



MINUTES

APPALACHIAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2023 – 10:30 A.M.
COUNCIL BOARD ROOM WITH ZOOM OPTION
GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

Members Present:

Rick Bradley, Rockey Burgess, Rep. Mike Burns, Grady Butler, David Cauthen, Dennis Claramunt, Roy Costner, Rick Danner, Joe Dill, Ed Elliott, Ensley Feemster, Mike Forrester, Don Godbey, Jane Hall, Mickey Haney, Glenn Hart, Henry Jolly, Butch Kirven, Ruth Littlejohn, Alan Mitchell, Charles Pinson, Brian Ramey, E Riley, Jeff Roberts, Russell Stall, Bob Walker

Guests Present:

Hannah Burgess, Dan Ray Cooley, Daniel Gambrell, Marcy Loucks, Rusty Rich

Staff Present:

Chip Bentley, Trey Eubanks, Jill Francisco, Jeff Guilbault, Steve Pelissier, Tim Womack, Arlene Young, Don Zimmer

Call to Order

Secretary Don Godbey called the meeting to order. Mr. Riley offered the invocation. Mr. Pelissier introduced the guests in attendance and announced that a scheduled speaker was unable to attend due to illness. Mr. Godbey asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the October 27, 2023, board meeting. Mr. Ramey made a motion to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Elliott. The motion was unanimously approved.

Department of Social Services

Mr. Godbey introduced Mr. Russell (Rusty) Rich, the Director of Community Relations for Adult Advocacy. Mr. Rich explained the role of Adult Protective Services as an investigative entity and a coordinator of temporary services. He reviewed the mission, mandate, services provided, gaps in services, and funding. Mr. Rich discussed the Adult Protection Act and explained how some groups

want to change the law due to the use of terms that are not easily defined and could target the elderly and disabled. He gave definitions of competency and capacity and shared that they are important factors in determining a person's need for ADP. He gave a list of what situations are not considered vulnerable by law. Mr. Rich answered questions from the board. There was a discussion about mental health.

Appalachian Council of Governments FY 2023 Annual Audit

Mr. Godby called on Ms. Marcy Loucks, of Mckinley, Cooper, and Co., to present the ACOG FY 2023 audit report. Ms. Loucks commended the ACOG finance staff for doing a good job. She referred to the management discussion and analysis, reviewed the balance sheets, and explained the net pension liability. She reviewed the statement of activities and noted that the total revenue for the year was \$12.9 million, and expenses were \$12.6 million. Ms. Loucks stated that ACOG is a low-risk entity and has good policies, procedures, and budgeting. The audit is unmodified.

SC Brownfields Environmental Testing (BEST) Program Applications

Mr. Godbey asked Ms. Jill Francisco to present two BEST Program Applications for review on behalf of the Economic Development Committee. Ms. Francisco updated the board on the five previously approved sites. Then she presented information on a site formerly used as the Clemson Police Substation. BEST funds will be used to locate an underground storage tank and determine if conditions are hazardous. She reviewed the second request for the site of the former Kings Drycleaner in Seneca containing contaminants. The funds will be used for a Phase 2 assessment. The Economic Development Committee recommended both site applications for approval. Mr. Godbey called for a vote. The motion was unanimously approved.

Action Item

Regional Transportation Update and TIP Amendments

Mr. Godbey asked Mr. Chip Bentley and Ms. Jane Hall, Chair of the Regional Transportation Committee, for an update. The committee recently met to review increases in funding for seven projects in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Mr. Bentley presented six intersection projects and one resurfacing project. He reviewed the current TIP budget for the projects, the amended estimate, and overall transportation budget. The Regional Transportation Committee recommended all TIP funding amendments for approval. Mr. Godbey called for a vote. The motion was unanimously approved.

Action Item

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Godbey called on Mr. Pelissier to give the Executive Director's report. Mr. Pelissier thanked the finance staff for a good audit report. He informed the board that Mr. Mike Forrester was elected as Vice-President for SC Council of Governments. ACOG regional board member appointments will be made in January. Regional members should let Mr. Neal Collins or Mr. Steve Pelissier know if they would like to remain on the board. Anderson County Municipal Association will be appointing a new member. Ms. Gantt's term is over, and she is retiring from office. The ARC recommended that ACOG close out grants of \$6.2 million. Mr. Pelissier explained the monitoring responsibilities and liability. Staff will send the board an online survey to evaluate the board meetings next week.

Member Updates

Ms. Hall spoke about the importance of remembering Pearl Harbor Day.

Mr. Walker reported that over 10,000 people were in attendance to see the mobile replica of the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Spartanburg.

Ms. Littlejohn invited everyone to come watch the Spartanburg Christmas Parade on Tuesday evening, December 12, 2023.

The next board meeting will be held on January 26, 2023, 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.

Don Godbey, Secretary

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

