# MINUTES

## APPALACHIAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2022 – 10:30 A.M.

COUNCIL BOARD ROOM WITH ZOOM OPTION

GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

### Members Present:

Brandy Amidon, Bob Briggs, Rockey Burgess, Rep. Mike Burns, Dennis Claramunt, Rep. Neal Collins, Rick Danner, Joe Dill, Ed Elliott, Ensley Feemster, Lillian Brock Flemming, George Fletcher, Sandra Gantt, Don Godbey, Robert Halfacre, Jane Hall, Henry Jolly, Butch Kirven, Ruth Littlejohn, Jack Mabry, Willis Meadows, Fletcher Perry, Charles Pinson, Brian Ramey, Jeff Roberts, Russell Stall, Mildred Tillerson, Cindy Wilson

### Guests Present:

Carissa Cochrane, Michael Corley, Susan Cyr, Joe Davenport, Dee Dee Dill, Joel Dill, Ben Duncan, Daniel Gambrell, Mary Mason Jolly

### Staff Present:

Chip Bentley, Lance Estep, Trey Eubanks, Brooke Ferguson, Jill Francisco, Michael Kelley, Steve Pelissier, Kim Reyes, Arlene Young, Don Zimmer

### Call to Order

Chairman Forrester was absent from the meeting. Vice-Chairman Collins presided and called the meeting to order. Mr. Dill offered the invocation. Mr. Pelissier introduced the speakers and guests in attendance. Chairman Collins asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the August 26, 2022, board meeting. Mr. Godbey made a motion to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Briggs. The motion was approved unanimously. The financial statement was accepted as information.

### Introduction of a New ACOG Employee

Chairman Collins asked Economic Development Director, Brooke Fergson, to introduce a new employee, Michael Kelley. Mr. Kelley was hired in September as the GIS Specialist and comes to ACOG with fifteen years of GIS experience.

### Conestee Nature Preserve

Chairman Collins introduced Michael Corley, Executive Director of the Conestee Nature Preserve. Mr. Corley presented information about the preserve and its programs. He explained how the land was protected from further contamination and is now well-known for its bird life. He discussed funding and reviewed the environmental education programs that the nature preserve offers to children and adults. Mr. Corley answered questions from the board about the ability of a dam located in the preserve to contain contamination and its ability to possibly produce electricity in the future.

### SC Office of Resilience

### Chairman Collins called on Ben Duncan, Chief Resilience Officer of SCOR. He explained that the agency’s mission is lessening the impact of disasters by coordinating long term recovery and hazard mitigation. He gave a detailed presentation of the history, funding, and program status, stating that South Carolina is a leader in disaster recovery. He discussed areas of operation, CDBG approved projects, home buyouts, current projects, and resiliency planning. Mr. Duncan reviewed the vulnerability assessment, grants secured, national and regional involvement, and ARPA. The board asked questions about the budget and other partners.

### ACOG SHIP (State Health Care Insurance Program)

### Chairman Collins requested that Kim Reyes, SHIP Counselor, give an overview of the SHIP program for seniors. Ms. Reyes explained that the vision of the SHIP program is to become a trusted resource in the community. She discussed that the program receives funding from various sources, the changes within Medicare from year to year, the open enrollment period, and the types of programs that fall under SHIP. Ms. Reyes expressed the importance of fraud protection and unbiased insurance counseling for seniors. She answered various questions from the board regarding Medicare and the SHIP program.

### Executive Director’s Report

Chairman Collins asked Mr. Pelissier to give the Executive Director’s report. Mr. Pelissier reminded board members that the SCARC Conference in N. Myrtle Beach will be held on November 20-22, 2022. Registration is due by September 30. Mileage forms have been updated by financial services. Please use the new forms. Mr. Pelissier congratulated Mr. Womack on becoming the SE4A (Southeastern Association of Area Agencies on Aging) President for the upcoming year.

The next board meeting will be held on October 28, 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 11:55 AM.

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Neal Collins, Acting Chairman

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