickey Haney, Glenn Hart, Laura Hinty, Henry Jolly, Butch Kirven, Ruth Littlejohn, Saraí Melendez, Alan Mitchell, Charles Pinson, E Riley, Jeff Roberts, Terrence Roberts, Brett Sanders, Cindy Wilson

Guests Present:

Lee Bailey, David Clayton, Mike Donahue, Daniel Gambrell, Brandy Singleton, Jim Walden, Will Westmoreland, Yiyun Zou

Staff Present:

Chip Bentley, Kim Bridges, Trey Eubanks, Brooke Ferguson, Jill Francisco, Jeff Guilbault, Steve Pelissier, Jake Whitmire, Tim Womack, Arlene Young, Don Zimmer

Call to Order

Mr. Godbey called the meeting to order. Mr. Riley offered the invocation. Mr. Pelissier asked Ms. Wilson to introduce a new board member from Anderson County. She introduced Tom Allen, a former council member, who will serve as the citizen member representative. Mr. Pelissier also introduced guests and speakers. Mr. Godbey asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the June 28, 2024, board meeting. Mr. Riley made a motion to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Forrester. The motion was unanimously approved. There is no financial packet this month due to staff's year-end responsibilities. There will be two months of financial information in the September board packet.

Recognition of Employee Milestone Anniversary with ACOG

Mr. Godbey recognized Long-Term Care Ombudsman, Kim Bridges for 15 years of service with ACOG. He described how she knows her job well, is efficient, and works well with others in the community. The board expressed their gratitude and awarded her with a plaque for her service.

CU-ICAR

Mr. Godbey introduced Mr. David Clayton, the Executive Director of CU-ICAR. He presented an overview of the Clemson student experience and discussed the types of automotive engineering research and student programs at the innovation campuses. He explained how the program began and noted the job placement rate of graduates. He displayed a drone video tour showing students at work at the CU-ICAR and Greenville Tech engineering campuses. He answered questions about EV battery disposal and alternatives.

City of Woodruff, SC

Mr. Godbey called on Mr. Lee Bailey, City Manager of Woodruff, to provide information about the city's growth and positive momentum. Mr. Bailey discussed the significant residential growth and annexation of homes and acreage since 2016. The city has installed sewer and has planned for residential home growth. He discussed current projects such as building the new high school and a BMW plant. The city has improved downtown space and is building an athletic complex. He answered questions about the school, annexation and sewer, and the cost of infrastructure.

ARC Appalachian Leadership Institute

Mr. Godbey introduced Mr. Will Westmoreland and Ms. Brandy Singleton, who represented South Carolina in the last class of the Appalachian Leadership Institute. Mr. Westmoreland gave a brief overview of the leadership program and noted that the next application deadline is April 7, 2025. He stated that they recommend that future applicants get in touch with previous attendees. He and Ms. Singleton discussed the benefits of the program and the benefits of traveling to different areas in the Appalachian region. They both gave personal reflections on how the course changed their visions for the future.

SC Brownfields Environmental Testing (BEST) Program Applications

Mr. Godbey stated that the Economic Development Committee had met to discuss the BEST application and requested that Ms. Francisco, Grants Senior Project Manager, present the information to the board. She explained how the funds would be used for environmental assessment for a site that the City of Chesnee is seeking to redevelop into a farmer's market. The Economic Development Committee recommended approval of the BEST Application for the City of Chesnee. Mr. Godbey called for a vote. The motion was unanimously approved.

In addition, Ms. Francisco stated that the EPA Brownfield Coalition has \$1.2 million in funding for Brownfield Environmental Testing. She asked the board to help identify target sites and to contact her if they had a possible project. Projects must be submitted in November.

Action Item

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Update

Mr. Godbey called on Ms. Jane Hall, Regional Transportation Committee Chair, to provide an update on the TIP. Ms. Hall stated that the committee had met twice in the last month and asked Mr. Bentley, Deputy Executive Director, to present the information to the board. Mr. Bentley gave an overview of the resurfacing project of US-178 that involved Pickens and Anderson Counties. He explained that in June, ACOG was notified by SCDOT that the cost estimate increased by \$16.4 million. The committee discussed three options, then came up with a fourth and final option. Mr. Bentley explained all options to the board and answered questions. The Regional Transportation Committee recommended approving allocated funds to proceed with the Pickens County section and allocating \$5 million in Regional Mobility funds to apply to a yet to be determined section of the Anderson County portion of US-178. Mr. Godbey called for a vote. The motion was unanimously approved.

Action Item

Executive Director Report

Mr. Godbey asked Mr. Pelissier to give the Executive Director's report. Mr. Pelissier explained that the SC Department on Aging software has been replaced. However, the system is not working. This is a concern because the Aging Services' reports needed to request federal funding through the state are generated with this software. ACOG took funds out of the general fund balance to pay vendors until the Aging Services federal funds are received.

The SCARC (SCCOG) Conference will be November 24-26, 2024, in Myrtle Beach. This is the conference for board members of all 10 COGs in South Carolina. Registration information will be sent in mid-September.

Member Updates

Ms. Littlejohn invited everyone to visit the new dog park in downtown Spartanburg.

Mayor Burgess invited everyone to visit the Spring Water Festival in Williamston.

The next board meeting will be held on September 27, 2024, at 10:30 AM in the ACOG Board Room.



Members may also attend through Zoom.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:10 PM.

Don Godbey, Secretary

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

