

EAST CENTRAL COUNCIL OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

COLORADO'S CENTRAL PLAINS



Box 28 • Stratton, Colorado 80836 • 719-348-5562 • (FAX) 719-348-5887 • www.eccog.com

EAST CENTRAL COUNCIL OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES January 8, 2014

Call to Order

Chairman Nancy Bopenhagen called the January 8, 2014 meeting of the ECCOG Board of Directors to order at 7:25 pm at the Claremont Inn in Stratton, CO. In addition to Nancy Bopenhagen, Board members present included: Larry Ross, Dave Hornung, Harry Nelson, Gary Beedy, Troy McCue, Monica Halde, and Valerie Rhoades. Staff members present included Jo Downey, ECCOG Executive Director, Candace Payne, Special Projects Director, and Terry Baylie, Senior and Transit Services Director. Also present was Leesa McCue. Board members Kerry Korsvold, Jack Hendricks, Linda Glidden, Greg King and Kyle Fenner were absent.

Nancy asked Terry to lead the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Nancy asked the Board to consider the Minutes of the October 2, 2013 meeting. Dave Hornung moved to approve the October 2, 2013 meeting Minutes. Motion was seconded by Troy McCue and carried unanimously.

The Board reviewed the January 8, 2014, Financial Report and list of bills for December 2013. The report showed a total net payroll of \$26,617.33 and total bills for December of \$42,310.28. Gary Beedy made a motion to accept the January 2014 financial report and ratify the December 2013 bills. Monica Halde seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

2014 Budget

Enclosed in Board packets was a copy of the second draft of the 2014 ECCOG budget. No changes were recommended after the first reading other than adjustments in the column formatting. The Board reviewed the current draft. Discussion followed as to the percentage of raises that had been budgeted and the difference in how fringe was calculated for the full-time employees. A motion was made by Dave Hornung and seconded by Troy McCue to adopt the 2014 budget as presented.

Federal Transit Administration Grant Award for Calendar Year 2014

A spreadsheet summarizing the funding categories was distributed prior to the start of the meeting. Terry Baylie reviewed the spreadsheet, showing the funding award for ECCOG for

2014 from Federal Transit Administration dollars passed through to the Colorado Department of Transportation. The region will receive an additional \$4,000 increase. The Town of Limon has expressed an interest in increasing the number of days per week that transit services are provided from two to four or five. Terry said she has offered this increase to the Town of Limon, but has not yet received any indication as to if they will accept the additional funds. Since this is a 50/50 split, the Town will have to determine how it would obtain the additional matching funds.

Enterprise Zone Boundary Review Status

Jo Downey discussed the time frame and process for the legislatively mandated Enterprise Zone Boundary review and its possible impacts on the current East Central Enterprise Zone boundaries. In order for a geographical area to qualify for Enterprise Zone designation, it must meet at least one of three criteria: Population growth LESS than the State average; per capita income LESS than the State average; or unemployment rate GREATER than the State average. The East Central Zone (which was first designated in 1986) currently encompasses all of Cheyenne, Lincoln and Kit Carson Counties. It also includes most of Elbert County with the exception of much of the northwest corner. The Governor's Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) has begun its internal review. Entire counties and census tracts that qualify for inclusion in the EZ will be identified over the next couple of months. By the end of May 2014, each EZ must submit its proposal for its EZ boundaries utilizing the counties and census tracts provided by the OEDIT. If a sub-census tract area (block group or block level) data is desired, the EZ will need to research and propose this area and provide the associated data. Following review by the OEDIT staff in July, the state Economic Development Commission will also review the proposed boundary amendments and then act on each proposal. The new amended boundaries for each Enterprise Zone will become effective January 1, 2015. If areas now in the EZ zone are removed from the zone by this process, any business planning on locating or expanding in the terminated area based in part on the incentives offered by being in an Enterprise Zone can jointly certify with the EZ administrator that plans were in place prior to the termination announcement and ask to be "grandfathered". Jo said that was speculating that East Central Zone could lose some of its geographical area, particularly in parts of Elbert County as the region was no longer allowed to average in high growth areas with low growth areas which was what enabled the East Central Zone to include much of Elbert County 25 years ago.

CDBG Grant Application for Additional Capital for Business Revolving Loan Fund

Lincoln County has agreed to be the lead applicant for a new Community Development Block Grant Application for additional capital for the Region's Business Loan Fund. Jo Downey outlined the time frame for this application as it is actually developed and administered by ECCOG and the Prairie Development Corporation. A public hearing will be held on January 23 in Limon to gather public input as to the appropriateness of the application and to officially "closeout" the existing grant contract which expires on January 31. Though Lincoln County is the actual application, all four counties will need to agree to and sign the finished application.

NEW BUSINESS:

Eastern Transportation Planning Region and Statewide Transportation Plans

The Board was briefed on the development of the Eastern Transportation Planning Region's Transportation Plan and the importance of the next meeting on January 20 in Akron. Previous notifications had encouraged everyone with interest in transportation improvements to go to: <http://coloradotransportationmatters.com/surveys> and complete a survey as to what the important transportation issues are in Eastern Colorado. Jo Downey said that three major highways in the Eastern TPR (the four ECCOG counties and five counties to the north comprise that transportation/transit planning group) were left off the first survey (Highways 36, 40/287 and Highway 24 between Limon and the El Paso County Line). Jo said that when she brought it to CDOT's attention, the survey was reprinted as well as changed on the web site. She said she recently conveyed to CDOT the Region's appreciation of the changes being made. ECCOG Board Member, Gary Beedy serves as co-chair of the TPR. Gary also emphasized the importance of representation from the four counties and towns at the upcoming meeting. He particularly urged that somebody from Elbert County attend.

State Fiscal Year Title III and Title VII Carryover

Included in materials distributed prior to the start of the meeting was a copy of the request/proposed use of funds for the approximate \$16,500 in carryover dollars from the Title III and Title VII Older Americans Act Grant that ended on June 30, 2013. The carryover has been rolled over into the current State Fiscal Year grant to ECCOG that began July 1. Terry reviewed how these funds were allocated and answered questions.

2014 ECCOG Board Members

The four municipal members for the 2014 ECCOG Board of Directors have been selected. Linda Glidden will continue to represent the Elbert County municipalities, Jack Hendricks will also continue as the representative for the towns in Lincoln County. Harrison Nelson is the Cheyenne County municipal board representative and City Councilman, Tim Ehrlich has been selected by the communities in Kit Carson County to be their board member. The four county commissioner representatives and the four of the five economic development representatives will be appointed by their respective County Commissions at their upcoming reorganizational meetings. The 13th Board Member is "at-large" and is appointed by Prairie Development Corporation. That representative is Troy McCue. The first meeting of the 2014 Board will be February 5th.

Federal Transit Administration/FASTER Capital Funding Requests

Terry reviewed the four applications for replacement of three vehicles (Cheyenne County van, Kit Carson County bus in Burlington and Kit Carson County bus in Stratton) in the coordinated Outback Express public transit system, explaining that though there are only three vehicles, there are four applications due to the fact that an application was submitted for FASTER funds to assist with local match necessary for replacement of the Stratton based Kit Carson County vehicle. Terry also explained that although the system cannot apply for standard vans, it can

apply of mini-vans as long as there is at least one wheelchair accessible vehicle available. Therefore, Cheyenne County chose to apply for funds to replace the current mini-van since two wheelchair accessible vehicles are available in Cheyenne County. The applications were reviewed by the Senior Services and Transit Advisory Board at its November meeting and since the deadline for submission was December, they recommended that the four applications be approved and submitted and that the ECCOG Board ratify this recommendation. Gary Beedy moved to ratify the SSTB recommendation; motion was seconded by Dave Hornung and carried unanimously.

Impact Grant Cycles

Jo Downey reminded those present that the deadlines for the next two 2014 Energy and Mineral Impact Grant Cycles are April 1 and August 1. Grant requests under \$200,000 are reviewed internally at the Department of Local Affairs and do have to be reviewed by the Impact Advisory Committee. Match is currently encouraged at 1-1 if the grant is to be competitive. Though some of the entities on Colorado's Central Plains may not have as much energy production as elsewhere in the State, all four have some impact. Since the grant funds were reinstated a year ago, priority has been for water and sewer, but other projects including some community facilities (Kit Carson County Ambulance Building) have been funded as well. Those local governments in Elbert County should contact DOLA Field Representative Clay Brown to discuss possible projects. The DOLA Field Rep serving the other three counties is Greg Etl.

Senior Services and Transit Advisory Board Appointment

The Cheyenne County Commissioners have recommended ECCOG consider Patrick Ward, new Cheyenne County Commissioner, for appointment to the Senior Services and Transit Advisory Board. Troy McCue moved to appoint Mr. Ward to the advisory board. The motion was seconded by Monica Halde and carried unanimously.

Privacy Insurance

The State Unit on Aging is now requiring AAA's (Area Agencies on Aging) to carry Privacy insurance. The need to add Privacy insurance to the overall COG insurance coverage was explained. Coverage of privacy, media and cyber insurance for a 12-month period is \$901.25. A copy of the liability limits and deductibles is attached to these Minutes.

Local Government Contributions (Dues) to ECCOG

Included with Board materials was a summary of the assessed dues to the counties and municipalities for 2014...and a listing of possible other alternatives for future years. The population formula for the counties has become disproportionate to services in some cases as the counties have not grown at equal rates and population growth or loss has not influenced the services provided by the ECCOG cooperative effort. Lengthy discussion followed as to the importance of the four counties working together and the best way to come up with the needed total local match. Chairman Bogenhagen emphasized that when services were provided to all, then it was important that each county help with the financial challenges and not expect the other counties to pay for a non-contributing county or counties programs. Brief discussion was

held as to the formula for contributions from the municipalities but it was the general consensus that with the disparity in the sizes of the communities, the current municipal formula should be left as is. Dave Hornung moved to recommend that Jo work with Elbert County on the 2014 dues and to gather input from that County as to scenarios that might work going forward and that Jo examine the various ECCOG fund balances after the completion of the 2013 audit and then come back to the Board to discuss options for potential changes to the dues structure for 2015. Monica Halde seconded the motion. Ayes: 6, Nays: 1, and one abstention.

Fiscal Officer Work Week

Jo Downey explained that three years ago when the fiscal responsibilities for the Prairie Development accounting was added to the ECCOG fiscal officer's COG responsibilities, the salary for the position was increased due to the increased work load. The fiscal officer also was agreeable to working more than 40 hours a week to complete the work. Jo said that this arrangement was far superior and far less costly than contracting with an accountant to do the PDC bookkeeping. The monetary contributions from Prairie Development (PDC reimburses ECCOG for the portion of each staff salary that is spent on PDC work) are essential to enabling the overall ECCOG and PDC programs to work. Jo asked the Board to approve her staffing recommendation to continue the current salary schedule for the fiscal officer but knowing that the work could now be done in 40 hours. New software and three years of experience has enabled the fiscal work to become more efficient and less time consuming. The general consensus of the Board was that would be fine.

Next Two Meeting Dates/Locations

The February 5th meeting will be held in Limon at 7 PM, with supper at Southside at 5:45 PM. The next meeting date/location will be determined at the February meeting.

Other

There was no other business brought before the Board.

Adjournment

Nancy Bogenhagen declared the meeting was adjourned at 9:34 PM.