



MINUTES

APPALACHIAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 2023 – 10:30 A.M.
COUNCIL BOARD ROOM WITH ZOOM OPTION
GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

Members Present:

Chris Bowers, Rick Bradley, Bob Briggs, David Cauthen, Dennis Claramunt, Rep. Neal Collins, Roy Costner, Joe Dill, Ed Elliot, Ennis Fant, Ensley Feemster, Lillian Brock Flemming, Mike Forrester, Don Godbey, Britt Gillespie, Robert Halfacre, Rep. Rosalyn Henderson-Myers, Henry Jolly, Butch Kirven, Jack Mabry, Alan Mitchell, Charles Pinson, E Riley, Jeff Roberts, Terrence Roberts, Brett Sanders, Mildred Tillerson, Marta Wahlen, Bob Walker, Cindy Wilson

Guests Present:

Connally Bradley, Reno Deaton, Joel Dill, Daniel Gambrell, William McCoy

Staff Present:

Chip Bentley, Trey Eubanks, Brooke Ferguson, Jill Francisco, Steve Pelissier, Amanda Williams, Tim Womack, Arlene Young, Don Zimmer

Call to Order

Chairman Forrester called the meeting to order. Mr. Riley offered the invocation. Mr. Pelissier introduced the speakers and guests in attendance. Chairman Forrester asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the February 24, 2023, board meeting. Mr. Riley made a motion to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ed Elliott. The motion was unanimously approved. The financial statement was accepted as information.

Recognition of an Employee Celebrating a Milestone Anniversary with ACOG

Chairman Forrester recognized Amanda Williams for five years of service with ACOG. Ms. Williams is a passionate and dedicated employee who has been among the top performing Aging Services Assessors across the state since she began working with the agency.



Clemson University Rutland Institute for Ethics

Chairman Forrester introduced Dr. William McCoy, Director of the Clemson University Rutland Institute for Ethics. Dr. McCoy gave an overview of the institute, board, faculty, and the student CHANGE group. He explained the STAR (Stop, Test, Act, Reflect) decision-making model and gave examples of ethical decision-making skills according to cultural and societal standards. Dr. McCoy had the board participate in an activity by considering an ethical issue using the STAR model.

Greer Development Corporation

Chairman Forrester asked Reno Deaton, Executive Director of Greer Development Corporation (GDC), to speak about upcoming business initiatives in Greer. Mr. Deaton gave an overview of current businesses in Greer and the growth of the residential population. He spoke about GDC's primary goal of entrepreneurship and innovation by focusing on elevating opportunities for small businesses. Mr. Deaton handed out a flyer and presented information on several programs for small business owners and entrepreneurs, each with a different focus. Businesses from other communities in the state are welcome to attend.

Appalachian Development Corporation Update

Chairman Forrester called on Connally Bradley, Executive Director of the Appalachian Development Corporation (ADC). Mr. Bradley reviewed the benefits and proceeds of ADC's two programs, the SBA 504 Program and the Appalachian Loan Funds (ALF). He showed the typical loan structure and data on loan activity. Mr. Bradley provided examples of successful businesses funded by the loans.

South Carolina Legislative Report

Chairman Forrester requested that Brooke Ferguson provide the board with the legislative report. Ms. Ferguson stated that six bills have been signed into law. She reported that the House passed the budget of \$38.8 billion and referred it to the Senate Finance Committee. She gave highlights of what the budget entails.

Executive Director's Report

Chairman Forrester asked Mr. Pelissier to present the Executive Director's report. Mr. Pelissier reminded the elected officials that March 31st is the deadline to file the required Ethics Statement. New board committee appointments will be made at the April board meeting. If members have committee preferences, they should let the Chairman or the Executive Director know. Mr. Pelissier noted that ACOG will have more information about ARPA funds through the SC Rural Infrastructure Authority in early May. He also explained that the Central Midlands COG is



experiencing a change in leadership. He will be traveling to Columbia several times in the next couple of months to work with the interim director and their board.

Board Chair Remarks

Chairman Forrester shared some experiences from his years as Board Chair and thanked staff and board members for their work. Vice-Chairman Collins thanked Chairman Forrester for his work and leadership for the past three years at ACOG. Mr. Bentley and Mr. Pelissier presented Chairman Forrester with a plaque honoring him for his service.

The next board meeting will be held on April 28, 2023 at 10:30 AM in the ACOG Board Room. Members may also attend through Zoom.

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

Mike Forrester, Chairman

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

