

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 May 6, 2015

Call to Order

Chairman Nancy Bogenhagen called the May 6, 2015, meeting of the ECCOG Board of Directors to order at 7:04 PM at the Hub City Senior Center in Limon, CO. In addition to Chairman Nancy Bogenhagen, Board members present included: Harry Nelson, Dave Hornung, Monica Halde, Troy McCue, Harvey Martin, Jack Hendricks, Valerie Rhoades, Maarten Van Zoeren, Greg King 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. Lori Hendrick of May Jackson Hendrick, LLC and Mickie Valente, consultant with EDA's Economic Recovery Support Function were also present. Board members Larry Ross and Nancy Harris were absent.

Chairman Nancy Bogenhagen led the pledge of allegiance.

Chairman Bogenhagen then asked the Board to consider the Minutes of the April 1, 2015, meeting. Dave Hornung moved to approve the April 1, 2015, meeting Minutes. Motion was seconded by Harvey Martin and carried unanimously.

The Board next reviewed the May 2015 Financial Report and list of bills for April 2015. The report showed a total net payroll of \$28,276.28 and total bills for April of \$58,102.86 (including the \$1,011.64 in debit card expenses). Dave Hornung moved the Board approve the May financial report and pay the April bills. Greg King 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. The consultants will initiate the one-on-one interviews with various stakeholders/partners in early May. Emphasis now is on encouraging as many individuals and businesses as possible to complete the survey. COG will place box ads in each of the weekly newspapers within the four-county region as to the survey and its purpose. After running the ad for two consecutive weeks, a news article regarding the survey and the plan will be sent to each of the papers. A flyer will be developed that can be distributed throughout the region at agriculture implement dealerships, etc. Communities with web sites will also be asked to post the flyer on their sites and on Facebook. The consultants have met with 12 of the 15 ISP's in the Region to gather information. The consultants felt those meeting have been productive and beneficial. The remaining three providers will be contacted within the next 10 days. Jo Downey stated the planning project was approximately two weeks behind of the initial projected time line due to weather and survey design issues.

2014 Audit Presentation

Lori Hendrick from May Jackson Hendrick presented the 2014 ECCOG Audit to the Board. Drafts of the audit were mailed in the Board packets in late April. Lori reviewed the audit page by page as to what each meant. She stated that it was a very clean audit and the highest opinion possible was given by her firm. Brief discussion followed. Gary Beedy moved to approve the audit for filing. Maarten Van Zoeren seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

ECCOG Executive Director Jo Downey outlined the progress being made in the development of the new Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the four-county region. Potential Economic Development projects that could assist in implementing the goals and strategies of the CEDS are being proposed by each community and county. Those projects are being ranked by their respective entities as high, medium and low and will become an integral part of the planning document. Most of the social/economic/population data has been researched and included in the initial draft. The State Demography office is developing other data summaries for each of the counties. Jo said that much of the data is better presented county by county as presenting it as a regional summary does not portray an accurate description of the region as a whole due to the population growth in Elbert County. Other chapters of the CEDS are nearing completion and the initial completed draft should be ready for review and comment by the end of May. The CEDS is due to the Economic Development Administration by the end of June.

Enterprise Zone Application and 2016 Boundaries

Jo Downey updated those present on the status of the Enterprise Zone application from ECCOG for re-designation in 2016 of all of Lincoln and Kit Carson Counties and most of Elbert and Cheyenne Counties as a Colorado State Enterprise Zone. Updated maps showing the areas within Cheyenne and Elbert that will NOT be eligible for re-designation were reviewed. Downey answered questions about the qualifying criteria and said that the electronic application from the Governor's Office of Economic Development and International Trade would be online within the next three weeks. The East Central Enterprise Zone also includes the North East Colorado sub-zone, but the Northeast Colorado Association of Local Governments will be completing that portion of the application. Businesses that may have submitted EZ certification requests in the past but will not be eligible in 2016 will be contacted by ECCOG staff. As economic conditions change, the zone boundaries may be amended if those areas not included in the 2016 designation request become eligible.

NEW BUSINESS:

Older Adult Services Funding Request for State Fiscal Year (July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016)

Included in Board packets was the funding request for aging services to be provided by ECCOG beginning July 1. Area Agency Director Terry Baylie stated that additional funds of \$52,624 were allocated over the past year. \$50,183 of which was State Funds for Senior Services. Terry then reviewed the funding request, explaining how these funds would be spent locally. The advisory board will not meet to review/recommend this request until May 14, so Terry asked the Board to approve it pending favorable approval by the advisory board. Gary Beedy moved to approve the funding request and

forward it to the State pending favorable approval by the advisory board. Motion was seconded by Troy McCue and carried unanimously.

Economic Development Resiliency Plan Presentation

The new CEDS requires an Economic Resiliency Plan as part of the Region's overall Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. Jo Downey introduced Mickie Valente, a consultant with The Economic Development Administration's Economic Recovery Support Function. Mickie made brief presentation to the Board as to the importance of this Resiliency Plan. Previously mailed with other Board materials were copies of two Resiliency Reports...one of which was specific to ECCOG as a result of an interview by Mickie's counterpart with Jo Downey last fall. Jo said that this report combined with Mickie's assistance should be of great value in helping COG staff develop the ECCOG resiliency portion of the CEDS. Mickie also offered her assistance to any individual community or county that might be interested in furthering their Resiliency Plans in their Community or Economic Development departments. Jo reiterated again that the Economic Recovery Resiliency planning efforts were totally different than emergency preparedness planning or implementation. One example of economic resiliency was to further economic diversification so if a natural or economic or man-made disaster effected a principal industry segment within a locality, other industry segments could help offset that impact.

Federal Transit Administration 2016-2017 Grant Application

Included in Board packets was the 2-year grant application for FTA funding through CDOT. Terry Baylie stated the application proposed a total of \$182,191 for 2016 and a 2% increase over that for 2017 for a total of \$185,835. In previous years, this proposal was broken down to admin and operating. Last year, CDOT chose to combine them and ask each grantee how they wanted the funds splits. For 2015, this agency was awarded a total of \$182,190 divided for \$45,540 in admin and \$136,650 in operating. Terry reviewed the 2016 application which shows no proposed increase from the 2015 total...thus the admin/operating split would be the same as this year. Several changes in field staff and other operating issues resulted in this agency's request to remain the same for 2016, with a 2% increase for 2017. Again, the advisory board will not meet to review/recommend this application until May 14, so Terry asked the Board to approve submitting it pending favorable approval by the advisory board. Troy McCue moved to approve and submit the 2-year grant application pending favorable approval by the advisory board. Motion was seconded by Valerie Rhoades and carried unanimously.

COG Brochure

A copy of the newly revised brochure summarizing ECCOG's overall programs and purpose had been previously mailed to each Board Member and was also included in the general COG mailing to the local governments, partners, etc. Jo Downey said the previous brochure had become outdated and this new one replaces it. Additional copies were available so that Board Members could take some for distribution.

2015 Events Guide/Summer Tourism Promotion

The summer brochures will be completed and ready for distribution by May 11. Electronic copies of the final drafts for each of the three pieces were sent earlier to each Board Member. Staff discussed the use of the brochures and their distribution. A copy of the latest Public Relations report from consultant Danielle Dascalos outlining Front Range Media Coverage in March and April had been mailed earlier to the

Board. Jo Downey suggested that the Board also review the changes in the Our Journey website: www.ourjourney.info which includes the updated 2015 events, antique shops, etc.

By-Law Amendment

The Board considered a proposed By-Law Amendment that would allow for one or more Board Members to participate by conference call should a scheduled ECCOG public meeting be short of a quorum. Harvey Martin made the motion to amend the bylaws in the "Section 2 Meeting" paragraph to read: "Teleconference meetings may be held when a quorum cannot be met due to inclement weather or any other uncontrolled event. However, a physical meeting site must be made available for those attending in person." Motion was seconded by Greg King and carried unanimously. Staff will develop wording for the ECCOG Policies and Procedures Manual to help guide how notification of such meetings would be made.

Next Two Meeting Dates/Locations

The next meeting will be June 3, 2015, at the Hub City Senior Center, with supper prior to the meeting at Jenny's Mexican Café at 5:45 pm. There will be no meetings scheduled for July and August, 2015 due to wheat harvest and/or county fairs. A special meeting may be called, if necessary.

Adjournment

Nancy Bogenhagen declared the meeting adjourned at 9:31 PM.