

# 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 March 7, 2012

### Call to Order

Chairman Steve Burgess called the March 7, 2012 meeting of the ECCOG Board of Directors to order at 7:15 pm at the Hub City Senior Center in Limon, CO. In addition to Steve Burgess, Board members present included: John Shipper, Dave Hornung, Paul Warnecke Troy McCue, Jack Hendricks, Fred Beisser, Valerie Rhoades and Rayetta Palmer. Staff members present included Jo Downey, ECCOG Executive Director; and Terry Baylie, Senior and Transit Services Director. Also present was John Hill of the Ranchland News. Board members Monica Halde, Nancy Bogenhagen and Nola Stone were unable to attend. The Economic Development board position for Lincoln County is currently vacant.

Rayetta had earlier led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance during the reorganizational meeting.

Steve then asked the Board to consider the Minutes of the January 4, 2012 meeting. Dave Hornung moved to approve the January 4th meeting Minutes. Motion was seconded by Rayetta Palmer and carried unanimously.

The Board next reviewed the March 2012 Financial Report and list of bills for February 2012. The report showed a total net payroll of \$27,693.49 and total bills for February of \$49,151.74. Fred Beisser moved the Board approve the March financial report and pay the February bills. Paul Warnecke seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

#### CDOT Contract Update

Terry Baylie stated that the transit services contract for 2012 was finally signed by CDOT on January 31, 2012 and the final documents were then received by ECCOG on February 2, 2012. When asked about the capital equipment contract for the purchase of new 2012 busses for the City of Burlington and Elbert County, Terry said that she has not yet received any word from CDOT as to when to expect it. She still anticipates that the contract will arrive soon so that the bid process can begin in order to receive the vehicles by the fall of 2012.

#### Business Loan Grant Capital Increase Request

Staff Director, Jo Downey, stated that the recent request by Lincoln County (on behalf of all four ECCOG/PDC counties) to the Governor's Office of Economic Development and International Trade to increase the existing CDBG Business Loan Program grant by an additional \$300,000 for loans was

successful and an amended contract has been issued. Downey also briefly discussed the recent contract extension and new time frame for completing and submitting an entirely new CDBG Business Loan grant request for 2012/2013 through 2015. She said the existing contract cannot be extended again. A new application from Lincoln County will be completed by early fall and then a public hearing will be held in each county to consider the new application.

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

Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Director, Terry Baylie, said that a meeting with the AAA directors and the directors of both HCPF (Health Care Policy and Finance) and CDHS (Colorado Department of Human Services) was held on February 21<sup>st</sup>. Both Department directors (Sue Birch with HCPF and Reggie Bicha with CDHS) apologized for not involving the AAA's sooner, and expressed that it was important that everyone move past the "if" of the proposed move to the "how". Both expressed their opinions that Colorado is not currently prepared to meet the increased demand for services for an aging population and felt making this move now would help strengthen the continuum of care and align current and future services more effectively. HCPF staff was asked about their agency's perceived inefficiency as the AAA's are concerned about the administrative challenges of HCPF taking on three new divisions, as well as the concern of the AAA services getting "lost in the HCPF world" especially since the services provided through an Area Agency on Aging are not medical and/or Medicaid waiver programs/services. HCPF acknowledged the agency has some deficiencies but it is working towards resolving them.

Terry said representatives of the Area Agencies on Aging were working with selected members of the Colorado Legislature on the draft of a bill that would address the major concerns of the AAA's including:

- Recognition that the OCA (Older Coloradans Act) is a state funding source for the AAA's not to be used for other purposes
- Recognition of the current 16 AAA regions – no plans to consolidate regions
- Recognition of local control through regional priorities, advisory board and board of directors, including structures in current 4-year plans
- Maintain current accounting and management system
- Reimbursements in timely manner (within 30 days)
- Value of maintaining the current Volume 10 (rules/regulations) and Policy and procedures Manual
- Continuation of APAC (Aging Policy & Advisory Committee) link

ECCOG Board Members commented that the 2012 Legislative session was half over and the deadline for introducing new bills was very close. John Shipper and Steve Burgess said they would ask Colorado Counties Inc. (CCI) as to the current status of any such legislation. Terry said she would continue to communicate with other AAA directors and would forward any news on the bill as it becomes available.

### **State Fiscal Year 2012 Aging Service Evaluation...Round Two**

Terry Baylie said that the original July 1, 2012 timeline for implementation of new menus/recipes for Project Smile (the congregate meals for persons over 60) was not approved by Aging and Adult Services (the State agency that provides funding to the Area Agencies on Aging for the meals program). A new deadline of May 1, 2012 was agreed upon based on the time needed at the ECCOG regional level to analyze menus, plan meals, and order and deliver raw food. However, since that time, the regional

dietitian for the ECCOG meals programs has expressed concern that the menu analysis would be too time consuming and not cost effective. After several discussions with our dietitian and the State dietitian, the plan now is to get the dietitian that ECCOG works with approved to access the state Food Processor system as well as have the State provide menu analysis training for that system by the State. This could take up to a month. All of this will once again push back the implementation deadline, possibly to July or even August 2012. The state office has now approved this plan and potential timeline change.

### **Enterprise Zone Credits Summary for 2011**

Included in the COG mailing was a summary of the Enterprise Zone tax credits certified by ECCOG in 2011 for businesses within the East Central Enterprise Zone. Jo Downey briefly explained the report. 327 businesses, farms and ranches within the region claimed a total of \$1,432,018 in credits...most of them ITC (Investment Tax Credit). John Shipper asked why Elbert County had the fewest credits when it was the largest populated county. Downey said that this is because as these are credits for new or existing businesses, population is not a determining factor. Kit Carson County businesses claimed over half of the entire credits for the four counties because of the farming economy and farm capital expenditures. Elbert County agriculture is more ranching and qualifying capital investments are less. Jo also explained that anyone claiming a credit of less than \$450 did not have to have it certified by the Enterprise Zone (ECCOG)...thus it was most likely that thousands of dollars in additional credits resulted for small Ma and Pa type establishments. Those smaller credits will not be tracked as a result of the new State electronic filing system...so the report for 2012 should reflect a greater number of businesses using one or more of the credits.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **EDA Grant Extension**

A three month time extension of the existing EDA (Economic Development Administration) Economic Development Assistance Program has been granted. The current contract now expires June 20, 2012. A new grant request for continued staffing assistance for the remainder of 2012 and the first six months of 2013 will be submitted to EDA in May.

#### **Northeast Rural Philanthropy Days**

John Shipper distributed copies of a brochure for the Northeast Rural Philanthropy Days which is scheduled for June 20-22 in Brush. Jo Downey 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. She 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 are planning on seeking grant funds for. More information as to exact location and registration fees will be provided in the coming weeks.

#### **2011 Year End Senior and Transit Service Reports**

Included in Board member packets were year-end reports outlining the number and type of senior and transit services provided in each of the four counties. Terry Baylie reviewed these summaries and answered questions.

### **Enterprise Zone Marketing Efforts and Legislation**

ECCOG staff updated those present on the recent marketing efforts to convey to area citizens the existence of the East Central Enterprise Zone and the requirement that pre-certification (effective January 1, 2012) is now required for those seeking the tax credits made available through the zones. "Box" ads were run for three to five consecutive weeks in eleven different regional publications. Jo also reported that three 2012 legislative bills that proposed various changes to the Enterprise Zone program were all "dead". One bill (if passed into law) would have eliminated 75% of the rural areas now within a zone. There is still a bill (not yet passed out of the House) that would establish a Task Force to make future recommendations for changes in the Enterprise Zone program. Downey said she would update the Board electronically should this or any other legislation impacting the zones go forward.

### **Economic Development Brochure Inserts**

Jo Downey distributed copies of the new Economic Development inserts (one for each county) that will be used with the main Regional Economic Development Brochure...but can also be used separately by each county. Each insert has been updated to include more recent information on banks, utilities and to emphasize the availability of the Enterprise Zone tax credits. Downey said that the delay in finalizing the four (work began last fall) was deliberate as staff was waiting to see what the future of the Enterprise Zone would be for 2012 and 2013.

### **Our Journey 2012 Campaign**

Jo Downey discussed the proposed changes and the planned direction for the Our Journey marketing campaign for 2012. A major emphasis will be placed on conveying that the attractions are not that far away from Colorado's Front Range. Small circle tours will be carved out of the main Our Journey excursion....combing one or more attractions in a county or counties for a simple one day...one tank trip. Small group tours will also be encouraged. Senior Centers, Red Hat groups and other organizations will be encouraged to come by mini-bus for a one tank tour. Different options will be marketed to groups depending on location, budget, operating hours, etc. The new segment of Our Journey is being referred to as Silver Journey. Prizes, collectibles, etc. will not be given out at each museum as part of the Our Journey. The budgets will be adjusted to allow for a few larger prizes tied to visitation. Staff will forward the creative graphics to the Board when they are drafted.

### **Senior Services and Transit Advisory Board Member Re-Appointment**

Terry presented the names of the nominees who are seeking re-appointment to the SSTB (Senior Services and Transit Advisory Board): Kit Carson County...Edna Fross from Burlington; Elbert County...Mary Curtiss from Simla; Lincoln County...David Crismon from Hugo; Cheyenne County...Bob Paintin from Kit Carson. Troy McCue moved to reappoint all four to the advisory board; motion was seconded by John Shipper which carried unanimously.

### **Office of Economic Development and International Trade Blueprint Connects**

Selected materials from the recent Blueprint Connects regional meeting convened by the Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) to outline its Regional and Industry Economic Development Approach for Job Growth had been included in Board Member packets. Many of those present at ECCOG had also been in attendance at the OEDIT meeting in February. After brief discussion, it was the consensus of the COG Board that OEDIT be invited and encouraged to schedule future regional meetings on days and at places where COG would meet and that COG staff could assist (if needed) in such scheduling. This would assist in duplicating travel time as persons attending ECCOG could also attend the OEDIT work sessions. It was pointed out that the OEDIT regional meetings would involve a broader spectrum of players than just the ECCOG programs.

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

As previously scheduled, the May 2 meeting will be held in Simla. Paul Warnecke provided an update on the meeting location and meal plans. Following discussion it was decided to meet again in June instead of July because the first Wednesday in July is the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday. The June meeting will be held on the sixth in Cheyenne Wells.

### **Other**

There was no other business brought before the Board.

### **Adjournment**

Steve Burgess declared the meeting was adjourned at 8:43 pm.