

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 September 2, 2015

Call to Order

Chairman Nancy Bogenhagen called the September 2, 2015, meeting of the ECCOG Board of Directors to order at 7:06 PM at the Limon Heritage Museum's Railroad Dining Car 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, Harry Nelson, Troy McCue, Gary Beedy and Greg King. Staff members present included Jo Downey, ECCOG Executive Director; Candace Payne, Special Projects Director; and Terry Baylie, Senior and Transit Services Director. John Hill from Ranchland News in Simla was also present. Board member Maarten Van Zoeren was unable to attend. Jo Downey stated that Board Member Nancy Harris had resigned due to extensive travel in the coming months.

Chairman Nancy Bogenhagen asked Gary Beedy to lead the group in the pledge of allegiance.

Chairman Bogenhagen then asked the Board to consider the Minutes of the June 3, 2015, meeting. Dave Hornung moved to approve the June 3, 2015, meeting Minutes. Motion was seconded by Greg King and carried unanimously.

The Board next reviewed the September 2015 Financial Report and list of bills for August 2015. The report showed a total net payroll of \$27,352.29 and total bills for August of \$78,942.43 (including \$404.13 in debit card travel expenses). Gary Beedy moved the Board approve the September financial report and pay the August bills. Troy McCue seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Broadband Plan Status

ECCOG Executive Director Jo Downey updated the Board and others as to the status of the Regional Broadband Planning Project and the agenda/discussion for the Steering Committee meeting to be held in Limon on September 10. Downey said that the request from DOLA and El Paso county for ECCOG to request a contract amendment to allow the ECCOG Broadband consultant to work with rural areas in El Paso County was on hold until further notice as the staff person that was to oversee the work is no longer with El Paso County.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs)

Jo Downey stated that the East Central COG's Comprehensive Economic Development plan for 2016-2020 was submitted to the Economic Development Administration by the June 30, 2015 deadline. The ECCOG Board had approved the submittal via teleconference on June 26 after a 30-day review. Downey

said that ECCOG had not yet received any comments back from EDA. Once comments have been received, necessary revisions will be made and the final CEDS will be printed for distribution. The draft is currently available on the ECCOG website.

Enterprise Zone Application and 2016 Boundaries

Jo Downey updated the Board on the final boundaries for the East Central Enterprise Zone effective January 1, 2016. The State Economic Development Commission approved the boundaries on August 13. Downey stated that changes to the educational and marketing materials for the East Central EZ will need to be completed by mid-November so they can be distributed. A map of the new boundaries is attached to the official file copy of these minutes. All of Lincoln and Kit Carson Counties remain in the zone. A portion of Cheyenne County is no longer eligible. The boundaries in Elbert County have been expanded but some small parcels that were included before are no longer eligible.

Other

FTA 2016 Operating/Administration Contract

Terry distributed information on the funding award for 2016 for the Outback Express public transit system. It appears that a contract must be in place by November 27th. Terry expects that the contract will be received in October and the contract signature page will need to be returned by October 31. If this is the case, the contract will need to be signed and returned before the next COG Board meeting in November. Harry Nelson moved to accept the contract when offered and allow Chairman Bopenhagen to sign it and return it by the required date. Motion was seconded by Troy McCue and carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Upcoming Senior Services Impaired Vision Changes

Terry reported that the State no longer allows purchase of eyeglasses under the state funded Visually Impaired service. Transportation, which this program also funded last year, was not well utilized. The Audio Information Network (AIN) and the Colorado Talking Book Library were invited to the Advisory Board meeting on July 9th to provide a presentation on the services they offer. Types of audio service include talking equipment, telephone readers, etc. The AIN would also refer individuals to the Talking Book Library, which will provide a reader (similar to a tape recorder) and send monthly books...free of charge. Following the presentation, the advisory board asked Terry to request a proposal from AIN for services they can provide for this region. The advisory board will review the proposal at its September 10th meeting and make a recommendation for funding to the COG Board at its next meeting. Terry stated that those eligible individuals needing eyeglasses can still obtain them through the Project HelpMATE program.

Our Journey Marketing/2015 Season

Included in Board packets was a copy of the summary of public relations coverage of the heritage sites, events, etc. within the four-county area thus far in 2015 reported by Danielle Dascalos. Jo Downey discussed the report and the plans for additional coverage through the end of the year. Board members were encouraged to go to www.ourjourney.info to review the 2015 website format and the event banner that rotates at the top of the page. A grant has been received from the Cooper Clark Foundation to replace the eight Off the Beaten Trail sites' signs. ECCOG staff will pick up the signs when completed

and deliver to appropriate pre-arranged places. The local sites will need to make arrangements to remove their respective old signs and install the new ones. In some cases, it would be best if the sign could be angled slightly differently so as to be away from as much direct sunlight as possible.

Local Government Contributions to ECCOG for 2016

Included in Board packets was a table summarizing the local government contributions to ECCOG for 2016. These are the funds that will be used to leverage the principal grant programs for the upcoming calendar year. There was virtually no change in the total contributions from 2015. Total contributions from the four counties and fifteen towns will be \$76,627. Staff discussed the importance of the local governments funds as the leveraging each year is a minimum of 11 to 1. Each County also contributes \$3,500 towards the cost of administering the Enterprise Zone tax credit program. These funds are vouchered in September of each year. The COG general contributions are vouchered quarterly.

Area Agency on Aging Updates

Area Agency on Aging Director, Terry Baylie stated that Senior Speak-Out 39 will be held on October 1 and 2. This year's conference has been moved from Lamar to La Junta. There were issues with the Cow Palace accommodations, where the event is usually held that could not be resolved, so the meeting and meals will be at Otero Junior College in La Junta with overnight housing at the Econo Lodge. Terry also reported that the East Central COG Long Term Care Ombudsman Site Assessment was completed by the State on September 8, 2014 and the findings were received in June this year. There were no compliant issues noted.

2016 Budget Process/Time Frame/Salary Schedule

The time frame and process to develop the overall ECCOG 2016 budget including salary costs, fringe, etc. was summarized by Jo Downey. Included with Board materials was a copy of the 2015-2016 salary schedules...one for salaried employees and one for part-time waged employees. The same schedules have been used since 2012. As the various contracts for the various programs administered by ECCOG are approved throughout the year, the overall annual budget for the coming year is usually a compilation of expenditures from the various programs. Downey said that the first draft of the budget would be presented at the November meeting.

2016 Board Member Selection Time Frame/Process

Jo Downey explained that the process to select the 2016 ECCOG Board Members will begin in October. Nomination forms are sent to each municipality. Each town/city has the option to nominate either its mayor or a councilman/trustee. If there is more than one nominee per county, then a ballot is sent to those municipalities in late November. Each town has one vote. In the case of a tie, the County Commission will decide who represents the towns/cities in their respective county. The four County Commission represented are selected at each county's reorganizational meeting in January. Each county's Economic Development Board Members is also selected at the county reorganizational meeting. The thirteenth ECCOG Board "At Large" member is appointed by the Prairie Development Corporation. The January ECCOG meeting will be the last meeting of the 2015 Board...it is always to close out the previous year's business. The first meeting of the 2016 Board will be February 3, 2016. Downey also said that due to the lengthy time period needed to determine ECCOG municipal members, the Elbert County municipal position for 2015 would remain vacant (due to Nancy Harris's resignation) as it would not be possible to have a new person in place before the end of the year.

Other

Cheyenne County nomination to the SSTB (Senior Services & Transit Advisory Board)

Terry explained that the Cheyenne County Commissioners have nominated Carol Allen of Arapahoe for appointment to the SSTB. Monica Halde moved that the ECCOG Board officially appoint Ms. Allen to the advisory board; motion was seconded by Valarie Rhoades and carried unanimously.

Colorado Municipal League Annual Meeting for Region 5

The annual Colorado Municipal League's meeting for the towns (counties are also invited) in Elbert, Lincoln, Kit Carson and Cheyenne Counties will be held in Hugo on Tuesday, October 6, 2015. The meeting will begin at 4:00 and will highlight the 2016 legislative outlook as to potential municipal impacts. A dinner and entertainment will follow.

Next Two Meeting Dates/Locations

The next meeting will be on November 4, 2015 at the Claremont in Stratton. Dinner will be at 5:30 pm with the meeting to follow at 7 pm. There will be no December 2015 meeting.

Adjournment

Nancy Bogenhagen declared the meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.