

MINUTES

FULL BOARD MEETING
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS CONFERENCE ROOM
FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 2018 – 10:30 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dennis Claramunt, Joe Dill, Henry Jolly, Cindy Wilson, Ted Mattison, Francis Crowder, Ed Elliott, David Cauthen, Willis Meadows, Butch Kirven, Lillian Brock Flemming, George Fletcher, Don Godbey, Grady Butler, Edda Cammick, Bob Winchester, Ernest Riley, Dana Moore, Rep. Neal Collins, Ensley Feemster, Margaret Thompson, Rep. Mike Forrester, Michael Brown, Larry Chappell, Elbert Tillerson, and Michael Fowler.

GUESTS PRESENT: Marcy Loucks, Principal McKinley, Cooper and Associates; Kenny Larimore, Penny Phillips, and Warren Hart, S.C. DOT staff; Rachel Garrett and Mr. Cummings, ACOM Engineering; and Daniel Gambrell.

STAFF PRESENT: Steve Pelissier, Chip Bentley, Don Zimmer, Tim Womack, Arlene Young, Brooke Ferguson, Lance Estep, Barbara Jardno, Glenda Manigault, Kim Reyes, and Debbie Courson.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Claramunt. The invocation was offered by Mr. Tillerson. On motion by Mr. Elliott, seconded by Rev. Butler, the minutes of the October 27, 2017 meeting was unanimously approved.

Special Recognitions

Chairman Claramunt recognized Bill Brockington for his service on the Board of Directors. He then recognized recently retired employees: Barbara Jardno for her 10 years of service to the organization and Glenda Manigault for her 42 years of service to the organization. In addition, Kim Reyes was recognized for her 5 years of service to the organization.

ACOG FY 2017 Audit

Marcy Loucks provided a presentation to the Board on the FY 2017 Annual Audit. She stated that the Finance Department had done an excellent job in assisting with audit requests. She commented that this was a low risk audit and that the financial statement was fair, clean (or) unmodified.

ACOG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Amendments to Include an ARC Funded Oconee County Industrial Access Project

Ms. Hall, Chair of Transportation Committee, presented a recommendation for the inclusion of an ARC-funded Oconee County transportation project in the ACOG TIP and LRTP. Mr. Estep stated that Oconee County recently received an ARC Grant to construct road and access improvements to the Oconee Industry and Technology Park. In order to receive funding, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) requires the project to be added to applicable local transportation plans. On motion from the Transportation Committee, the Board unanimously voted to include the Oconee County Industrial Access Point project in the TIP and LRTP plans.

Report from the Finance Committee

Mr. Crowder stated that the Finance Committee had met on October 27, 2017 to take action on two recommendations. The first item was budget amendments, which included: amendment to the revenue; amendment of Capital Budget and Consulting/Outside Services Budget to facilitate the transition to a Cloud Platform for IT; and amendment to the Capital Budget to add the purchase of a new fleet vehicle. The seconded item was to get authorization to utilize the building and maintenance reserve for HVAC improvements.

Mr. Crowder, Chairman of the Finance Committee, made motion to approve the amendments to the budget and for the authorization to use the building maintenance reserve. The Board voted unanimously to approve.

Report from the Personnel Committee

Mr. Riley stated that the Personnel Committee had met on November 10, 2017 to take action on three items; elimination of the Veterans Services Coordinator position; the creation of Information and Referral Assistance and Assessor Manager Position; and changes to salary Classification's for seven positions within the Aging Services program. He stated that ACOG's Veterans Services program was initiated in the fall of 2016. The program targeted clients of the Dorn VA Hospital and its affiliated clinic. He stated that the Dorn VA Hospital has made a determination that the program is too costly on a per client basis and informed clients that it will terminate at the end of December 2017. The IR&A Manager Position is needed due to the volume of calls for assistance. Funding for this position would come from an increase in state funding to the Aging Services Program. With a second person in the program, ACOG would provide an emphasis for services to veterans, which would build on the relationships with county veteran service officers that the staff member has already developed.

Mr. Riley made motion from the Personnel Committee to approve these personnel changes with one call to question. The Board voted unanimously to approve all three items.

Report from Board Officer Nominating Committee

Ms. Hall, Chair of the Board Officers Committee, stated that the committee recommended the following slate of officers for the term beginning April 2018: Joe Dill, Chairman; Mike Forrester, Vice-Chairman; and Henry Jolly, Secretary/Treasurer. The Board voted unanimously to approve.

South Carolina 2018 Legislative Preview

Ms. Ferguson gave a preview of potential legislation to be addressed during the 2018 session of the South Carolina General Assembly, with an emphasis on items of interest to local governments, which included: budget, local government fund, plastic bag ban, business license, municipal sales tax, FOIA changes, workforce housing development, S.C. Dreamers, tax reform, ethics investigations, elections, and solar power bills.

Appalachian Regional Commission

Mr. Pelissier stated that legislation has been introduced in both the U.S. House and Senate to increase the percentage of ARC funding targeted to distressed counties from 30% to 60%. If adopted, that change would significantly impact ARC investments in South Carolina. Staff has prepared a draft letter from the board to be sent to members of the federal legislative delegation representing the SC Appalachian Region. The board voted unanimously to approve forwarding this letter to federal legislators representing the SC Appalachian Region.

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

Chairman

THE SOUTH CAROLINA APPALACHIAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS HAS
COMPLIED WITH THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT IN SCHEDULING AND
CONDUCTING THIS MEETING.