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REGIONAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
NAMES INTERIM DIRECTOR

Raleigh, NC – The Southern Rural Development Initiative (SRDI) named long-term staffer, Alan McGregor, as its Interim Executive Director. The announcement comes as founding executive director, Debby Warren, leaves the agency to expand her consulting work.

McGregor began his year-long appointment January 1, implementing SRDI’s strategic initiatives, expanding community relations, and fundraising. He also continues his work of twelve years, supporting rural communities to address their local needs through philanthropy. The SRDI Philanthropy Index, which McGregor helped to create, reports a county’s potential for starting or expanding a community foundation. The Index training component supports greater collaboration among an area’s philanthropic organizations.

“I’m excited to take on leadership of SRDI during such a time of vibrancy,” McGregor reports. “Our new staff, new federal funds and capacity-building tools, and organizational clarity make this a time of real opportunity for us and our constituents.”

In addition, SRDI Deputy Director Calvin Allen was appointed Director of Operations and Programs, supervising the agency’s administration, programs, and training.

“The board felt fortunate to be able to depend upon the abilities of Alan and Calvin to lead in the wake of Debby’s outstanding tenure with SRDI,” said Board Chair Justin Maxson, Executive Director of the Mountain Association for Community Economic Development. “They embody the values, skills, and devotion to our mission necessary to steer the organization through this year of transition.”

The Southern Rural Development Initiative, started in 1993, considers itself to be the “hardware store” for rural community leadership, offering community-based policy, philanthropy, organizational development, and economic development tools to build just and sustainable rural communities. Over the past year, the agency implemented policy initiatives in two communities in South Carolina and one in Louisiana; facilitated the conversion of a youth prison into a community learning center in Tallulah, LA; and implemented the Philanthropy Index process in twelve communities.

The agency works across the twelve states of the rural South with offices in Raleigh and Asheville, NC.

local philanthropy + flows of funding + economic options = the RURAL FUTURE