



## MINUTES

**APPALACHIAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
FRIDAY, MAY 27, 2022 – 10:30 A.M.  
COUNCIL BOARD ROOM WITH ZOOM OPTION  
GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

**Members Present:**

Brandy Amidon, Bob Briggs, Rep. Mike Burns, David Cauthen, Dennis Claramunt, Rep. Neal Collins, Roy Costner, Rick Danner, Joe Dill, Ed Elliott, Ensley Feemster, George Fletcher, Mike Forrester, Sandra Gantt, Robert Halfacre, Jane Hall, Henry Jolly, Ruth Littlejohn, Willis Meadows, Fletcher Perry, Charles Pinson, E. Riley, Russell Stall, Cindy Wilson

**Guests Present:**

Joel Dill, Angela Farmer, Daniel Gambrell, John Lummus, Addie Patterson

**Staff Present:**

Chip Bentley, Missy Craven, Lance Estep, Trey Eubanks, Brooke Ferguson, Oladipo Oladapo, Steve Pelissier, Tim Womack, Arlene Young, Don Zimmer

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**Call to Order**

Chairman Forrester called the meeting to order. Mr. Riley offered the invocation. Mr. Pelissier introduced guests who would speak later in the meeting. Chairman Forrester asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the April 22, 2022, board meeting. Rep. Burns made a motion to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ed Elliott. The motion was approved unanimously. The financial statement was accepted as information.

**Introduction of Recently Hired Employees**

Chairman Forrester asked Brooke Ferguson, Economic Development Director, to introduce new employee, Oladipo Oladapo. Originally from Nigeria, he recently moved here from Kentucky to serve as an Economic Development Specialist. Tim Womack, Aging Services Director, introduced

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Missy Craven, Family Caregiver Advocate. She is from Easley, SC and brings vast experience in the human services field.

### **Behavioral Health Services of Pickens County (BHHSPC)**

Chairman Forrester introduced Angela Farmer, Executive Director of Behavioral Health Services of Pickens County. She stated that the agency focuses on substance abuse and behavioral health prevention, intervention, and treatment services. She explained the organization's assessment process and noted that BHHSPC is one of the only behavioral health services organizations that provides these services on a sliding scale fee. Ms. Farmer reviewed different types of treatment services offered and stated that they serve as a community distributor for NARCAN. She explained the prevention services and highlighted their successful for kids by kids podcast called "...but they don't". Ms. Farmer concluded by speaking about research, referral sources, and funding for the agency's programs.

### **Upstate SC Alliance**

Chairman Forrester called on John Lummus, President and CEO of Upstate SC Alliance. Mr. Lummus gave an update on the ten county regional upstate economic development public/private partnership. He presented statistics on job growth and discussed the positive attributes that enable Upstate SC Alliance to market Greenville and the state of South Carolina as pro-business environments. Mr. Lummus described how the Upstate is welcoming smaller projects and serving as a landing pad for those businesses. He also stated that in addition to connecting employers to talent, their website now gives job training and funding information.

### **Regional Transportation Advisory Committee**

Chairman Forrester asked Committee Member, Butch Kirven and Planning Director, Lance Estep to update the board on the recent Transportation Advisory Committee meeting. Mr. Estep explained that the committee voted to recommend approval of three amendments to the Regional TIP (Transportation Improvement Program). Funding levels will be adjusted to add a right of way phase to the US 178 Resurfacing Project in Anderson County and Pickens County, remove the US 178 at SC135 Intersection project, and add funding for the Appalachian Regional Model (ARM) Update. Chairman Forrester called for a vote. The board voted unanimously to approve the TIP amendment recommendations from committee.

### **South Carolina Legislative Report**

Chairman Forrester called on Brooke Ferguson, Economic Development Director, to update the board on legislative matters of interest to local governments. She gave an overview of the number of bills signed and reviewed a list of bills of interest. Ms. Ferguson highlighted several workforce and economic development bills.



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

Chairman Forrester asked Mr. Pelissier to give the Executive Director's report. Mr. Pelissier announced that there will be an Executive Committee Retreat will be on Friday, June 10, at 9:30 at the ACOG office. The FY 2023 Work Program, personnel items, building plans, and the budget will be discussed. All board members are welcome to attend. He reported that the Federal Co-Chair of the Appalachian Regional Commission, Gayle Manchin, will be visiting the Upstate on June 13-16. Arlene Young is working with the state on Ms. Manchin's itinerary.

**The next board meeting will be held on June 24, 2022, at 10:30 AM in the ACOG Board Room. Members may also attend through Zoom.**

**There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:00 PM.**

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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

