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## MINUTES

**APPALACHIAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2021 – 10:30 A.M.**  
**GSP AIRPORT WITH ZOOM MEETING OPTION**  
**GREER, SOUTH CAROLINA**

**Members Present:**

Sen. Thomas Alexander, Brandy Amidon, Rockey Burgess, Rep. Mike Burns, Grady Butler, David Cauthen, Larry Chappell, Dennis Claramunt, Rep. Neal Collins, Joe Dill, Ed Elliott, Ensley Feemster, Don Godbey, Jane Hall, Henry Jolly, Ruth Littlejohn, Jack Mabry, Willis Meadows, Dana Moore, E. Riley, Mildred Tillerson, Cindy Wilson

**Guests Present:**

Scott Carr, Amanda Collins, Joel Dill, Eric Dillon, Mike Hoffman

**Staff Present:**

Chip Bentley, Melissa Drakeford, Pam Eaker, Lance Estep, Trey Eubanks, Brooke Ferguson, Mia Fuller, Steve Pelissier, Tim Womack, Arlene Young,

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**Call to Order**

Vice Chairman, Neal Collins presided. Chairman Collins called the meeting to order. Mr. Riley offered the invocation. Mr. Pelissier introduced guests at the meeting. Chairman Collins asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the September 24, 2021, board meeting. Mr. Godbey made a motion to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dill. The motion was approved unanimously. The financial statement was accepted as information. Due to technical difficulties, the board members who participated through the Zoom option had visual access, but very limited audio.

**Recognition of Employees who have Recently Celebrated Milestone Anniversaries with ACOG**

Chairman Collins recognized employees: Melissa Drakeford, Long Term Care Ombudsman; Pam Eaker, Information and Referral/Assessment Supervisor; and Brooke Ferguson, Economic Development Director for five (5) years of service with ACOG. They will all be given a plaque of recognition by the Executive Director.

### **Greenville Spartanburg International Airport, Recovery and Resiliency**

Chairman Collins introduced Scott Carr, Vice President of Commercial Business and Communications at GSP. Mr. Carr discussed an airport enhancement program called Project Wingspan. He gave an overview of passenger traffic, stating that GSP was experiencing rapid growth before the pandemic and is now recovering. Mr. Carr talked about new and existing cargo facilities and stated that GSP has become a major contributor to global trade. He described the airport's proposed land use plan for future aviation development, which includes terminal expansion, parking, and plans for a hotel.

### **South Carolina Ports Authority – Growth and Expansion through the Pandemic and Beyond**

Chairman Collins called on Mike Hoffman, General Manager of Intermodal Operations at the SC Ports Authority. The SC Ports Authority has seen great success in providing access to the country from the large Port of Charleston, by moving containers through rail to inland ports like Greer. He explained that the inland port at Greer moved 157,842 railcars last year, keeping semi-trucks off the highway. Mr. Hoffman discussed the importance and the future of inland ports.

### **Consideration for the 2021 Annual Performance Report for the 2018-2022 CEDS**

Chairman Collins asked the Regional Economic Development Committee to discuss this year's Annual Performance Report for the 2018-2022 CEDS. Ms. Ferguson gave an update on the area's economy including unemployment, total capital investment, and venture capital companies. The entire document is on the ACOG website. The Economic Development Committee recommended that the board approve the 2021 Annual Performance Report for the 2018-2022 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Chairman Collins called for a vote. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **Action Item**

#### **Executive Director's Report**

Chairman Forrester called on Mr. Pelissier to give the Executive Director's report. Mr. Pelissier referred to the flyer included in the board packet regarding the Senior Angel Tree Project. The ACOG Ombudsman Program is continuing its annual tradition of gift-giving to residents in a long term care facility during the holiday season. If board members would like to donate, they can send cash or check to Jessica Winters at ACOG, or use the Venmo app @SeniorAngelTreeProject.

**The next board meeting will be held on December 3, at 10:30 AM in the ACOG Board Room. Members may also attend through Zoom.**



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

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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