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## MINUTES

**APPALACHIAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
FRIDAY, JUNE 25, 2021 – 10:30 A.M.  
SENIOR ACTION WITH ZOOM MEETING OPTION  
GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

**Members Present:**

Brandy Amidon, Rockey Burgess, Grady Butler, David Cauthen, Dennis Claramunt, Rep. Neal Collins, Francis Crowder, Joe Dill, Ed Elliott, Ennis Fant, Sr., Ensley Feemster, Lillian Brock Flemming, George Fletcher, Mike Forrester, Don Godbey, Ray Graham, Jane Hall, Henry Jolly, Butch Kirven, Ruth Littlejohn, Jack Mabry, Willis Meadows, Dana Moore, Tom Ponder, E Riley, Terence Roberts, Russell Stall, Dennis Stroupe, Mildred Tillerson, Cindy Wilson

**Guests Present:**

Joe Davenport, Joel Dill, Eric Dillon, Stephanie Jackson-Amell, Connie Munn, Andrea Smith

**Staff Present:**

Chip Bentley, Anne-Marie Coogler, Trey Eubanks, Brooke Ferguson, Mia Fuller, Melissa Hanna, Steve Pelissier, Ben Whitaker, Christiana Wilson, Tim Womack, Arlene Young, Don Zimmer

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**Call to Order**

Chairman Forrester called the meeting to order. The invocation was offered by E. Riley. Mr. Pelissier introduced guests and four (4) new Aging Services staff members: Anne-Marie Coogler, Melissa Hanna, Ben Whitaker, and Christiana Wilson. Chairman Forrester asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the May 28, 2021 board meeting. Don Godbey made a motion to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by E. Riley. The motion was approved unanimously. The financial statement was accepted as information.

**Senior Action's Innovative Initiative for Providing Services**

Chairman Forrester introduced Connie Munn, Director of SC Department on Aging. Ms. Munn spoke of the past challenges, current standing, and the future of the Department on Aging. She discussed the impact of the senior population boom. Ms. Munn encouraged the board members to visit [www.aging.sc.gov](http://www.aging.sc.gov) to see the new state funding formula and the state 4-year plan.

Mr. Womack then introduced Andrea Smith, Director of Senior Action. Ms. Smith spoke about how the change in her business model has brought success to the agency. She explained how Senior Action bought a shopping center and recruited tenants to pay rent in the available space. The income pays for Senior Action programs. She described the new center for the age 55 and older population, including the fine arts center and credentialed instructors. Ms. Smith answered many questions from board members about the program, including membership fees, meals, facility services, hours of service, area of service, and transportation.

### **ACOG FY 2022 Work Program**

Chairman Forrester called on Mr. Pelissier to present the 2022 Work Program. He reviewed activities and established priorities for the upcoming year. He discussed available services and functions of the agency. Mr. Pelissier gave other highlights including recent, current, and future projects. Copies of the complete Work Program were provided to the board members prior to the meeting. The Executive Committee recommended that the board approve the ACOG 2022 Work Program. Chairman Forrester called for a vote. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **Action Item**

#### **Personnel Committee Report**

Chairman Forrester asked Mr. Riley, Personnel Committee Chair, and Mr. Pelissier to provide the Personnel Committee Report. Mr. Pelissier gave an overview of the current organization structure and staffing. He also reported on the demographic breakdown of the staff. With the reorganization of the ACOG administrative team, there is a recommendation from the Personnel Committee to reclassify the Administrative Assistant's salary grade from grade 3 to grade 5. Chairman Forrester called for a vote. The motion was approved unanimously. The Personnel Committee also recommended three new positions: a Community and Regional Planner, Family Caregiver Support Advocate, and Office Assistant (Part-Time). Chairman Forrester called for a vote. The motion was approved unanimously. The Personnel Committee recommended eliminating the Office Manager position. Chairman Forrester called for a vote. The motion was approved unanimously. Mr. Pelissier reviewed considerations for giving ACOG employees merit increases. The Personnel Committee recommended a 2% merit increase in FY 2022, with discretion given to the executive director to award an addition 1% for especially meritorious service. Chairman Forrester called for a vote. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **Action Item**

### **Finance Committee Report**

Mr. Pelissier reported on April 30, 2021, revenues and expenses. He discussed reasons and plans for the excess of revenue. The Finance Committee recommended that the Building Maintenance and Repair Reserve be renamed Facility Related Reserve and the entire FY 2021 over expenditure amount be assigned to it. Mr. Forrester called for a vote. The motion was approved unanimously. Mr. Pelissier reviewed the proposed FY 2022 budget. The Finance Committee recommended the adoption of the proposed ACOG FY 2022 budget. Chairman Forrester called for a vote. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **Action Item**

#### **SC 2021 Legislative Report**

Chairman Forrester introduced Brooke Ferguson, who gave the Legislative Report. Ms. Ferguson reported that the state budget had not been officially approved yet. She gave details on areas of interest in the budget. Ms. Ferguson answered questions from board members.

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

Chairman Forrester asked Mr. Pelissier to give the Executive Director's report. Due to COVID-19, this was the first in-person meeting to be able to offer gifts of appreciation. Past Chair, Joe Dill, and Board Member, Henry Jolly, received gifts in appreciation for their service. Expense forms were available for board members. A tour of Senior Action was given after the meeting.

There will be no board meeting in July.

**The next board meeting will be held on August 27, 2021, at 10:30 AM** at the Spark Center in Spartanburg. Members may also attend through Zoom. The board packet sent prior to the August meeting will include directions to the meeting location as well as a Zoom link.

**There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:45 AM.**

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Mike Forrester, Chairman

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

