



MINUTES

**APPALACHIAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2025 – 10:30 A.M.
COUNCIL BOARD ROOM WITH ZOOM OPTION
GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA**

Members Present:

Bill Blanton, Rep. Mike Burns, Garey Collins, Rick Danner, Grant DeShields, Joe Dill, Ed Elliott, Ensley Feemster, Lillian Brock Flemming, Mike Forrester, Don Godbey, Karry Guillory, Jane Hall, Glenn Hart, Laura Hinty, Henry Jolly, Claiborne Linvill, Ruth Littlejohn, Sherry Marrah, Sarai Melendez, Alan Mitchell, E Riley, Jeff Roberts, Terence Roberts, Brett Sanders, Cindy Wilson

Guests Present:

Jake Beatty, Joel Dill, Daniel Gambrell, Charlie Hall, Matt Phillips

Staff Present:

Chip Bentley, Brooke Ferguson, Jill Francisco, Jeff Guilbault, Steve Pelissier, Amanda Plumley, Jake Whitmire, Don Zimmer

Call to Order

Chairman Don Godbey called the meeting to order. Mr. Riley offered the invocation. Mr. Pelissier introduced the speakers and guests. Chairman Godbey asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 26, 2025, board meeting. Mr. Forrester made a motion to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Riley. The motion was unanimously approved.

Recognition of an Employee's Milestone Anniversary at ACOG

Chairman Godbey recognized two staff members for their long-term service. Amanda Plumley, Volunteer Ombudsman Program Coordinator, received a 10-year service award and Don Zimmer, Finance Director, received a 15-year service award. Chairman Godbey presented them with plaques for their dedicated service.

Nominations for 2026 Regional Board Members

Mr. Riley made a motion to move the regional board member nominations to the top of the agenda since a participating board member needed to leave early. Mr. Garey Collins seconded the motion. Chairman Godbey asked for Regional Board Member nominations from each county. The term for regional members is one year. Cindy Wilson, from Anderson County, nominated Rockey Burgess. Bill Blanton, from Cherokee County, nominated Henry Jolly. Rep. Mike Burns, from Greenville County, nominated Joe Dill. Glenn Hart, from Oconee County, nominated E Riley. Robert Halfacre, from Pickens County, nominated Ensley Feemster in writing. Mike Forrester, from Spartanburg County, nominated Jane Hall. Chairman Godbey approved all appointments of the regional nominees to the board.

Action Item – Chairman Appointments

ACOG FY 2025 Annual Audit

Chairman Godbey called on Mr. Matt Phillips, Shareholder of Phillips CPAs and Advisors to present the independent audit report. He thanked Don Zimmer and the finance staff for their extra work in their audit preparation. Mr. Phillips explained the independent auditor’s report and issued an unmodified opinion. He reviewed the details of the government fund, general fund and the special revenue fund. No findings, significant deficiencies, or material weaknesses were noted.

Upstate Warrior Solution

Chairman Godbey asked Mr. Charlie Hall, Upstate Warrior Solution President, to provide an overview of the organization. Mr. Hall explained that Upstate Warrior Solution (UWS) serves veterans, their families, and first responders in ten counties in the upstate through a holistic case management using key partnerships. He discussed his outreach in detention centers and answered questions about funding sources and the building location.

Rebuild Upstate

Chairman Godbey introduced Mr. Jake Beaty, Chief Executive Officer of Rebuild Upstate. Mr. Beaty provided an overview of the organization’s history and mission and discussed the cost effectiveness of home repairs compared to new construction. He noted that the ACOG is Rebuild Upstate’s longest-standing contract grant partner, beginning in 2013, and that the partnership accounts for more than half of the homes repaired. He announced that, due to recent growth, Rebuild Upstate plans to expand services into Spartanburg County in 2026.

Annual Update of Transportation Safety Targets

Chairman Godbey introduced Jake Whitmire, ACOG Transportation Planner. At the request of Ms. Jane Hall, Transportation Committee Chair, Mr. Whitmire gave an update on three Corridor

Studies in the TIP. He explained that the US-29 Corridor Study in Anderson County was completed in July. The Transportation Committee recommended that the SC105 Corridor Study in Cherokee County be postponed due to the recent closure of Limestone College, with the US-123 Corridor Study in Oconee County being expanded to include Westminster. Chairman Godbey called for a vote on the committee's recommendation. The vote was unanimous.

Action Item – Motion from the Committee – Unanimous Vote

Executive Director's Report

Chairman Godbey asked Mr. Pelissier to give the Executive Director's report. Mr. Pelissier commended the staff for their work organizing a successful SCCOG Conference in Myrtle Beach. He thanked Mr. Forrester for serving as SCCOG president and conference host.

Member Updates

Ms. Littlejohn reported that a groundbreaking ceremony was held yesterday for the new Spartanburg Joint Government Center, which will house both city and county staff.

Ms. Marrah invited everyone to the Travelers Rest parade.

The next board meeting will be on February 27, 2026, at 10:30 AM through Zoom.

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

