# MINUTES

## APPALACHIAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2021 – 10:30 A.M.

ZOOM MEETING

GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

### Members Present:

Brandy Amidon, Grady Butler, Larry Chappell, Dennis Claramunt, Rep. Neal Collins, Rep. West Cox, Joe Dill, Ed Elliott, John Elliott, Ennis Fant, Sr., George Fletcher, Mike Forrester, Ray Graham, Jane Hall, Henry Jolly, Butch Kirven, Willis Meadows, Tom Ponder, E. Riley, Terrence Roberts, Cindy Wilson

### Guests Present:

Seth Blanton, John Caime, Eric Dillon, Melissa Fair, Jim Taylor

### Staff Present:

Chip Bentley, Tiffany Bland, Kim Bridges, Pam Eaker, Lance Estep, Trey Eubanks, Brooke Ferguson, Jeff Guilbault, Steve Pelissier, Tim Womack, Arlene Young, Don Zimmer

### Call to Order

Chairman Forrester called the meeting to order. Mr. E. Riley spoke kind words about two (2) board members, Mr. Francis Crowder and Mr. Larry Bagwell, who recently passed away. Followed by a moment of silence, Mr. Riley then offered the invocation. Mr. Pelissier introduced guests: Eric Dillon and Melissa Fair. Chairman Forrester asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the August 27, 2021, board meeting. Mr. Ed Elliott made a motion to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Riley. The motion was approved unanimously. The year-end financial statement was accepted as information.

### Introduction of New ACOG Employees

Chairman Forrester asked for the introduction of new employees. Mr. Bentley introduced Community and Regional Planner, Jeffrey Guilbault. Mr. Womack introduced two (2) new Aging Services Assessors, Cindy O’Neal and Kristie Gunterman.

### Recognition of an Employee who has Recently Celebrated a Milestone Anniversary with ACOG

Chairman Forrester recognized Information and Referral Assistance Specialist, Tiffany Bland, for five (5) years of service with ACOG. She is a vital part of a busy team and is greatly appreciated. She will be given a plaque of recognition by the Executive Director.

### Furman University Institute for the Advancement of Community Health

Chairman Forrester introduced Melissa Fair, Community Action Director for the Furman University Institute for the Advancement of Community Health (IACH). Ms. Fair reported that the IACH is devoted to optimizing health and improving quality of life. There are three (3) major divisions of the institute: Community Health Education Program; Community Action Research and Evaluation Team; and Center for Community Health Conversations. Ms. Fair gave an overview of the divisions and then spoke in depth about the Community Action Research areas. She explained that the institute researches major health issues such as obesity, prenatal care, and substance use, and then identity funding streams to facilitate community grants and programs.

### ARPA – American Rescue Plan Act Update

Chairman Forrester asked Trey Eubanks, Government Services Director, to give an update on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Mr. Eubanks reviewed the stipulations for the $350 billion to be issued to state and local governments to combat the public health and economic impacts of COVID-19. He focused on the Interim Final Rule, which is the framework for a project’s eligibility. It gives definitions and specifics for eligible uses of funds and the restrictions of funds. He also pointed out the FAQ section of the US Treasury website SLRFP@treasury.gov . This site helps to identify eligible project questions and gives many examples. Mr. Eubanks stated that Fiscal Recovery Funds may be used with the broadest discretion to replace lost revenue. He presented the Revenue Loss Formula given by the Municipal Association. ARPA funds may be used for eligible costs incurred March 3, 2021-December 31, 2024. Funds must be expended by December 31, 2026. Unused funds must be returned to the US Treasury. Mr. Eubanks discussed reporting requirements for funds received. He shared advice from the General Finance Officers Association on how to use temporary funds like ARPA.

###  Proposed Budget Amendment for the Purchase of Three Vehicles

Chairman Forrester called on the Finance Committee to discuss the proposal of new vehicles. Mr. Pelissier reported that due to the age and mileage of some of the current ACOG fleet, that three (3) new vehicles are needed. The Finance Committee recommended that the budget be amended to allow the purchase of three (3) new vehicles for a total of $90,000. Chairman Forrester called for a vote. The motion was approved unanimously.

Action Item

### Executive Director’s Report

Chairman Forrester asked Mr. Pelissier to give the Executive Director’s report. Mr. Pelissier reported that the SCARC conference, held in Myrtle Beach in November, has been cancelled due to COVID-19.

The next board meeting will be held on October 22, 2021,at 10:30 AM at the GSP Airport, Greer. Members may also attend through Zoom. The board packet sent prior to the October meeting will include directions to the meeting location and parking instructions, as well as a Zoom link.

#### There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 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.