

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 June 3, 2015

Call to Order

Chairman Nancy Bogenhagen called the June 3, 2015 meeting of the ECCOG Board of Directors to order at 7:10 PM at the Limon Heritage Museum in Limon, CO. In addition to Chairman Nancy Bogenhagen, Board members present included: Dave Hornung, Monica Halde, Harvey Martin, Jack Hendricks, Valerie Rhoades, Larry Ross, Nancy Harris, Maarten Van Zoeren and Greg King. Staff members present included Jo Downey, ECCOG Executive Director; Candace Payne, Special Projects/Lending Director; and Terry Baylie, Senior and Transit Services Director. John Hill from Ranchland News in Simla and Joe Kiely of Limon were also present. Board members Harry Nelson, Troy McCue, and Gary Beedy were absent.

Chairman Nancy Bogenhagen led the pledge of allegiance.

Chairman Bogenhagen then asked the Board to consider the Minutes of the May 6, 2015 meeting. Dave Hornung moved to approve the May 6, 2015 meeting Minutes. Motion was seconded by Jack Hendricks and carried unanimously.

The Board next reviewed the June 2015 Financial Report and list of bills for May 2015. The report showed a total net payroll of \$28,541.01 and total bills for May of \$80,696.76 (including the \$902.98 in debit card expenses). Greg King moved the Board approve the June financial report and pay the May bills. Larry Ross seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Broadband Plan Status

Jo Downey updated the Board on the status of the Regional Broadband Planning Project. The research and one-on-one interviews are nearing completion. The response to the survey has been slow but steady. Box ads were run twice in each of the Region's weekly newspapers. A news release was sent to each of the weeklies shortly after the ads were finished. Flyers regarding the survey have been posted throughout the Region. Steering Committee members have also been distributing flyers. Staff has left additional flyers at town halls, courthouses, etc. Downey said that flyers were brought to the meeting so the Board members could take some back and distribute. Nancy suggested that the news release be sent again within a few weeks as running it a second time (or perhaps for some papers...a first time) could be helpful. The survey will continue throughout the summer. Paul Recanzone from Mid-State Consultants said in an email to Jo that enough information has come in to date, that he can begin formulating alternatives for improving service.

Jo Downey said that the Colorado Department of Local Affairs had contacted her as to the possibility/feasibility of ECCOG expanding their Broadband Study to include portions of El Paso County, particularly communities/areas near and around Highway 94 and communities/areas along Highway 24 east of Colorado Springs. Mid-State Consultants would treat this portion of the study as a separate “chapter”. The additional costs would be paid by an increased amount to the grant and required match from El Paso County. DOLA said that by amending existing contracts, there would be a cost savings to the local governments and to the State. A similar inquiry has been made to NECALG to include eastern Weld County. Downey said that if approved, ECCOG would also need to add a small (5-10%) administrative fee to be paid by El Paso County since the Impact Grant did not allow for any administrative costs. After extensive discussion, Dave Hornung made a motion to request an amendment to the ECCOG/ DOLA Broadband contract to include eastern El Paso County if the county and DOLA and the consultants could come to agreement. The motion was seconded by Maarten Van Zoeren and carried unanimously

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

ECCOG Executive Director Jo Downey said that the draft of the 2015-2020 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) had been completed. A 30-day public review period began May 26th. Community partners, town, counties, various committees, etc. were notified of the completion of the draft and asked for their review and comments, suggestions, etc. The CEDS draft has also been posted on the COG website. Hard copies were mailed to those who requested them...and hard copies were mailed or given to each ECCOG Board Member. Downey said that the comments and suggestions for changes, additions, etc. would be incorporated as appropriate into a second draft which would be reviewed by the Prairie Development Corporation on June 24 and the CEDS/Blueprint Committee on June 25. Each group would be asked to consider any additional changes and then make an official recommendation to the ECCOG Board as to whether the draft should be officially approved and submitted to the Economic Development Administration (EDA). The final draft of the plan is due to the Economic Development Administration by June 30. EDA will then review the draft and make recommendations as to any needed changes/additions before final approval by EDA.

FASTER Contract for the Kit Carson County Bus

Terry Baylie, Senior and Transit Services Director, stated the contract and Scope of Work for the FASTER grant from CDOT for financial assistance of the 20% required matching funds to purchase a new bus for Kit Carson County to be based in Stratton had been received. A copy of the Scope of Work had been included in Board Member packets. General approval for the contract was granted at the April ECCOG meeting.

Enterprise Zone Application and 2016 Boundaries

Jo Downey stated that the application to the Office of Economic Development and International Trade for continuation of the four counties as a State Enterprise Zone is due July 15. State staff will work with each of the Regions during June to assure that their respective application is proceeding as required. Jo said that much of what had been done to complete the draft CEDS would be of assistance as the EZ application was prepared. She saw no foreseeable problems in completing the application by mid-July.

NEW BUSINESS:

EDA Partnership Planning Grant for July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016

A copy of the SOW (Statement of Work) for the EDA Planning Partnership grant contract for the upcoming twelve month period had been included with Board materials. Staff reviewed the SOW and the contract budget/match as to its importance to the overall staffing and services provided by ECCOG. The Board was then asked to consider a resolution authorizing the COG chairman to sign the contract on behalf of ECCOG. Motion to authorize COG Chairman Nancy Bopenhagen to sign the contract was made by Harvey Martin; seconded by Monica Halde. Motion carried unanimously.

2015 Events Guide/Summer Tourism Promotion

Those present were updated on the summer heritage tourism/events promotion for the Region. The summer brochure updates were provided to those present. The Board Members were asked to take additional copies to distribute in their respective communities.

Special Meeting for CEDS Approval

Jo Downey told the Board that the CEDS 30-day public review and comment period will be up June 25th. Therefore, an ECCOG Board meeting will be necessary to approve the final draft and submit it to EDA by June 30th. After brief discussion it was decided to schedule a special ECCOG Board Meeting for Friday, June 26 at 12:30 in Stratton at the ECCOG office. A teleconferencing option will be available for members and others who cannot physically attend.

Next Meeting Date/Location

The next regular ECCOG meeting will be September 2, 2015, in Limon, with supper prior to the meeting at the Golden China **at 5:45 pm**. There will be no meetings scheduled for July or August due to wheat harvest and County Fairs.

Other

SFY 2016 Contract for Aging Services

Senior Services Director, Terry Baylie distributed copies of the contract signature page and Exhibit G from the State Contract for grant funds for Aging Services provided by ECCOG in the four-county region. The contract would be effective July 1, 2015. Terry summarized the funding amounts in Exhibit G for each service category. Terry then asked the Board for a motion to accept the contract and allow the ECCOG Board Chairman and the Executive Director to sign the signature page. A motion to accept and sign the contract was made by Maarten Van Zoeren, seconded by Greg King and carried unanimously.

Pearl Harbor Day – VFW Hugo

Greg King invited everyone to attend a special dedication on Pearl Harbor Day at the VFW in Hugo. With assistance from Senator Bennett, an artifact from the USS Arizona will be given to the Joe Will Post in Hugo. Joe Will died on the USS Arizona on December 7, 1947 and his remains are still entombed on the sunken carrier. Staff said they would contact Danielle Dascalos to see if special media coverage of that day could be obtained.

Adjournment

Nancy Bopenhagen declared the meeting adjourned at 8:06 PM.