

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 March 2, 2016

Call to Order

Chairman Nancy Bogenhagen called the March 2, 2016, meeting of the ECCOG Board of Directors to order at 7:07 PM at the Hub City Senior Center in Limon. In addition to Chairman Nancy Bogenhagen, Board members present included: Gary Beedy, Julie Coonts, Linda Corbin, Monica Halde, Dave Hornung, Greg King, Troy McCue, Hal McNerney, Don Means, Valerie Rhoades, and Larry Ross. Staff members present included: Jo Downey, ECCOG Executive Director; Candace Payne, Special Projects Director; and Terry Baylie, Senior and Transit Services Director. Board member, Maarten van Zoeren was unable to attend. Also attending were Joe Kiely, Town of Limon; Harvey Martin, Town of Flagler; Donna Dreyer-Ross, Elbert County; Paul Recanzone, Naomi LeGere and Gisele Futch all with Mid-State Consultants, Inc.

Chairman Bogenhagen asked the Board to consider the Minutes of the January 6, 2016 meeting. Dave Hornung moved to approve the January 6, 2016 meeting Minutes. Motion was seconded by Monica Halde and carried unanimously.

It was noted for the Minutes, the February 2016 Financial Report showing net payroll of \$25,465.91 and January 2016 bills of \$158,983.62 with debit card expenses of \$83.15 were approved by the Board via mail ballot. The Board next reviewed the March 2016 Financial Report and list of bills for February 2016. The March 2016 report showed a total net payroll of \$27,271.99 and total bills of \$59,821.23 with debit card expenses of \$1,590.34. Hal McNerney moved the Board approve the March 2016 financial report and pay the February 2016 bills. Troy McCue seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Broadband Plan Presentation

Paul Recanzone of Mid-State Consultants, Inc. briefed the Board on the ECCOG Broadband Study that is being undertaken by his firm on behalf of the East Central Council of Governments. Paul reported work continues on the plan to include rural eastern El Paso County as a separate supplement, maps need converted to Environmental Systems Research Institute Inc.'s, (ESRI) system, and completion of the online presentation. The greatest factor to address is the need for redundancy in certain parts of the region which will improve reliability. The redundancy need is complicated as the ISP's can't always afford to build this backup loop which might rarely be used. The costs would need to be passed on to private business which would be too high to justify the expense. Work will continue on the plan during the next few months. Additional interviews will be conducted in Elbert County next week. Mid-State will also assist with the educational component of the extended contract. Staff reiterated that in general the principal recommendation was that citizens within the region generally felt that the broadband

service in their area was acceptable...even in areas where businesses, health care and education felt it inadequate. Cell phone service via "Smartphones" was used by many as their Broadband provider...making it a challenge in some areas for Broadband to expand and increase speed due to limited potential consumers. The draft plan recommended 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 and gaps. The Broadband steering committee who met earlier in the day will help guide the educational phase. The area ISP's will provide educational and marketing materials that they have or are currently using and staff will seek examples from other areas as well as other states. A copy of the expanded contract and work program between Local Affairs and ECCOG was included in Board packets and a copy is attached to the official file copy of these minutes. Downey said that the entire match for the expanded contract was in the form of a grant of \$12,500 from the Cooper Clark Foundation.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy/Blueprint 2.0

ECCOG Executive Director Jo Downey outlined the going forward with the new Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the four-county region as drafted and adopted in June of 2015. The Economic Development Administration (EDA) has not yet had an opportunity to review it...so the CEDS Committee is continuing implementation of the goals and work program as outlined. As the ECCOG region coordinates the state Blueprint program within ECCOG's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, those present were also briefed on the upcoming Blueprint 2.0 application process for the various state regions and/or interested communities to apply for technical assistance from the Governor's Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) for one or more of eleven economic development initiatives that will be announced on March 15. Applications are due by June 1.

NEW BUSINESS:

EDA Grant

The current ECCOG staffing grant from the Economic Development Administration ends on June 30th. The current grant ends year three of a three year request...year 2 and 3 were updated and submitted by COG but a full application was not necessary. July 1, 2016 begins a new three year period and ECCOG was invited by EDA to apply again. If approved, EDA would provide \$66,000 each year to ECCOG to be matched at a 40% rate or \$44,000 for a total yearly budget of \$110,000 and a total three-year grant request. An executive summary of the proposal, the budget, staffing plan and Scope of Work had previously been sent to the Board members. After a brief explanation by Jo Downey as to how this type of Partnership Planning Grant works, Troy McCue moved to submit the 3-year proposal to the Economic Development Administration. Motion was seconded by Monica Halde and carried unanimously. Copies of the supportive materials are included with the official file copy of these Minutes.

Enterprise Zone Tax Credit Summary

A summary of the Enterprise Zone tax credits certified by ECCOG during 2015 had been included in Board packets and again with materials (agenda and Minutes) sent to all of those on the ECCOG mailing list. Additional copies were available at the meeting. 374 different pre-certified businesses submitted

State Income tax credits in 2015 in the amount of \$10,373,843. Contribution project credits totaled \$15,491...contribution credits do not have to be pre-certified. Jo Downey explained ECCOG's role in administering the East Central Enterprise Zone and the process for designation of most of the area within ECCOG's service area as an enterprise zone. Re-designation of zone boundaries throughout the state took place in 2015. New boundaries became effective on January 1, 2016. Boundaries can be considered for amendment by the state's Economic Development Commission if unqualified areas become eligible in the future. In order to be considered for enterprise zone status, an area must meet at least one of the three distress criteria defined in statute: 1) Per Capita Income: Less than 75% of the State average for the most recent period; 2) Unemployment Rate: More than 25% over the State average during the most recent 12 month period; or 3) Population Growth Rate: Less than 25% for the most recent five year period. A copy of each of the certification summaries is included with the official file copy of these Minutes.

Aging and Transit Services During 2015

Included with Board materials were the 2015 aging and transit services year-end reports. Area Agency on Aging Director, Terry Baylie, reviewed the Outback Express public transit system report, explaining the various funding sources and the usage of the vehicles. She also explained how the "vehicle replacement funds" are received and how they are used. Terry next reviewed the year-end report for the services provided by the Area Agency on Aging. This report shows the services provided either as a direct service or through contracts with outside agencies. The report shows the total cash expenses, units of service and the cost per unit, as well as the number of clients who received service. A comparison with 2014 units was also provided. In answer to a question about what is a "unit of service", Terry said that it varies from service to service. Some units are an "hour" and some are a "contact", which could be anywhere from 5 minutes to 25 minutes. A meal is one meal, and transportation is a "one-way trip". A copy of each report is included with the official file copy of these Minutes.

2016 Events Guide/Summer Tourism Promotion

Those present were briefed on the work program/tasks for the upcoming Heritage Tourism travel season, including the 2016 Events Guide. In order to have the Guide compiled, printed and ready for distribution by the first week in May, Event forms are due back to the COG office by March 21. The Guide is distributed throughout the region and is also included in the Our Journey "travel kits" and posted on the regional Heritage Tourism website...www.ourjourney.info.

Next Two Meeting Dates/Locations

After discussion, it was decided to hold the next ECCOG Board meeting on April 6th in Limon, with supper at Golden China. There will not be a meeting in May. The June 1st meeting will also be held in Limon with the supper location to be determined.

Other

There was no other business to come before the Board.

Adjournment

Nancy Bogenhagen declared the meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.