



MINUTES

APPALACHIAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
FRIDAY, AUGUST 25, 2023 – 10:30 A.M.
COUNCIL BOARD ROOM WITH ZOOM OPTION
GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

Members Present:

Brandy Amidon, Chris Bowers, Rick Bradley, Bob Briggs, Rockey Burgess, Grady Butler, David Cauthen, Dennis Claramunt, Rep. Neal Collins, Roy Costner, Rep. April Cromer, Roel Cruz, Rick Danner, Joe Dill, Ed Elliott, Ensley Feemster, Lillian Brock Flemming, Mike Forrester, Britt Gillespie, Don Godbey, Robert Halfacre, Jane Hall, Mickey Haney, Glenn Hart, Henry Jolly, Butch Kirven, Rep. Brian Lawson, Alan Mitchell, Charles Pinson, Brian Ramey, E Riley, Jeff Roberts, Terrence Roberts, Mildred Tillerson, Bob Walker, Cindy Wilson

Guests Present:

Roxanne Ancheta, Wendy Burgess, Amy Faulkner, Molly Fortune, Daniel Gambrell, Haley Grau, Judy Henderson, Aimee Hood

Staff Present:

Chip Bentley, Pat Case, Dorinne Duboise, Trey Eubanks, Brooke Ferguson, Jeff Guilbault, Steve Pelissier, Arlene Young, Don Zimmer

Call to Order

Chairman Collins called the meeting to order. Mr. Riley offered the invocation. Mr. Pelissier introduced the guests in attendance. Chairman Collins asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the June 23, 2023, board meeting. Mr. Godbey made a motion to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Walker. The motion was unanimously approved.

Recognition of Employee Milestone Anniversary with ACOG

Chairman Collins presented a plaque to Pat Case, SHIP Counselor, for five years of service to ACOG. She is devoted to helping seniors navigate the Medicare system and providing information

about other health benefits. Chairman Collins also presented Trey Eubanks with a plaque for five years of service. He is well-known for providing a variety of quality government services and official training to municipalities in the upstate.

Middle Tyger Community Center (MTCC)

Chairman Collins introduced Haley Grau, Executive Director of the Middle Tyger Community Center. Ms. Grau described the organization as a certified family resource center in Lyman, SC, providing services for free or on a sliding fee scale. She presented an overview of the mission and the organizational values. Her co-worker, Amy Faulkner, discussed the programs that the center provides to serve families as a whole to overcome barriers. Ms. Grau explained future plans to build a second campus for a childcare facility. Land has already been donated and it is scheduled to open in 2025. She answered questions from the board.

SC American Revolution Sestercentennial Commission (SC250)

Chairman Collins asked Molly Fortune, Executive Director of SC250 to give an overview of the organization. Ms. Fortune discussed the 2019 legislation for the State Commission and the Commission's purpose. She discussed the type of work the Commission does, the desire for each county in South Carolina to participate, and gave examples of the types of grant funding available. Ms. Fortune summarized by saying that the three main assets of the Commission are increased historic tourism, increased economic development, and the promotion of education about South Carolina's role in the American Revolution. She answered questions by the board. Chairman Collins encouraged the board to help their local 250 Commissions tell their local stories.

Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Program

Chairman Collins called on Roxanne Ancheta, the Director of the Office of Local Government Services at SCDOT, to speak about the TAP Program. Ms. Ancheta explained that TAP funds could be used for transportation projects not involving motorized vehicles, such as bicycle lanes, sidewalks, lighting, and bicycle and pedestrian crossings. She gave examples of eligible TAP applicants and stated that GPATS municipalities must apply there first. TAP is 80% reimbursed by federal funds and 20% is reimbursed by local match. Ms. Ancheta gave examples of how the local match funds could be met. She explained the funding process, the application schedule, and funding limits. She encouraged rural areas with a population under 5,000 to apply. The TAP website is <https://www.scdot.org/projects/community-transportation-alternatives.aspx>. TAP Point of Contact: Amy Blinson, TAP Program Manager, (803) 737-1952, BlinsonAL@scdot.org.

Executive Director's Report

Chairman Collins asked Mr. Pelissier to give the Executive Director's report. Mr. Pelissier reported that the family caregiver program received an award in July for a new and innovative program.

Dorinne Dubois, Family Caregiver Advocate, explained the Cup of Tea (Compassion and Understanding by Providing Training, Education, and Assistance) program. It provides family caregivers one-on-one, in-home personalized education. The September board meeting will focus on housing affordability and issues. Mr. Pelissier noted that at his visit to the Oconee County Municipal Association meeting in August, a speaker from the Sheriff's department spoke about homelessness in the area. The SCCOGs meeting will be held November 19-21, 2023.

Member Updates

Mayor Ramey thanked Mr. Pelissier for coming to the Oconee County Municipal Association. He stated that he did a good job of presenting information and representing ACOG.

Ms. Wilson discussed approximately 70 acres of available property in Anderson County that would make a good farm therapy program.

Mayor Burgess invited everyone to attend the 42nd Annual Spring Water Festival at Mineral Spring Park in Williamston.

The next board meeting will be held on September 22, 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 11:55 AM.

Rep. Neal Collins, Chairman

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

