

EAST CENTRAL COUNCIL OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

COLORADO'S CENTRAL PLAINS



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EAST CENTRAL COUNCIL OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES November 3, 2010

Call to Order

Chairman Rayetta Palmer called the November 3, 2010 meeting of the ECCOG Board of Directors to order at 7:26 p.m. at the Town Activities Building in Stratton, CO. In addition to Rayetta Palmer, board members present included: Fred Beisser, Del Beattie, Dave Hornung, Nola Stone, Valerie Rhoades, Steve Burgess, John Shipper, Troy McCue and Monica Halde. Staff members present included Jo Downey, ECCOG Executive Director, Terry Baylie, Senior and Transit Services Director, and Terry Blevins, Special Projects Director. John Hill of the *Ranchland News* at Simla was a guest.

Rayetta Palmer led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Rayetta then asked the Board to consider the Minutes of the September 8, 2010 meeting. John Shipper moved the Board approve the Minutes of the September 8, 2010 Board of Directors meeting as submitted. Dave Hornung seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The Board next reviewed the Financial Report and list of bills, which showed total net payroll of \$27,123.32, and the total for bills listed for October was \$58,316.04. John Shipper moved the Board approve the October Financial Report and the list of bills. Troy McCue seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Unfinished Business

Regional Survey Update

Terry Baylie reviewed the results of the regional survey recently conducted by the Area Agency on Aging. She said the results were typical when compared with the results of past surveys. There was some difficulty in prioritizing the services based on the random answers provided on the survey. Terry said the Senior Services and Transit Advisory Board elected to “rank” the services individually and asked the staff to tally the results. The survey results will be used as the recommended service priority for the agency’s Four-Year Plan, she said. There was some discussion regarding use of the survey results or use of the Advisory Board’s personal knowledge to determine actual need. Jo Downey told the Board ECCOG staff would use both methods.

Home Sweet Prairies

Jo Downey stated a very nice website for this project has been created to promote the benefits of life on Colorado’s Central Plains. Plans call for the website to link to local real estate firm websites, with each

participating firm permitted to list a “featured home of the month.” One problem that has surfaced has been initial contact with local real estate firms. Jo said explanatory letters were mailed local real estate firms, based on listings in the local telephone books, but she said about half of the letters were returned because a number of firms are no longer in business or are no longer licensed. Jo asked ECCOG Board members for assistance in obtaining current addresses for firms now in business.

Blight Removal Concept

Jo Downey told the Board that this region now can proceed with a four-county application for about \$500,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds for blight removal in commercial areas. The funds cannot be used to remove residential blight, she said. Jo said the blight removal project will need an advisory committee, and one of the counties should submit the grant application on behalf of all four counties. She asked Board members to think about good prospects for this project in their local areas. Rayetta Palmer said she would approach the Cheyenne County Commissioners about being the grant applicant for this project.

2011 Board Membership

Jo Downey reviewed the ECCOG Board appointment process, saying the municipalities in the region are determining their Board representatives at this time. The counties will select their representatives, along with the stakeholder representatives in January. The at-large position on the Board will be filled by the Prairie Development Corporation at its December 2010 meeting, she said.

Revised state Fiscal-Year 2011 Senior Services Funding Request

Board members previously were provided with the revised funding request for federal Title III and Title VI state fiscal year funding, which included carry-over from 2010 and adjustments from the general fund shortfall of approximately \$91,000 statewide. Terry Baylie explained how this region’s shortfall was decreased from the original funding request submitted in May 2010. The Senior Services Advisory Board has recommended ECCOG Board approval of the request. Steve Burgess moved to approve the request as recommended. Fred Beisser seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Regional Tourism Marketing Grant

ECCOG recently applied for \$15,000 in tourism marketing grant funds from the Colorado Tourism Board to continue marketing this region’s heritage tourism opportunities outside the region. However, Jo Downey said the Tourism Board approved only \$8,000 for this region in 2011, which must be matched by \$8,000 in local funds. Jo said the entire budget will be used to market this region’s heritage tourism sites on the Internet next year. None of the funds will be used to defray administrative costs. Steve Burgess told the staff that the Lincoln County Tourism Board raises about \$100,000 per year from the county lodging tax. He suggested ECCOG apply for some of those funds to support this marketing effort.

Special Projects Coordinator and Fiscal Officer Position Job Modifications

Jo Downey said there were no solid applications for the Special Projects Coordinator position, as of November 1st, and the application deadline was extended to November 15th. This position will not have the special projects component as it does now, but will instead be designed to handle both the business loan and the housing loan programs in-house.

Jo also explained that ECCOG books are kept by Paulette Thompson while the PDC books are kept by Laura Erbert. Laura is withdrawing from this position, Jo said, but Paulette is willing to add hours to her

present work schedule to become responsible for accounting for all programs. This change will occur around January 1, 2011.

Other

As this meeting was the last for Terry Blevins, who has recorded the Minutes for the Board for the past several years, Rayetta expressed the Board's appreciation for services rendered, and the Board presented Terry with a "Retire In Peace" cake, shaped like a tombstone in recognition of his local history and genealogy interests. The Board took a brief time out to enjoy the cake.

New Business

Revised CEDS Committee

Jo Downey said the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies Committee in this region will be reviewing the CEDS document in terms of next year's activities. The only change in the committee membership would be the addition of Rol Hudler of Burlington, replacing Deni Coryell who moved out of state. Nola Stone moved the Board accept the Revised CEDS committee list as presented. Monica Halde seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Four-Year Plan for Aging Services

Terry Baylie briefed the Board on the contents of the 2012-2015 four-year aging services plan, and said a public hearing on the plan was held in conjunction with the October 14th Senior Services and Transit Advisory Board meeting in Limon. The advisory board recommended the plan be approved and submitted to the State. Steve Burgess moved to approve the request, including the results of both priority surveys on Page 3. Nola Stone seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

2011 ECCOG Master Budget

There was no discussion on the 2011 ECCOG master budget, which was mailed to Board members in their pre-meeting packets. John Shipper moved the budget be approved as mailed. Monica Halde seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

2011 Federal Transit Administration Funding, etc.

Terry Baylie reviewed spreadsheets previously provided to Board members, explaining that \$300,000 of the approximately \$800,000 remaining from non-awarded Section 5310 funds was transferred to section 5311 to provide increases in administration funding for state fiscal year 2011. She said the draft 2011 Section 5311 spreadsheet includes no increases in operating funds for 2011, as none are anticipated.

Discussion was held on the necessary amendments to the substance abuse policy. The changes were reviewed by the advisory board, who recommended the ECCOG Board approve the revisions. Fred Beisser moved to approve the changes as recommended. Troy McCue seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Terry also discussed the requirement that random drug testing be conducted at all hours of operation, for compliance with federal regulations. She said the firm performing the drug tests has agreed to provide random testing after normal business hours with prior arrangement.

Terry reported that Colorado Department of Transportation staff would be in Stratton for an on-site visit in November.

Enterprise Zone Marketing Funds for 2011

Jo Downey said ECCOG was recommended for funding of Enterprise Zone Marketing grant funds in the amount of \$25,000 for 2011, to be matched with \$25,000 in local funds. Of this amount, at least 35 percent must be used for marketing of the business tax credits for non-tourism business location or expansion. Up to 30 percent can be used for administrative costs, while the remainder would be used to promote over all economic development, including heritage tourism activities.

Senior Services and Transit Advisory Board Member Replacement

Terry Baylie reported that Edna Fross of Bethune was nominated to the Senior Services & Transit Advisory Board to replace Vern Werner of Flagler. Steve Burgess moved to appoint Edna Ross to the advisory board as recommended. Valerie Rhoades seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Elbert County Museum Enterprise Zone Contribution Project

Jo Downey reviewed a request from the Elbert County Museum for designation as an Enterprise Zone Contribution Project. John Shipper moved the Board approve the request and forward it to the State Economic Development Commission for final decision. Monica Halde seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Senior Services Direct Services Application Decision

The Board reviewed applications submitted by regional groups wanting to provide services by contract to residents over age 60 during 2011. Terry Baylie reviewed the funding requests, service criteria, 2008 and 2009 final expenditures, and 2010 expenditures through June in comparison with the 2010 allocation totals. The Area Agency on Aging staff has offered some funding recommendations, and the Senior Services and Transit Advisory Board recommended funding the requests based on those recommendations. Dave Hornung moved to approve funding based on the AAA and advisory board recommendations. Steve Burgess seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Other

There was no other new business to come before the Board.

Next Two Meeting Dates/Locations

The next meeting of the ECCOG Board of Directors will be Wednesday, January 5, 2011 in Limon.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Rayetta Palmer declared the meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.