

# EAST CENTRAL COUNCIL OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

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COLORADO'S CENTRAL PLAINS

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## EAST CENTRAL COUNCIL OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES January 4, 2012

### Call to Order

Chairman Rayetta Palmer called the January 4, 2012 meeting of the ECCOG Board of Directors to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Hub City Senior Center in Limon, CO. In addition to Rayetta Palmer, Board members present included: Monica Halde, John Shipper, Nancy Bogenhagen, Dave Hornung, Paul Warnecke, Troy McCue, Mike Kelly, Nola Stone, and Steve Burgess. Staff members present included Jo Downey, ECCOG Executive Director; and Terry Baylie, Senior and Transit Services Director. Also present were Jack Hendricks of Limon, and John Hill of the Ranchland News. Board members Fred Beisser and Valerie Rhoades were absent.

Rayetta Palmer led the group in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

Rayetta then asked the Board to consider the Minutes of the December 7, 2011 meeting. Dave Hornung moved to approve the December 7th meeting Minutes. Motion was seconded by John Shipper and carried unanimously.

The Board next reviewed the January 2012 Financial Report and list of bills for December 2011. The report stated a total net payroll of \$27,499.48 and total bills for December of \$57,398.02. Steve Burgess moved the Board approve the January Financial Report and pay the December bills. John Shipper seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

#### CDOT Contract Update

The Scope of Work and signature page for the 2012 CDOT transit contract that was discussed at the last meeting was received on December 21<sup>st</sup> and immediately emailed to all Board Members. Terry said that the Board Members approved the contract and authorized Rayetta to sign on behalf of ECCOG. Terry has heard nothing to date since CDOT received the signature pages but

will follow up regarding when a fully executed contract should be expected. It was suggested that when a very short turn around period was needed for the Board members to respond to an email, that they also be texted or called to remind them to check their emails. A cell phone number list will be developed for use by Board and ECCOG staff only.

### **Home Sweet Prairies**

Jo distributed copies of the completed promotional rack card for the Home Sweet Prairies project. Packets of additional copies were available for Board members and others to take back to their communities. A local news release regarding the project was printed this week by several of the regional newspapers. Jo said that it was still her understanding that the Denver Post would be doing an article in the near future. The site will be updated once a month to add additional houses or and/or additional regional realtors.

### **Business Loan Grant Capital Increase Request**

Staff Director, Jo Downey, gave a brief update on the most recent amendment to the multi-county Business Loan Fund contract administered by ECCOG and PDC. The actual contract for CDBG (Community Development Block Grant Funds) for continued capitalization of the four county business loan funds is between Lincoln County and OEDIT (Office of Economic Development and International Trade). The grant is then subcontracted to PDC and ECCOG through an intergovernmental agreement among the four counties. Lincoln County has sent a request to OEDIT (on behalf of all four ECCOG/PDC counties) to increase the existing CDBG Business Loan Program grant by an additional \$300,000 for loans rather than applying for a totally new grant. If the request is approved, a new grant proposal would then be submitted in the fall of 2012 with a contract anticipated by the end of January 2013 which is when the current contract expires.

### **Potential State Unit on Aging Move**

Terry said that a hearing was held on December 16<sup>th</sup> with the JBC reviewing a staff-prepared report outlining various issues on a potential move of the State Unit on Aging from within the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) to the Department of Health Care Policy and Finance (HCPF). Terry Baylie said that she was able to “attend” the hearing via conference call and did listen to the portion of the agenda regarding Issue #7 which was the proposed move of the State Unit on Aging, and two other divisions within the Department of Human Services. A report was submitted by the CDHS and HCPF proposing that (with the passage of a bill during the 2012 session) all three programs would be transferred. Initially the senior program was not part of the JBC’s request for information, but was later included as a result of a larger process to assess all Colorado Medicaid waiver programs. However, JBC staff did note that the senior programs are not Medicaid programs. JBC Staff was concerned that it did not appear there was full planning, thought or detail put into the proposed move of the State Unit on Aging. It was also noted that stakeholders (i.e., the Area Agencies on Aging) were not included in early discussions about the move, and stakeholders are clearly as uncertain as JBC staff about the

implication of this move. By the time this portion of the briefing was over, it appeared clear that neither the JBC nor its staff were ready at this time to support the idea of such a move. On January 4 HCPF will appear before the JBC and CDHS will meet with them on January 10. Upon request by a board member, Terry will email the link to the JBC hearing to all members should they choose to listen in on January 10th. Rayetta asked whether it might be beneficial for any ECCOG Board members to attend the hearing in person. Jo said that she felt it was not necessary at this time, but might be beneficial later should the issue continue.

### **Enterprise Zone Pre-Certification Update**

The East Central Enterprise Zone continues to receive numerous requests for pre-certification for Enterprise Zone tax credits. Jo Downey briefed those in attendance as to the numerous challenges being caused by the pre-certification mandate including some tax preparers filing pre-certification for every client that they have regardless of the potential of many of them never using any of the credits. State software issues have also arisen but, all in all, Jo said that the system was working and it appeared that the word was getting out that pre-certification was now needed.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **Impact Grant Closeout**

Jo Downey said that the current 2010 Community Development Technical Assistance grant awarded in 2010 (and extended through 2011) to ECCOG by the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) was now fully expended. Similar funds are not anticipated to be available in 2012 or 2013. Downey said that budget cuts have been in place since September of 2010 (when it was first learned that any such future funds were frozen) will enable ECCOG to still operate efficiently through 2012 assuming additional Economic Development Administration funds were awarded in April.

#### **State Fiscal Year 2012 Aging Services Evaluation**

Included in Board member packets was a one-page summary of the two very minor compliance issues from the November 29<sup>th</sup> conference call with the State Unit on Aging. Terry reviewed the agency response and answered questions. A copy of the summary is attached to the official file copy of these minutes.

#### **EDA Grant Application Process to Begin**

Jo Downey stated that the current Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant to ECCOG assist in implementing the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) terminates March 31<sup>st</sup>. Downey said that she anticipates ECCOG being asked by EDA to submit an additional request for the period April 1, 2012 through March 31, 2013 sometime within the next week...with a full application being due in early February. The application will

be for \$61,000 and will be matched 1 to 1 using general fund revenue from ECCOG county and municipal contributions.

### **Enterprise Zone Contribution Project Request (Kit Carson County)**

Jo Downey distributed copies of a request from Kit Carson County to have their proposed Fairgrounds improvement project and other future improvements/operations at the Fairgrounds designated as an East Central Enterprise Zone Contribution Project. COG Board approval of the project would still be contingent upon State Economic Development Commission approval. After discussion and questions, Steve Burgess moved to approve the request pending amendment for wording in Section C: “thus bringing in thousands of dollars in admission” by replacing the words “thousands of dollars” with “additional revenue”. Motion was seconded by Troy McCue and carried unanimously.

### **Enterprise Zone Box Ads**

The Board discussed the need to develop “box ads” promoting the existence of the East Central Enterprise Zone and the mandate for pre-certification of credits to be taken in 2012. It was decided to place ads specific to each county (to the greatest extent possible) in seven different weekly newspapers as well as the *Mile Saver Shopper* and *Prairie Times*. Jo will also develop two different news releases...one highlighting the East Central Enterprise Zone/pre-certification process and another delineating the specifics of the Contribution credit (which does not need to be pre-certified).

### **2012 Board Member Selection/Election Status**

Jo reminded everyone that tonight’s meeting was the last meeting of the 2011 Board (to close out 2011 business). The first meeting of the 2012 Board will be March 7<sup>th</sup>. Jack Hendricks will replace Mike Kelly as the Lincoln County Municipal representative. Rayetta and Paul will continue to represent their respective counties’ municipalities (Cheyenne and Elbert). The Kit Carson County municipal representative has not yet been selected but will be within the next two weeks. The County Commissioner representatives will all be appointed by their respective County Commissions at their reorganization meetings next week. Troy McCue will continue as the At-Large member appointed by PDC. Valerie Rhoades, Fred Beisser and Monica Halde are anticipated to be reappointed by their counties as ED/Stakeholder members. Lincoln County will be appointing a new ED member to replace Donna Metcalf who is no longer able to serve. Rayetta thanked Mike Kelly for his year of service and encouraged him to continue to stay involved with the ECCOG programs/services as time allowed.

### **Next Two Meeting Dates/Locations**

As determined in December, the March 7<sup>th</sup> meeting will be in Limon at the Hub City Senior Center, with dinner at IHOP. The May 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting will be in Simla. Paul Warnecke will make supper and meeting room arrangements for that meeting.

**Northeast Rural Philanthropy Days**

John Shipper distributed copies of a letter from Kari May, the Elbert County Representative for the Northeast Rural Philanthropy Days. Kari would like to attend the next ECCOG meeting and make a presentation on this upcoming event which is scheduled for June 20-22 in Brush. Jo said that the event is scheduled every four years and covers both the East Central and Northeast regions. It was last held in 2007 in Burlington. Rayetta stated that she felt the event was very beneficial to any local government or non-profit that has a current or potential project that they were or were planning on seeking grant funds to help implement it. The Board asked Jo to invite Kari to the March meeting in Limon.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, Rayetta Palmer declared the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.