



## MINUTES

**APPALACHIAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 2023 – 10:30 A.M.  
COUNCIL BOARD ROOM WITH ZOOM OPTION  
GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

**Members Present:**

Sen. Thomas Alexander, Bob Briggs, David Cauthen, Dennis Claramunt, Brooke Coleman, Rep. Neal Collins, Roy Costner, Rep. April Cromer, Roel Cruz, Rick Danner, Joe Dill, Ed Elliott, Ennis Fant, Lillian Brock Flemming, Mike Forrester, Sandra Gantt, Britt Gillespie, Don Godbey, Robert Halfacre, Jane Hall, Mickey Haney, Butch Kirven, Rep. Brian Lawson, Charles Pinson, Brian Ramey, E Riley, Jeff Roberts, Terrence Roberts, Brett Sanders, Bob Walker, Cindy Wilson

**Guests Present:**

Marvin Bishop, Addie Patterson

**Staff Present:**

Lance Estep, Trey Eubanks, Brooke Ferguson, Jill Francisco, Steve Pelissier, Ben Whitaker, Tim Womack, Don Zimmer

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**Call to Order**

Chairman Collins called the meeting to order. Mr. Riley offered the invocation. Chairman Collins asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the May 26, 2023, board meeting. Mr. Pinson made a motion to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Godbey. The motion was unanimously approved. The financial statement was accepted as information.

**Long Term Care Ombudsman Program**

Chairman Collins introduced Mr. Ben Whitaker, ACOG Long Term Care Ombudsman, who gave an overview of the program. Mr. Whitaker discussed program objectives, staff responsibilities, number of beds in each type of facility, and top complaints the ombudsman staff receive. He also

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listed causes for abuse. Mr. Whitaker advocated for a pay wage increase for long term care facility workers and a statewide registry for workers terminated for abusing residents.

### **ACOG FY 2024 Work Program**

Chairman Collins asked Mr. Pelissier to give an overview of the FY 2024 Work Program. He summarized the services provided by each department, program objectives, current projects, and future plans for FY 2024. There was a motion from the Executive Committee to approve the ACOG FY 2024 Work Program. Chairman Collins called for a vote. The motion was unanimously approved.

### **Action Item**

### **Personnel Committee Report**

Chairman Collins asked Mr. Riley, Personnel Committee Chair, and Mr. Pelissier to report on the Personnel Committee meeting. Mr. Pelissier gave an overview of the current organizational structure and staffing. He also reported on the demographic breakdown of the staff. The Personnel Committee recommended action to amend the ACOG Salary Table. Chairman Collins called for a vote. The motion was unanimously approved. The Personnel Committee recommended the re-classification of salary grades for several positions. Chairman Collins called for a vote. The motion was unanimously approved. The Personnel Committee recommended that employees be provided with the opportunity to earn a 3% merit increase in FY 2024. Chairman Collins called for a vote. The motion was unanimously approved.

### **Action Items**

### **Finance Committee Report**

Mr. Pelissier reported on 2023 projected revenue and expenses, the current fund balance, as well as the planned use for the excess funds. The Finance Committee recommended that the entire FY 2023 Revenue Over Expenditure amount be assigned to the Facility Related Reserve Fund. Chairman Collins called for a vote. The motion was unanimously approved. Mr. Pelissier reviewed the proposed FY 2024 budget, capital items, and budget analysis. The Finance Committee recommended the adoption of the proposed ACOG FY 2024 Budget, including the schedule for Capital Items, and Schedule of Consulting and Outside Services. Chairman Collins called for a vote. The motion was unanimously approved.

### **Action Items**

### **South Carolina Legislative Report**

Chairman Collins requested that Brooke Ferguson provide the board with the legislative report. Ms. Ferguson stated that ninety-eight bills have been signed into law. She reported that the \$13 billion state budget has been passed. She reviewed budget highlights. There was discussion about the SC Dam Safety Emergency Fund and future construction on the Conestee Dam. Ms. Ferguson commented on new legislation that may be of interest. There was discussion about homeless communities, drug addiction, mental health, and types of services available.

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

Chairman Collins asked Mr. Pelissier to give the Executive Director's report. Mr. Pelissier stated that the board would address homelessness and related issues at a future meeting. He welcomed Rep. April Cromer to the board. There will be no July board meeting.

### **Members Report**

There is an opening on the RAAC Committee for a Pickens County citizen.

The Wall that Heals, a traveling three-quarter scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial exhibit, will be on display in Spartanburg, SC on November 9-12, 2023. All are encouraged to visit.

**The next board meeting will be held on August 25, 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 12:10 PM.**

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### **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.

