

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 April 1, 2015

Call to Order

Chairman Nancy Bopenhagen called the April 1, 2015 meeting of the ECCOG Board of Directors to order at 7:08 PM at the Hub City Senior Center in Limon, CO. In addition to Chairman Nancy Bopenhagen, Board members present included: Harry Nelson, Larry Ross, Dave Hornung, Monica Halde, Troy McCue, Harvey Martin, Jack Hendricks and Gary Beedy. Staff members present included Jo Downey, ECCOG Executive Director; Candace Payne, Special Projects/Lending Director; and Terry Baylie, Senior and Transit Services Director. Also present was Donna Dreyer-Ross from Elbert County and John Hill of the Ranchland News in Simla. Board members Valerie Rhoades, Maarten Van Zoeren, Greg King and Nancy Harris were absent.

Nancy led the group in the pledge of allegiance.

Nancy then asked the Board to consider the Minutes of the February 5, 2015 meeting. Troy McCue moved to approve the February 5, 2015, meeting Minutes. Motion was seconded by Monica Halde and carried unanimously.

The Board next reviewed the April 2015 Financial Report and list of bills for March 2015. The report showed a total net payroll of \$27,095.39 and total bills for March of \$69,676.01 (including the \$1,205.74 in debit card expenses). Gary Beedy moved the Board approve the April financial report and pay the March bills. Larry Ross seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Broadband Plan Status

Staff updated the Board and others as to the status of the Regional Broadband Planning Project. Meetings in various locations throughout the Region are to be scheduled for later this month or into May. The general purpose of these local sessions is to learn about needs and wants of Broadband users and providers. Face to face or conference call meetings between the consultants and the Broadband service providers will also take place in April. Research as to the providers and type/level of service has been completed. Staff commented on the fact that the Steering Committee has been active and most helpful in the plan thus far.

Enterprise Zone Boundaries

Included with Board Materials were copies of several different maps. Some depicted the current Enterprise Zone boundaries for the East Central Enterprise Zone and potential boundary changes that would be effective January 1, 2016. Nothing would change in Kit Carson or Lincoln County (all geographical areas in both counties would remain in the East Central Zone). Cheyenne County would

lose some area and Elbert County would lose some areas and gain some other areas that are not currently in the Zone. Jo Downey discussed the statute and data that is driving the changes. Legislation passed in 2010 makes it mandatory that the sixteen Colorado Enterprise Zones must apply to be re-designated in 2015 with any new boundaries becoming effective January 1, 2016. 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 OR 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. At this time, it appears that all of Lincoln and Kit Carson County meet the population growth criteria. Most of Cheyenne County meets the population growth criteria but there is a “mid-section” of the county that does not. However, Downey said that even though ECCOG had requested and been granted permission to use the 2014 data as one of the last of the five years rather than the 2013 data currently used by the State, that portion of Cheyenne County still remains ineligible. It appears that most of Elbert County will be eligible....part population, part unemployment and part per capita income. The boundaries will have to be drawn as low as census tracts or even “census places”. The industrial zoned areas on the south side of Hwy 86 between Elizabeth and Kiowa will fall out of the zone, but it appears that the half of Elbert that is currently west of the Kiowa Creek will now be eligible (it had not been before) as well as some additional area outside of Elizabeth. ECCOG has submitted it’s pre-application and anticipates being asked to submit a full application by the State Office of Economic Development within a few weeks. Jo said she would work on obtaining more detailed maps for Elbert and Cheyenne Counties showing the potential new boundaries but cautioned all present that the potential boundary changes are still a draft and could possibly change.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

ECCOG Executive Director Jo Downey outlined the status of the development of the new Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the four-county region. Meetings with each town and each county will take place during the next several weeks to review the goals and discuss potential economic/community development projects that need to be included in the plan. Socio-demographic data is still being researched but should be complete by the end of the month. The State Demography office is also assisting staff in providing economic conditions data for the pan. The new CEDS is due to the Economic Development Administration by June 30.

Other:

Update on Vehicle Purchases

Transit Services Director Terry Baylie advised that the contracts for the Cheyenne County van and the Kit Carson County Burlington vehicles have been received. The invitation to bid for the Cheyenne County van has been sent to local dealers. Terry will contact Marcy Brossman to get on the next Commissioners’ meeting agenda to review the bids and select a vendor. Staff is currently in the process of obtaining the bid/pricing information on the KCC Burlington vehicle. The Federal funding portion of the KCC Stratton vehicle contract was received, however the State FASTER contract has not been received and both need to be submitted at the same time. Due to possible conflicts in the timeframe and meeting dates, Terry asked the Board to approve the Federal contract and allow Nancy to sign the state FASTER contract when it is received. Dave Hornung moved to accept and sign the Federal contract and allow Nancy to sign the State FASTER contract when it is received. Motion was seconded by Troy McCue and carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Aging Services Four Year Plan (July 1, 2015-June 30, 2019)

Terry stated that every 4 years the AAA is required to develop an area plan that focuses on the activities, services and programs for older adult residents of the 4-county region. This plan was included in Board packets and is due to the state office on May 8, 2015. Terry explained that the first page is the statutory basis for the plan and included the State Unit on Aging's policy directive. Page 4 includes some Older Americans Act and State funding background information. The actual plan for this region begins on page 5 with the Executive Summary. Terry said that a public input meeting was held on March 3rd in Limon and that a public hearing will be held on April 9th in conjunction with the regional advisory board meeting (also in Limon). Any comments from the governing board from the April 1st meeting will be included in the plan. The priorities for the next 4 years are listed on page 8, and were based on input received from the advisory board, staff members, and the March 3rd public meeting. Terry stated it was interesting to see that 4 years ago transportation ranked 3rd on the list and has slipped to a 7th place rank in the current plan. The need for ombudsman services was ranked 4th four years ago and has moved up to 2nd most important in the current plan. As always, legal service is not a high priority for this region. We have spent more money advertising this service and it is still under-utilized. All of the services listed are mandatory (required to provide) services except the Material Aid service, which is Project Help MATE, however, this service ranks high on the list. Nancy asked how many survey responses were received back and thought it might be a good idea to include that information. Terry will make that addition. The plan discusses the need for volunteers, addresses the unserved or underserved populations, legal services, ombudsman services and regional demographics. Terry noted that question 4 on page 11 indicates that this region does not have a program in place for the Part D health promotion service. In the past, these funds (\$3000) were used in conjunction with the Help MATE program to provide preventative dental care maintenance. Effective October 2016, these funds can no longer be used for that service and must be used to provide an evidence-based service that meets the highest level criteria required by the Administration on Aging. Since the time of draft plan printing and mailing to the Board, Terry said the AAA will be partnering with Lincoln Community Hospital to provide an exercise program called "Stepping On". The funds will be used to assist with weekly classes and supplies; and does meet all the required criteria. Section VII will be used by the State during on-site evaluations to monitor regional use of the plan, as will Section IX. The forms mentioned in Section VIII (page 20) are attached to the end of the plan beginning on page 27. Dave Hornung moved to approve the draft plan pending positive recommendation from the advisory board. Monica Halde seconded the motion which carried unanimously. A copy of the draft plan is included with the official file copy of these minutes.

2015 Events Guide/Summer Tourism Promotion

Those present were briefed on the status of the area's 2015 summer Events Guide, Places Guide and the museum touring card that allows for free admission to each of the areas thirteen museums. The guides and the revamping of the www.ourjourney.info web page are highlights by historic graphics/photos as in the past...but the historical period for this year's design is slightly later...1930's art deco. A few years ago art deco logos were designed for each of the museums and those are being incorporated into the 2015 materials. Copies of the text for both brochures were distributed for review by the Board members in the next few days. Cheyenne County representatives noted that the County Fair was not listed...staff said that would be addressed immediately. Comments are due back within a week. Once the text has

been folded into the brochures, draft copies will be mailed out for one more review. Brochures must be ready for distribution by early May as an Events Guide is sent home with each K-12 student in the Region.

By-Law Amendment

Enclosed with Board Materials was a copy of a proposed amendment to the COG Bylaws that would allow for Board Members to call in via teleconference for meetings where a quorum is doubtful because of inclement weather. After lengthy discussion it was recommended that the amendment be somewhat broader so that a quorum could be guaranteed at any meeting if someone could not come at the last minute. Troy McCue moved to revise the proposed amendment, possibly to *"Arrangements may be made to schedule a public meeting where Board members can attend via a conference call if a quorum cannot be met."* and table action on the amendment until the next meeting. Jack Hendricks seconded the motion which carried unanimously. All present were asked to come to the next meeting with various alternatives for wording of the amendment.

Next Two Meeting Dates/Locations

Jo stated that Lori Hendrick (ECCOG Auditor) would be available to present the audit in either May or June. Terry said that the CDOT 2016-2017 two-year FTA grant application will be due June 5th and the T-III funding request will be due "early in May". It was suggested that the COG Board meet May 6th and June 3rd and skip July and August. Terry hopes to have both funding requests available by the May meeting since the advisory board will meet on May 7th. Therefore the ECCOG May meeting was set for the 6th in Limon, with dinner at the Golden China; and a decision regarding a June meeting will be made at that time.

Adjournment

Nancy Bogenhagen declared the meeting adjourned at 8:31 PM.