

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 January 2, 2013

Call to Order

Vice-Chairman John Shipper called the January 2, 2013 meeting of the ECCOG Board of Directors to order at 7:15 pm at the Hub City Senior Center in Limon. In addition to John Shipper, Board members present included: Fred Beisser, Jack Hendricks, Valerie Rhoades, Nancy Bogenhagen, Monica Halde, Dave Hornung, and Troy McCue. Board members absent were Harry Nelson, Steve Burgess, Kerry Korsvold, Linda Glidden and Megan Hohl. Staff members present included Jo Downey, ECCOG Executive Director; Candace Payne, Special Projects/Lending Director; and Terry Baylie, Senior and Transit Services Director. Others present were Joe Kiely, Lynn Ennis, and Benjamin Ennis, all of Limon.

John Shipper led the group in the pledge of allegiance.

John then asked the Board to consider the Minutes of the November 7, 2012 meeting. Fred Beisser moved to approve the November 7th meeting Minutes. Motion was seconded by Troy McCue and carried unanimously.

The Board next reviewed the January 2013 Financial Report and list of bills for December 2012. The report showed a total net payroll of \$25,461.97 and total bills for December of \$65,263.45. After several questions on specific bills were answered, Dave Hornung moved the Board approve the January 2013 financial report; motion was seconded by Jack Hendricks and carried unanimously. Troy McCue moved to pay the December bills. Fred Beisser seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

2013 Board Member Selection Process

Jo Downey updated those present on the status of the selection/election of the thirteen members for the 2013 East Central Council of Local Governments Board. The first meeting of the 2013 Board will be February 6, 2013. All four municipal members will remain the same as in 2012. Troy will continue as the at-large board member appointed by the Prairie Development Corporation. The County Commissions will appoint their respective commissioner members and their economic development members at their re-organizational meetings in early January.

Status of Regional Priority Process for Governor's Blueprint

A copy of the final Blueprint Report (for East Central Colorado) that was forwarded to the Governor's Office of Economic Development and International Trade by the working committee was mailed earlier to each Board Member with their Board materials. A copy is also attached to the official file copy of these minutes. Jo Downey updated the Board on the status of the overall State Regional Blueprint Process. She summarized the planned work program for implementation of the 2013 goals. Joe Kiely summarized the

state wide Blue Print Meeting held in December that he attended as the representative of the East Central Region. Joe also outlined the next steps in the overall Economic Development/Work Force training/Education initiative of the Governor's Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) and the upcoming Sector Partnership Process in 2013. Joe said that ten representatives from each of the regions in the State would work together on developing the process for each region at a statewide forum to be held January 30-February 1. Kiely asked those present to consider applying to be one of the ten or talking to other Economic Development, Education or Workforce representatives that might have an interest.

CDBG Business Loan Grant Contract Extension

Jo Downey and Candace Payne reported on the status of the request by Lincoln County to extend the current CDBG Business Loan Program grant for an additional twelve months. The grant is awarded to Lincoln County and then sub-contracted to ECCOG and PDC for administration and use in all four of the ECCOG counties. Jo said that no official word had been received as of today, but OEDIT staff said that the request was under review and an answer should be forthcoming within the next few days. If the extension is granted, a new four-county application will not have to be developed until late fall. If the request is denied, then the current contract will expire on January 31 and the remaining loan funds will be de-obligated. Downey said that should such de-obligation be necessary, there were adequate "revolved" loan funds available to assist businesses until a new "open contract" grant could be requested.

2013 Federal Transit Administration Funding for the ECCOG Region for 2013

Outback Express Director, Terry Baylie, said that the contract signature page was received by ECCOG the day after the November COG Board meeting. It was sent to Steve for signature and then sent to CDOT and received by them on the 14th. The complete executed contract was received by ECCOG on December 4. ECCOG advised CDOT that the area appreciated the fact that CDOT worked to resolve past contract issues so that the new contract could be in place by the end of the year. ECCOG also received the contract signature page for the 2013 Lincoln County vehicle on November 29th. This was also sent to Steve, was signed and sent to CDOT on December 3rd. A fully executed contract was received by ECCOG on December 21st. Terry also mentioned that ECCOG is current on its requested reimbursements from the Colorado Department of Transportation.

Colorado Department of Transportation Boundary Changes

Those present were briefed as to the status of the Colorado Department of Transportation's proposed changes to CDOT engineering regional boundaries. Modifications were made to the original proposal and now all four ECCOG counties will be part of CDOT Region 4 (headquartered out of Greeley). The realignment of the Districts resulted from CDOT going from 6 districts to 5. A map of the new boundaries was distributed to all present. The Board asked Jo to convey ECCOG's appreciation that their recommendation that Lincoln, Kit Carson and Cheyenne Counties all be part of Region 4. ECCOG had officially supported Elbert County's initial desire to be part of the new Region 1 as originally proposed, but CDOT moved Elbert to 4 as well.

Audit Schedule

Work papers will begin shortly for the 2012 ECCOG and PDC Audits. Jo Downey said that the in house work on the audit will be done by May, Jackson, Hendrick, LLC on February 20 and 21. Though the final PDC audit does not have to be completed until the end of June, the ECCOG audit must be finalized by the end of March in order to have the carry forward amounts available for the Area Agency on Aging contract. When the ECCOG audit is complete, a representative from the audit firm will make an oral presentation to the ECCOG Board.

Enterprise Zone Administrative Grant

ECCOG is being awarded a \$9000 grant from the Governor's Office of Economic Development and International Trade to assist in supporting the administration of the East Central Enterprise Zone. The funds are in lieu of Enterprise Zone marketing funds which had been available through 2011. The administrative grant must be matched one to one and can only be used for a portion of the salary/fringe of the Enterprise Zone administrator or assistant administrator. Downey said that it was her understanding that the funds would be available in 2013 for a twelve month expenditure period...depending on the start date.

Area Agency on Aging Federal Grant Carry-Over

Included in Board packets was a summary of the federal carry-over funds available to the ECCOG region, as well as a set of reports showing how the carry-over funds were allocated. Terry explained that this report appears different from past forms because all funding applications as well as the reimbursement process have been moved to an on-line version. A move from the service accounting known as SAMS has also been made to an on-line system known as Harmony. Unfortunately, these two are not connected and units from Harmony are moved manually by the State Unit on Aging to the funding/reimbursement system. The carryover amounts were noted on this on-line form, in the "Amount left to allocate" line and the funds were then allocated to the appropriate service. Terry reviewed the forms and answered questions.

Nominating Committee

John Shipper appointed a nominating committee for 2013 Board officers. Committee members are Monica Halde, Dave Hornung and Valerie Rhoades. Jo will email the final list of Board Members to the committee once the 2013 Board makeup is known.

State Fiscal Year 2013 Aging Services Evaluation

A desk evaluation for the Aging Services provided by ECCOG utilizing State dollars is to be completed by January 14, 2013. The State Unit on Aging will issue a summary of the findings by February 14th, with Area Agency on Aging responses due back by March 14th. Terry Baylie also mentioned that a letter from Precision Compliance, who conducted an evaluation of the drug & alcohol program in November of 2011 has finally been received...acknowledging that all issues documented during the visit have been addressed.

Enhanced Counties for EZ Job Credits for 2013 and 2014

Cheyenne and Lincoln Counties have both received "Enhanced" status for Enterprise Zone job creation credits for 2013 and 2014. Jo Downey discussed the importance of the enhanced designation (which is traditionally for a two-year period). The only one of the EZ credits that is impacted is the new job credit but the Enhanced designation increases that credit from \$500 a job to \$2500 a job. It also adds an additional \$500 to a value added ag job increasing that credit from \$500 to \$1000. Included with Board materials was a summary of the criteria that a county must meet for the designation. The growth rates in both Elbert and Kit Carson County disqualify those counties from enhanced status. Downey again emphasized that all of the other credits remain the same in ALL FOUR counties.

Next Two Meeting Dates/Locations

The annual Reorganizational meeting and the regular February business meeting will be held in Limon at the Hub City Senior Center on February 6. There will not be a meeting in March. The April 3rd meeting will be held in Burlington. Dinner arrangements for both meetings will be determined at a later date.

Other

Joe Kiely discussed the importance of an upcoming oil and gas regulation workshop for elected officials, economic development staff and land-use planning/administrative staff. The session will be held in Limon on Wednesday, February 6 at the Limon Community Center. ECCOG staff was asked to assist in “spreading the word” on the availability and importance of the meeting. Joe said he would send Jo Downey information to disseminate once it was available.

In the absence of ECCOG Chairman, Steve Burgess, Jo Downey presented John Shipper with a plaque of appreciation for his years of distinguished service to ECCOG, the region and Elbert County. All present acknowledged his contributions to the various programs undertaken by the cooperative efforts of the four counties working together. A similar plaque will be presented to Steve Burgess (who is also retiring from the ECCOG Board) at a Lincoln County Commission meeting next week...since he was out of State for tonight’s meeting.

Adjournment

There being no other business, John Shipper declared the meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.