



MINUTES

APPALACHIAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
FRIDAY, JUNE 28, 2024 – 10:30 A.M.
COUNCIL BOARD ROOM WITH ZOOM OPTION
GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

Members Present:

Sen. Thomas Alexander, Brandy Amidon, Rick Bradley, Bob Briggs, Rep. Mike Burns, Grady Butler, David Cauthen, Brooke Coleman, Rep. Neal Collins, Roy Costner, Rick Danner, Joe Dill, Ed Elliott, Lillian Brock Flemming, Mike Forrester, Vince Gaulin, Britt Gillespie, Don Godbey, Robert Halfacre, Jane Hall, Glenn Hart, Laura Hinty, Butch Kirven, Rep. Brian Lawson, Ruth Littlejohn, Alan Mitchell, Charles Pinson, E Riley, Terrence Roberts, Russell Stall, Bob Walker, Cindy Wilson

Guests Present:

Adam Bodner, Joel Dill, Daniel Gambrell, LaToya Grate-Adams, Darren Ledbetter, Catherine Min, Angie Omer, Roy Tolson, Colin Trend

Staff Present:

Chip Bentley, Trey Eubanks, Brooke Ferguson, Jill Francisco, Jeff Guilbault, Shelly Mitchell, Steve Pelissier, Jake Whitmire, Arlene Young, Don Zimmer

Call to Order

Chairman Collins called the meeting to order. He shared that board member, Mr. Dennis Claramunt, passed away. Mr. Riley called for a moment of silence then offered the invocation. Mr. Pelissier introduced guests and speakers. Chairman Collins asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the May 24, 2024, board meeting. Mr. Godbey made a motion to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Briggs. The motion was unanimously approved. The financial statement was accepted as information.

Recognition of Employee Milestone Anniversary with ACOG

Chairman Collins recognized the Aging Grants Manager, Shelly Mitchell, for 5 years of service with ACOG. He described how she coordinates with Finance, Aging Services, and funders to ensure that the aging program runs smoothly. The board expressed their gratitude and awarded her with a plaque for her service.

Regional Transportation Updates

Chairman Collins introduced Ms. LaToya Grate-Adams, the Statewide Transportation Planning Administrator with SCDOT. She explained that the Long-Range Transportation Plan will be undergoing a complete re-write. She asked the board to take a survey and passed out information to help share the survey information with others. The group watched a video on Momentum 2050, the statewide plan on transportation improvement efforts.

Mr. Chip Bentley presented information to the board about upcoming changes to a TIP project. The cost of the resurfacing project on Highway 178 in Anderson County has changed from \$13 million to \$28 million. There were questions and discussion from the board.

ACOG FY 2025 Work Program

Chairman Collins asked Mr. Pelissier to give an overview of the FY 2025 Work Program. He summarized the services provided by each department, program objectives, current projects, and future plans for FY 2025. There was a motion from the Executive Committee to approve the ACOG FY 2025 Work Program. Chairman Collins called for a vote. The motion was unanimously approved.

Action Item

Personnel Committee Report

Mr. Pelissier gave an overview of the current organizational structure. He explained that fringe has increased at a greater rate than salary and discussed the reasons. This year there are no changes in ACOG positions and salary table.

The Personnel Committee recommended action to three (3) proposed amendments to personnel policies.

The Personnel Committee recommended changing the title of Section 2-13 to New Employee Related Expenses, raising the maximum eligible reimbursement for new employees to \$2,500, and adding clauses to the policy to allow reimbursement for COBRA expenses, as well as other items

that may arise on a discretionary basis. Chairman Collins called for a vote. The motion was unanimously approved.

The Personnel Committee recommended amending Section 5-9 of the policy manual to delete the requirement that employees provide documentation of actual time served on a jury and deleting the requirement that employees must surrender their jury payment to the agency. Chairman Collins called for a vote. The motion was unanimously approved.

The Personnel Committee recommended amending paragraph 1 of Section 8-9.2 of the policy manual to associate reimbursement to credit hours, adding related course fees as eligible for reimbursement, and increasing the maximum eligible reimbursement from \$3,000 per fiscal year to \$5,000 per fiscal year. Chairman Collins called for a vote. The motion was unanimously approved.

The Personnel Committee recommended that employees be provided with the opportunity to earn a 4% merit increase in FY 2025. Chairman Collins called for a vote. The motion was unanimously approved.

As discussed at the Executive Committee meeting, Personnel Committee members stated that they would like to see more effort put into recruiting minority employees. Mr. Pelissier explained his plan to explore the best practices of like agencies and will report back with information at the August board meeting.

Action Item

Finance Committee Report

Chairman Collins asked Mr. Feemster, Finance Committee Chair, and Mr. Pelissier to report on the Finance Committee meeting. Mr. Pelissier reported on the 2024 budget, projected revenue and expenses, the current fund balance, as well as the planned use of the excess funds. The Finance Committee recommended 1.) authorizing staff to use excess funds for minor building renovations, the purchase of furniture, computer server replacement, and parking lot repairs. 2.) that the entire Revenue Over Expenditure amount for FY 2024 be assigned to the Facility Related Reserve. Chairman Collins called for a vote. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Pelissier reviewed the proposed FY 2025 budget, capital items, and budget analysis. The Finance Committee recommended the adoption of the proposed FY 2025 budget, including the schedules for Capital, and Consulting and Outside Services. Chairman Collins called for a vote. The motion was unanimously approved.

Action Item

Legislative Report

Chairman Collins requested that Brooke Ferguson provide the board with the legislative report. Ms. Ferguson stated that 228 bills have been signed into law. She reported that the \$13 billion state budget has been approved. She reviewed budget highlights including items related to education, transportation, infrastructure, tourism, elections, and veterans. Ms. Ferguson offered to check on any other items of interest to board members.

Executive Director Report

Chairman Collins asked Mr. Pelissier to give the Executive Director's report. Mr. Pelissier introduced a guest, Angie Omer, from Senator Graham's office, who arrived after initial introductions were made. Ms. Omer stated that Senator Graham's office was busy working on the budget. ACOG staff will email information about the funeral arrangements for Mr. Claramunt. There will be no board meeting in July.

Member Updates

Chairman Collins thanked Roy Costner and Butch Kirven for their service to the board. Both of their terms will end soon.

Ms. Littlejohn invited everyone to visit the Red, White, and Boom Fourth of July celebration in Spartanburg.

The next board meeting will be held on August 23, 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 11:55 AM.

Rep. Neal A. Collins, Chairman

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

