



MINUTES

APPALACHIAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING FRIDAY, JANUARY 25, 2019 – 10:30 A.M. COUNCIL BOARD ROOM GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

Members Present:

Ernest Riley, Rep. Ann Thayer, Cindy Wilson, Mack Durham, Dennis Claramunt, Terence Roberts, Ray Graham, Ed Elliott, David Cauthen, Willis Meadows, Butch Kirven, Joe Dill, Brandy Amidon, George Fletcher, Don Godbey, Grady Butler, Ennis Fant, Rep. Mike Burns, Jane Hall, Rep. Mike Forrester, Michael Fowler, Elbert Tillerson, Larry Chappell, Edda Cammick, Dana Moore, Bob Winchester, Roy Costner III, Ensley Feemster

Guests Present:

Ms. Kristen Robertson, Ms. Shelby Cohen, Ms. Ebony Flowers and Mr. Danny Howard | Greenville County SWCD; Ms. Jenny Bouleware | Main Street SC; Mr. Matt Phillips | Principal, McKinley, Cooper, & Associates; Mr. Jim Walden, Kenny Larimore, and Christina Lewis | SCDOT; Mr. Daniel Cooper | Upstate Continuum of Care; Ms. Emily Swearingen; Mr. Joel Dill; Mr. Jeff Cunningham; Mr. Daniel Gamble

Staff Present:

Steve Pelissier, Brooke Ferguson, Chip Bentley, Arlene Young, Don Zimmer, Tim Womack, Lance Estep, Trey Eubanks, Denise Ernul

Chairman Joe Dill called the meeting to order. Invocation lead by board member Elbert Tillerson. Steve Pelissier welcomed all guest and presenters. Then after a motion to adopt October 26, 2018 meeting minutes with correction to Mr. Bob Winchester as an attendee was approved unanimously by the board.

Financial Statements

For review, SC Appalachian Council of Governments' Revenue and Expenditure Report for the 2019 Fiscal Year to month end (July 1, 2018-December 31, 2018) are in the Board Packet.

Greenville County Soil and Water Conservation District

Ms. Kirsten Robertson, Director, Greenville County SWCD Greenville County Soil and Water Conservation District - 301 University Ridge, Suite 4800, Greenville, SC 29601
Ph. 864.467.2755 | E-Mail kirobertson@greenvillecounty.org

Ms. Robertson explains the significance of SWCD as it serves the Upstate in part of the federal Clean Water Act and its history. Conservation districts came into existence in the 1930's, through federal legislation, following the Dust Bowl. That occurrence led policy makers to understand the need for quality water and soil management.

- A conservation district is a local subdivision of state government coordinating assistance from its own county and the federal government, through the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, to assist farmers, city dwellers, teachers, students, concerned citizens and other agricultural agencies as land and water are protected and managed.
 - With the ultimate goal of saving the soil and water for future generations of South Carolinians, the local conservation district relies on volunteers to install best management practices on the land and to become educated about the importance of taking care of these natural resources.
 - Across the United States, there are 3,000 conservation districts working to protect and sustain the soil, water, forests, wildlife, air and any other related natural resources.
 - Districts receive funding from county council, the US Department of Agriculture, and the S.C. State Department of Natural Resources to conduct programs.
 - Five unpaid commissioners, three elected in the general election
 - Two appointed by the state, meet monthly to guide the staff in following action plans for promoting conservation in various places and through educational opportunities (meetings are open to the public)
 - Each county in South Carolina has a SWCD, with funding from federal, small state, and county appropriations, to include grants and fees for services and district programs
 - Education and Community Outreach
 - Classroom presentations on storm water pollutants
 - Rain garden presentations
 - Programs on storm water pollutants and conservation
 - Interactive displays at community events
 - Technical Assistance and Partnerships
 - Water pollution causes and prevention
 - Erosion and drainage issues
 - Conservation awareness and best practices
 - Sustainable agriculture practices
 - Stream restoration
 - Stream bank stabilization
 - Trout habitat improvement and rehabilitation
 - Land use planning
 - Urban forest assistance
 - Initiatives and accomplishments of the Anderson County District include example of services and programs rendered by the SWCD
 - Recently completed a rain barrel sales campaign
 - District Conservationist recipient of a '15 over 50' Outstanding Leadership Award
 - Educating citizens on soil health initiatives

- Oversees Watershed Boards:
 - Big Creek
 - Broadmouth Creek
 - Brushy Creek
 - Three & Twenty Creek
- The Anderson County Soil and Water Conservation District Commission meets the second Friday of each month at 8:30 am, at the District Office in Anderson

Main Street South Carolina Program

Ms. Jenny Boulware, Main Street SC Manager Team Greer Main Street South Carolina Manager -
Municipal Association of South Carolina

1411 Gervais St., PO Box 12109, Columbia, SC 29211

Phone: 803.799.9574 | Fax: 803.933.1299 | E-Mail: JBoulware@masc.sc

Ms. Boulware discussed Main Street South Carolina communities in the Appalachian region (Gaffney, Pickens, and Williamston). Main Street South Carolina empowers residents with the knowledge, skills, tools and organizational structure necessary to revitalize their downtowns, neighborhood commercial districts and cities/towns into vibrant centers of commerce and community.

- Main Street approach, stresses self-reliance and builds on what is special about downtowns and neighborhood commercial districts as the "center" of the community and the embodiment of its heritage. Local people work together to rebuild a positive image that will invite economic development.
 - Revitalization takes a lot of hard work, patience and time. The following principles are the basis of the Main Street Approach:
 - Understanding Downtown and neighborhood commercial districts have declined over a long time, to include rebirth
 - A genuine public-private partnership must exist
 - Each community must commit its time and resources to focus attention on the revitalization efforts
 - Successful revitalization must be comprehensive, looking at all issues that contribute to decline
 - All efforts must be oriented to quality; downtown and neighborhood commercial districts cannot be sold as second-rate places to do business
 - Successful revitalization is action oriented
 - Planning is important and must lead to action to renew confidence
 - Effort must be made to change attitudes; negative opinions must be turned around before positive change can occur
 - Main Street South Carolina Benefits and Services
 - Vision planning sessions
 - Baseline assessment visits to evaluate the current situation, assess needs and make recommendations for next steps
 - Initial training for staff committees (Organization, Economic Vitality, Promotion and Design) and board of directors
 - Six-month and annual reviews
 - Work plan development
 - Ongoing educational seminars for staff, committee members and board of directors
 - Customized workshops (call for topics and fee quotes)

- Access to members-only portions of National Main Street Center website
- Telephone consultations
- Free Main Street Center publications
- Inspiration Awards program
- Competitive scholarships to the Main Street Now Conference, the national conference of the Main Street Center
- Design Services
- National Main Street Center membership

Appalachian Council of Governments FY 2018 Audit

Mr. Matt Phillips, McKinley, Cooper and Associates, Certified Public Accountants

Mr. Phillips provided a brief summary of the FY 2018 Annual Audit presented at the Finance Committee Meeting, held at 9:30 Friday morning.

- The audit report is unqualified, meaning that the auditors found no errors or irregularities with material presented by staff.
 - Auditors found the COG to be in full compliance with all applicable federal and state regulations.
 - Total revenue for the agency in FY 2018 = \$ 9,596,672
 - Total liabilities = \$ 9,487,399
 - Aging Services and Workforce Services were the two largest programs, combining for over \$ 5.3 million in revenue and expenditures.

Appalachian Region Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) 2018 Annual Performance Update

Mr. Don Godbey, Chair, Regional Economic Development Committee; Mr. Bentley, Deputy Director

Mr. Godbey introduced, Mr. Bentley provided an overview of the Annual Performance Update. Following the presentation, the Board of Directors unanimously approved the document for submittal to the Economic Development Administration.

- ACOG is the designated agency for developing and maintaining the CEDS covering the SC Appalachian region. A new CEDS is required every five years, with annual performance updates completed in the intervening years. ACOG staff has been monitoring economic development activity in the region as it pertains to the 2018-2022 CEDS adopted in September 2017.
 - The full report is available for review on the ACOG website (www.scacog.org). To request a printed copy, please contact Denise Ernul at dernul@scacog.org or at (864) 242-9733.

ACOG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Amendments to Include an ARC (Appalachian Regional Commission) Funded Cherokee County Intersection Improvement

Ms. Jane Hall, Chair, Regional Transportation Committee and Mr. Lance Estep, Regional Transportation Planner

Mr. Estep provided a presentation on the proposal by the Transportation Committee, which was unanimously approved by the Board of Directors, after being introduced by Ms. Hall

- The Transportation Committee presented a recommendation for the inclusion of an ARC-funded Cherokee County transportation project in the ACOG TIP and LRTP.
 - The county recently received a \$ 216,550 ARC Grant to construct intersection improvements to the Cherokee County campus of Spartanburg Community College.
 - In order to receive grant funding, FHWA requires that the project be included in the TIP and LRTP.

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Steve Pelissier, Executive Director, concluded the meeting with important information on various topics and wishing all in attendance a Happy Holiday and New Year.

- Mr. Pelissier thanked Don Zimmer and his staff for their intricate roll in keeping audit cost down through effective planning and organizational savvy.
- Mr. Pelissier asked Arlene Young, Grants Director to inform board members of Community Block Grant received by the City of Clemson for a community center.
- Spoke on article posted in the *Upstate Business Journal* naming the Appalachian Development Corporation #1 in terms of dollars loans out through SBA and other programs. For the past several years, a development corporation called GDC based out of Columbia would have that title. However, ADC strategically hiring GDC's Chief Executive Officer, Connelly Bradley that may have propelled the ADC to win its #1 status.
- Thanked attendees of the SCARC Conference held in Myrtle Beach and announced awards won at SCARC by two of our board members:
 - Rep. Forrester, Legislator of the Year
 - Mayor Jolly, Volunteer of the Year
- Reminder to turn in all SCARC expense reports
- Honored request by Ernest Riley for a moment of silence recognizing Pearl Harbor Day

The next Board Meeting will be at 10:30 am on January 25, 2018.

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

Mr. Joe Dill, Chairman

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