

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 6, 2016

Call to Order

Chairman Nancy Bopenhagen called the January 6, 2016, meeting of the ECCOG Board of Directors to order at 7:00 PM via teleconference. A physical location for those wishing to participate in person was the ECCOG office in Stratton, CO at 128 Colorado Avenue. In addition to Chairman Nancy Bopenhagen, Board members present included: Dave Hornung, Monica Halde, Larry Ross, Maarten Van Zoeren, Harvey Martin, Jack Hendricks, Troy McCue and Greg King. Staff members present included: Jo Downey, ECCOG Executive Director; Candace Payne, Special Projects Director; and Terry Baylie, Senior and Transit Services Director. Board members absent were: Valerie Rhoades, Gary Beedy and Harry Nelson. Also participating on the call was John Hill of The Ranchland News.

Chairman Bopenhagen asked the Board to consider the Minutes of the November 4, 2015, meeting. Troy McCue moved to approve the November 4, 2015 meeting Minutes. Motion was seconded by Larry Ross and carried unanimously.

The Board next reviewed the January 2016 Financial Report and list of bills for December 2015. The December 2015 report showed a total net payroll of \$26,521.47 and total bills of \$68,297.79 with debit card expenses of \$737.47. Monica Halde moved the Board approve the January 2016 financial report and pay the December 2015 bills. Troy McCue seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Broadband Plan Status

A hard copy draft of the plan has been mailed to each ECCOG Board Member while the Steering Committee may review the Dropbox copy or receive a hard copy. Jo Downey summarized the work on the project to date. There is still information that needs collected and additional interviews performed especially in Elbert and Cheyenne Counties. The document will continue to be a "working draft" until such time that all information needed is included. Downey summarized the recent request for additional funds and a time extension to implement the education recommendation that had been made in the first draft of the plan and discussed by the Board at the November meeting. It was the consensus of the Board that ECCOG develop an educational campaign over the next 12-24 months as to what could be provided via Broadband if high speed service was available in the parts of the region that are underserved. Because cell phone service is critical to farming and ranching as well as being the "broadband provider of choice for many citizens", the current plan will be expanded to include more data and mapping regarding cell phone services/gaps. Staff was directed at the November meeting to prepare a supplemental request to the Colorado Department of Local Affairs for additional funding and a time extension through December 21, 2017 to develop and implement the educational component and to

finish and adopt the overall Broadband Plan. The request was to also include funding for a supplemental study/plan for rural El Paso County as approved by the ECCOG Board in May. Jo Downey said that an official purchase order for the plan services and the commitment for funding for the El Paso County portion had been officially approved by the El Paso County Commission. A budget has been developed and an official request for the authorized extension and add-on work program has been sent to DOLA. Additional funding in the amount of \$31,762 has been requested. Additional matching amount would be \$10,588. The work program was submitted to the Steering Committee for review and comment prior to submittal to DOLA. It is anticipated that ECCOG will be notified as to approval/non-approval of the request within the next ten days.

Discussion was then held as to the content and overall plan as developed thus far. Jo emphasized the importance of thoroughly reviewing the plan and asked each Board Member to review the plan if they had not done so already. Comments will be accepted until February when the Committee plans to meet. Nancy asked that the consultant contact Rebeltec about the speed test differences in the plan's speed test results compared to Rebeltec's results. Downey said that would be done and staff had also requested the development of a map/table showing the various speeds once they were finally determined. This would be one of the exhibits used in the educational website that would be developed.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

ECCOG Executive Director Jo Downey said that there had still been no response to date from the Economic Development Administration (EDA) as to the draft of the East Central CEDS which was submitted June 30. Jo stated that once recommendations were received, the CEDS/Blueprint Committee would meet to discuss any needed changes to the CEDS draft and to proceed with the State Blueprint 2.0 process. She has asked EDA staff as to an estimated date of when the initial comments might be received. EDA staff that could make that projection are on holiday leave and will not be back in their offices until later in January.

2016 Board Member Selection Status

The process to select the four 2016 ECCOG Municipal Board Members has been completed. Jo Downey said that the Lincoln County municipal representative will be Limon Mayor Julie Coonts replacing Limon councilman Jack Hendricks. Kit Carson County's communities will be represented by Burlington councilman Hal McNerney replacing Flagler trustee Harvey Martin. Cheyenne Wells councilman Harry Nelson will be replaced by Cheyenne Wells councilman Linda Corbin as the Cheyenne County representative. Maarten van Zoeren will continue to represent the Elbert County incorporated towns. The economic development and county commissioner representatives for each County will be selected at the county re-organizational meetings or shortly thereafter. The Prairie Development Corporation will appoint the at-large member on January 27, 2016 at the PDC Board meeting. The first meeting of the 2016 Board will be in March. Tonight's meeting is the last meeting of the 2015 Board and is to close out 2015 business. Jo and Chairman Bogenhagen thanked Jack Hendricks, Harvey Martin and Harry Nelson for their service to the ECCOG.

CDOT Contract/vehicle purchase updates

Outback Express Director Terry Baylie reported that the KCC Burlington based bus arrived in early December which was inspected and accepted. The old Burlington bus was moved and put into service for riders in the Vona-Seibert area, who were pleased to get it. The signature page for the 2016

admin/operating contract was received on November 17th. The signatures from Chairman Nancy Bopenhagen and Jo Downey were obtained before submission to CDOT. Terry was told that it was signed and picked up by the Transit unit on December 21. The contract was received by ECCOG on January 4, 2016.

Senior Services and Transit Advisory Board Member Re-Appointments

Terry asked the Board to consider re-appointing 5 members to the advisory board. Kelly Johnson, Lincoln County; Tara Gaynor, Cheyenne County; Nancyann Davidson, Elbert County; Debbie Lamm, Kit Carson County; and Marcia Eder, Regional Representative; have all indicated an interest in continuing to serve. Monica moved to re-appoint these five people to the advisory board; motion was seconded by Dave Hornung and carried unanimously.

Enterprise Zone Update

Jo Downey outlined the 2016 Enterprise Zone Administration Purchase Order from the Governor's Office of Economic Development and International Trade. This Purchase Order provides partial funding to assist with the administration of the Enterprise Zone Tax Credit program and is matched dollar for dollar by the COG. The 2016 amount is \$20,900 which is \$400 more than the 2015 Purchase Order. Funds are used principally for staff salaries and travel associated with administering/promoting the zone policies or credits. Several hundred pre-certifications for 2016 have already been filed. Certifications for tax credits earned in 2015 will be slow coming in until mid-February as these are not usually filed until tax returns are being prepared. Downey reminded everyone of the necessity of pre-certifying and said that updated educational materials explaining pre-certification were being distributed throughout the region. A summary of the credits taken in 2015 for the calendar year will be presented at the next ECCOG meeting.

Our Journey and Off the Beaten Trail

Staff outlined the preliminary time schedule for work to be undertaken in the coming weeks to establish the 2016 Heritage Tourism Marketing program and the development of the 2016 Events Guide. "Collection/solicitation" of dates/description of various events will begin in late February. Promotion of spring events will begin in March. Danielle Dascalos will again assist ECCOG with promoting tourism and business happenings in 2016. Jo Downey said that Danielle had been very helpful in obtaining coverage of the Pearl Harbor Day event at the VFW in Hugo. Persons were reminded to make Jo, Candi or Danielle aware of any upcoming events that might result in positive coverage by the Front Range media. As much notice as possible makes obtaining coverage more probable.

Next Two Meeting Dates/Locations

The next meeting tentatively scheduled for February 3rd was rescheduled to March 2, 2016 in Limon. A short re-organization meeting will be held prior to the regular meeting. A 2016 Board roster will be mailed out/included in Board packets once the make-up of the final Board is determined. Nancy Bopenhagen will appoint a nominating committee for 2016 officers once the board membership is known. Jack Hendricks agreed to assist with the meeting location (Hub City Senior Center) arrangement as he transitions off the board. Dinner before the meeting will be determined at a later date.

Adjournment

Nancy Bopenhagen declared the meeting adjourned at 7:36 pm.