



Minutes

**APPALACHIAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

Full Board of Directors Meeting  
ACOG Board Room, Greenville, SC  
Friday, June 22, 2018 – 10:30 A.M.

**Members Present:**

Cindy Wilson, Terence Roberts, Dennis Claramunt, Mayor Henry Jolly, Ed Elliot, Willis Meadows, Butch Kirven, Joe Dill, George Fletcher, Don Godbey, Edda Cammick, Bob Winchester, Ernest Riley, Dana Moore, Ensley Feemster, Rep. Mike Forrester, Michael Brown, Roger Nutt, Elbert Tillerson, Michael Fowler

**Guests Present:**

ReWa - Senior Project Manager, Mr. Jason Gillespie | US Census - South Carolina Partnership Specialist, Ms. Doris G. Greene | Mr. Joel Dill | Mr. Daniel Gambrell

**Staff Present:**

Steve Pelissier, Chip Bentley, Brooke Ferguson, Tim Womack, Arlene Young, Don Zimmer, and Denise Ernul.

Chairman Joe Dill called the meeting to order. Mr. Elbert Tillerson offered the invocation. On motion by Chairman Joe Dill, seconded by Mr. Ernest Riley, the minutes of the May 25, 2018, meeting were unanimously approved.

**ReWa – Dig Greenville Project**

Mr. Jason Gillespie, Senior Project Manager at Renewable Water Resources (ReWa, formerly Western Carolina Sewer Authority), presented Dig Greenville. A project to resolve Greenville's future sewage needs.

- Jason Gillespie explained the dynamics of the existing sewer lines in relation to the construction of the new sewer lines and its impact to the community and environment during the construction process. After reviewing many options: the best option was chosen due to the lowest life-cycle cost and the least impact on the public resulting in a gravity sewer tunnel conveying wastewater using no mechanical equipment.
- Dig Greenville is the name for a wastewater conveyance project that will address the county's 100-year sewage needs.
  - It will feature a gravity sewer tunnel that will be 100 feet below ground and 10 feet in diameter and will be drilled through rock.
  - Sewer tunnel will span from Westfield Street to Cleveland Park/Greenville Zoo.
  - The project will take approximately 30 months starting in March 2018 with the staging area for this \$46M construction project with \$33M allotted towards property acquisition due to needed power source.

- Several public and environmental concerns were addressed.
  - Fencing installed around the perimeter of both construction sites to prevent public entry and ensure safety.
  - Installed sound monitors to manage the noise, dust, vibration levels from the slow gradual drilling and blasting process.
  - Analyzed traffic flow and created detours during high volume traffic.
  - Built above the challenge of the flood plain and surface impact, the process will be bored only at either end of the tunnel, rather than all along the sewer route if conventional construction methods were used.
  - No sewage odors anticipated with the process
- Community Engagement
  - Web pages dedicated to the project; sharing information at community meetings; speaking to community groups; engaging the media and giving updates via newsletters and e-blasts
  - <https://rewaonline.org/diggreenville/>

### **US Census: The 2020 Census**

Ms. Doris G. Greene, South Carolina Partnership Specialist for the United States Census Bureau.

- Living near Columbia, SC, Ms. Greene is the only specialist servicing the state of South Carolina with the goal of reaching as many people as possible to help every citizen/non-citizen understand the purpose of participating in the 2020 Census.
  - Discussing three major questions.
    - What is the U.S. Census? – a head count of the population (decennial census is taken every 10 years); the constitution requires a count every decade.
    - Why do we take the census? – to determine congressional representation, to plan variety of resident needs like new roads, schools, and emergency services, and for businesses to use the data in promoting more local jobs and places to shop.
    - When is census day? – April 1, 2020 and completed by year end for the Apportionment counts to be given to the President by December 31, 2020
  - George Washington University derived statistics on distribution of funds based of decennial census (Fiscal Year 2015)
    - \$75B distributed; accounting for \$1,499 per capita of obligated program funds.
    - The census is the leading source of statistical information about the nation's people (snapshot of growth, size, and population change within communities).

- Response: Decennial Census is always a short form as of 2010, which counts citizens and non-citizens, including the homeless population.
  - Safe and secure to complete online, by phone, or by mail
  - Visit households that do not respond
  - Online forms are in multiple languages
  - Mailed individual Census ID not required for inline responses
  - Data information is also cross-referenced with other agencies, however does not affect illegal immigrants who are skeptical in completing the form.

### **Appalachian Council of Government FY 2019 Work Program**

Mr. Steve Pelissier, Executive Director addressed Work Program priorities and initiatives for the upcoming fiscal year, to include accomplishments to end the year regarding Aging Services, Grant Services, Economic Development Services, Planning Services, and Government Services in keeping with the mission of ACOG. With an ever so changing fiscal and political climate, ACOG must stay flexible to adapt to changing conditions while maintaining excellence, as well as evolving the manner in which we carry out our mission and ensure future relevance in our six-county region. Comprehensive details provided in the 2019 Annual Work Program report published June 8, 2018.

**Services (see 2019 Annual Work Program for full detailed listings and descriptions).**

**Aging Services** (Appalachian Area Agency on Aging) is largest program for SCACOG with the overall mission to assist seniors, their caregivers and those with disabilities by maintaining their dignity and independence in the comforts of their home and community.

- **Family Caregiver Support Program (FCSP) & Seniors Raising Children (SRC)** has the purpose of reducing the stress on the caregiver by providing information, referrals and assistance to identified services, to include options counseling, respite care services, and limited short-term financial help. FCSP allocated over \$600k in vouchers county within ACOG region and increased funding over \$100K from previous year with a 2019 goal of \$400K in vouchers in Pickens, Greenville, Spartanburg counties.
- **Regional Long Term Care Ombudsman Program** is designated to investigate complaints made by/on behalf of residents in skilled nursing and residential/assisted living facilities and hospice homes, in addition to friendly visits to facilities to monitor and ensure residents have access to an Ombudsman. As advocates for the residents, they provide mediation and consultation as needed, to include specialized training upon facility request for their staffers. The Friendly Visitor Program under this service continues to grow as volunteers retire from service, which prevents service gap. In the upcoming year, the program will add one full-time Ombudsman to cover new facilities in the region and begin visits /investigations at all DDSN and mental health facilities.
- **Information & Assistance/Benefits Counseling** assist older adults, people with disabilities, and their caregivers as a “one stop shop” environment for benefits after

evaluating financial resources, age, diagnoses, current insurance coverage, daily living activities, transportation, family support, and other important factors to determine qualifications mostly over the phone but sometimes face-to-face. With the increase in beneficiaries contacting the ADRC (Aging and Disability Center), a supervisory position will be created to support assessors and the coordination of the service contractor for the upcoming year, to include recruiting and training volunteers.

- **Nutrition Program** provides congregate meal dining and home delivered meals within 24 regional Appalachian sites for those over age 60 with nutritional risk. This program also reduces isolation by promoting socialization through planned programs/activities like structured fitness/exercise classes, day trips/outings to local points of interest, music/dance and other creative avenues. The program plans to manage the increase of the aging population with at-risk nutritional needs as they have in the previous year, serving over 90K group dining meals and over 54K frozen/139K hot home delivered meals.
- **Home & Community Based Services** enable seniors to remain their homes as long as possible with supportive services like transportation, chore/housekeeping (Level 1), homemaker with some personal care (Level 2), legal assistance, minor home repair and other services (see 2019 Annual Work Program for more detailed listing).

**Grant Services** assists local governments, and other public and non-profit agencies in determining needs, anticipating development, and designing strategies for economic/community growth and development for obtaining and administering federal/state funding in accordance its regulations.

- **Economic and Community Development** works with local/state economic officials, community development officials/providers to facilitate location and/or expansion of business and industry by identifying needs and obtaining funding for a variety of critical paths, for example water, and sewer lines, emergency services, etc. With over \$3.6M in overall funding in the past year and pending awards of over \$1.5M for the new fiscal year signifies aligned efforts towards its mission.
- **Project Administration** ensures efficient management, project accountability, and conformance with federal/state regulations from award through closeout, which is necessary since each funding agency render its own requirements. Insuring compliance enhances future funding decisions and alleviating misappropriation of funds. Due to funding demands, the part-time Program Assistant position has transitioned to a full-time Project Manager in 2017, providing an enhanced level of services to existing and future clients.

**Economic Development Services (EDS)** support regional economic development through professional planning, mapping, grant support and database-driven technical services for the growth of the Upstate.

- **InfoMentum Suite of Services** provides GIS-based research tools, market data, and online-industrial property database used to assist economic developers' attract industry and job creation. In 2019, continued marketing efforts (print, website, and social media) and collaborations with other agency's data pool will enhance the services to identify and enroll new investors.

- **Economic Development Planning** offers a variety of services to help guide and coordinate economic efforts for a more complete edge for federal economic development grant funding from key partners - U.S. Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) and U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) with compliance to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Also working to complete 2018 Annual Progress report for December 2018 submission, to include marketing the new GIS support opportunities to explore projects and partners who can benefit from the expertise.
- **Grant Support** provides EDS support necessary for applications produced by ACOG in three categories: next evolution of the Regional Factfinder website/database, continued collaboration with Grants Division on economic development, and GIS support. The support should allot for consistency as new projects arise through the new fiscal year.

**Planning Services** support the activities that promote prosperity and systematic process for developing the Appalachian region in relation to economic objective, to include technical assistance.

- **Transportation Planning**, identifies, coordinates, and improves the safety and conditions of the increasing stressed transportation network by collaborating with SCDOT and other likely agencies to relieve the demand on this system. 2019 will bring focused efforts on continued development of a Freight Mobility Study through securing funding and procuring consultant services for modeling analysis of future freight movement within the region.
- **Community Planning/Development** include facilitation of goal setting, strategic planning, land use planning and other special tasked to promote the mission of the Planning Services Program. Also participates in regional planning initiatives and assist in efforts like Anderson HOME Consortium, Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), zoning, to name a few into the upcoming year.
- **Natural Resource Planning** utilizes natural and man-made resources in a manner that provides the greatest benefits to its citizens, while ensuring these resources are preserved for the future. For the 2019 fiscal year, expanding outreach efforts for the Saluda and Savannah Basins to promote long-range sewer plans and coordination amongst the sewer service providers and implementation of Enoree Basin portion as the 208 Plan is finalized.

**Government Services** is a program aimed to improve the knowledge, skills and abilities of administrative and elected officials so they can better serve their communities by providing informative and practical services to local governments in our region.

- **Training Coordination** effectively provides training and guidance from initial appointment and thereafter to promote successful leadership, to include staffers with the use of modern methods and means of conducting city/county government duties to become well versed in all areas of administration (time management, sexual harassment education, ICMA effective supervisory practices, and much more).
- **Personnel Services** assist with issues such as personal policies, FMLA, and FLSA by providing technical, legal and practical information and solutions to local