

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 3, 2013

Call to Order

Chairman Nancy Bopenhagen called the April 3, 2013 meeting of the ECCOG Board of Directors to order at 7:02 pm at the Hub City Senior Center in Limon. In addition to Nancy Bopenhagen, Board members present included: Dave Hornung, Linda Glidden, Harry Nelson, Troy McCue, Jack Hendricks, Kerry Korsvold, Larry Ross, Greg King, and Monica Halde. Nancy also welcomed two new members: Lincoln County Economic Development representative Gary Beedy and Elbert County Economic Development representative Kyle Fenner. Staff present included Jo Downey, ECCOG Executive Director, and Terry Baylie, Senior and Transit Services Director. Also present was Del Beattie, Town of Limon. Board member Valerie Rhoades was absent.

Nancy led the group in the pledge of allegiance.

Nancy then asked the Board to consider the Minutes of the February 6, 2013 meeting. Troy McCue moved to approve the February 6th meeting Minutes. Motion was seconded by Dave Hornung and carried unanimously.

The Board next reviewed the April 2013 Financial Report and list of bills for March 2013. The report showed a total net payroll of \$28,138.15 and total bills for March of \$35,183.68. Dave Hornung moved the Board approve the April 2013 financial report; motion was seconded by Gary Beedy and carried unanimously. Dave Hornung moved to pay the March bills. Gary Beedy seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Our Journey Materials 2013

Staff Director, Jo Downey, briefed those present on the status of the 2013 Our Journey summer events guide, museum admission pass, and the antique and collectibles brochure (includes historic sites and B&B's) production status. A draft of the two guides was distributed. Downey emphasized the importance of careful review of both the events and antiques guides by the Board and others to insure accuracy of content. All changes must be made by April 12. Downey also summarized the distribution process for the various Our Journey materials.

CDOT Transit Updates

Terry Baylie said that the new busses for Elbert County and the City of Burlington are delayed until June. Terry said that all would be pleased to learn that ECCOG had been moved up on CDOT's the financial tiers from 2 to 3 (the highest) which now requires less paperwork to be submitted monthly. She also said

that she will be attending a CDOT meeting on Thursday, April 4th, at which time a new process for applying for funds and requesting reimbursements will be reviewed.

Blueprint and Road Show Report

Jo Downey gave a brief report on the Governor's Office of Economic Development and International Trade's "Road Show" that was held in Limon in early March. An update on the Blueprint process was also presented. Downey emphasized the need for more participation from Cheyenne and Elbert Counties. The next regional Blueprint meeting is April 29th in Limon.

Enterprise Zone Legislation

Those present were updated on the status of the Enterprise Zone legislation. HB 12-1142 appears to be well supported and it is anticipated that it will pass. If it does, the bill changes the ITC (Investment Tax Credit) cap to a maximum of \$750,000 a year per business but extends the carry forward to fourteen years. It also increases the basic job credit from \$500 to \$1100 per new job created and increases the credit for health insurance from \$200 to \$1000 and the job training credit from 10% of the cost to 20%. The current amounts for new job creation or creation of a value-added agricultural processing job in an Enhanced Enterprise Zone area (Cheyenne and Lincoln Counties) would also increase by \$600 each. The bill would move up the review of the Enterprise Zone boundaries to 2014. Downey stated that boundary review will be based on census information and it could result in some parts of the East Central Enterprise Zone no longer being eligible. She will continue to update the Board and others as the review begins. Another legislative bill (HB 12-1265) would (if passed) eliminate the definition of new business facility and allow the claiming of the job credit, health insurance credit and Ag processing credit by any business ("new" or "existing") if that job meets the basic creation or expansion criteria.

TPR Meeting in Limon

The next Eastern Plains Transportation Planning meeting will be held Monday, April 8 in Limon. Staff discussed the importance of the meeting and the importance of newly elected officials becoming involved in the transportation/transit planning process. The meetings are held quarterly and rotate between Akron and Limon. The Eastern Plains Transportation Planning region is comprised of the four ECCOG counties and five of the six NEALG counties. All eleven counties are now in CDOT Engineering District 4.

State Unit on Aging Desk Evaluation

Terry Baylie reported that a desk evaluation on the senior service programs administered/operated by ECCOG's Area Agency on Aging was conducted in January. Terry and Assistant AAA Director, Debby Conrads met with state staff in Limon in February and preliminary results were received on March 4. ECCOG staff responded the same day and has not yet received any additional correspondence regarding the evaluation. Terry stated that it was a continuing struggle to make sure the menus meet the DRI standards set by the state. After meeting with state staff, she contracted with a Denver area dietitian (who is familiar with the Food Processor menu analysis program established by the state) to analyze a series of cycle menus for the ECCOG Project SMILE program. ECCOG will continue the contract with the local area dietitian for counseling and education duties.

Economic Development Administration 2013-2014 Grant Application

Staff Director, Jo Downey summarized the grant application recently submitted by ECCOG for continued funding from the Economic Development Administration (EDA). Funds awarded under this grant would be for COG staff support costs to assist in economic development and community development activities throughout the region. The grant period would be July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014. A copy of the work program for the twelve month grant had been included with Board materials. Downey said that she

was asked by EDA to prepare two budgets/work programs: One assuming that the grant was fully funded at the previous amount of \$61,000 (requiring a \$61,000 match) and another at 90% of that amount. Downey said that the work program submitted was the same at 100% funding and at 90% funding. If less funding from EDA was received, the work would still be undertaken but utilizing general operations funds from ECCOG. Downey said that as in the past, she signed the grant application but if/when a contract was offered, that contract would be presented to the Board for formal approval and for Nancy's signature. **

Senior Services and Transit Advisory Board (SSTB) Re-appointments

Terry asked the ECCOG Board to consider re-appointing five current advisory board members to the Senior Services and Transit Advisory Board. All are willing to serve another term. Those to be considered are: Vicky Miller from Lincoln County; Darrel Schallenberger from Cheyenne County; NancyAnn Davidson from Elbert County; Debbie Lamm from Kit Carson County and At-Large appointee, Shelley Hornung. Troy McCue moved to re-appoint these 5 people to SSTB. Motion was seconded by Monica Halde and carried unanimously.

Public Relations Activities

Jo Downey briefed the Board on the public relations activities and resulting media coverage for March (and planned for April) promoting the area to the Front Range market for 2013 summer travel/heritage tourism activities. A written summary report will be emailed to the Board by the end of the week. Jo said that these activities resulted in far more inquiries for Our Journey information than trying to purchase a series of ads in Colorado Springs or Denver print media. Purchasing paid radio or television ads was far beyond the summer market budget. Danielle Dascalos continues to do an excellent job on behalf of the area. A portion of Dascalos' time can also be spent promoting individual events or travel opportunities somewhere within the Region. Jo asked that if individual communities or counties or groups had a "unique" event, she would forward information to Danielle to try and get individualized coverage for it. The submitting entity would have to have a contact person and be willing to have somebody go to Denver or Colorado Springs (at their own expense) for TV or radio interviews. Two events were brought up right away: The Dirt Music Festival in Cheyenne Wells and a campdrafting event in Kiowa. Board Member Kyle Fenner made a brief presentation on the Kiowa event stating that campdrafting originated in Australia and now a newly formed US Camp Draft Association has already planned their first major event to be held in Kiowa at the Elbert County Fairgrounds in August. Campdrafting, as it is known, is an event not totally unlike some of America's stock horse and team penning events – but as Australians seem to be known for – it generates a bit more adrenaline. Under Australian Campdraft Association rules, horse and rider begin in a herd of at least six cattle, called a "mob," in a small pen (the "camp"), connected to a large circular arena. One of the primary differences between this and the American events like it is that these cattle are not calves or young adults – they are fully matured bovines who don't usually want to be pushed around. With two helpers minding the gate to the arena, the competitor cuts the selected cow from the herd and works it for a short, preset amount of time until the rider demonstrates to the judges' satisfaction he or she has control of the cow. So the event combines some cutting and some penning. But there is more to it than that!! Once the rider is ready, the helpers allow the cow and rider through the gate to the arena, which is known as a "draft". There, the team has 40 seconds to guide the cow through a cloverleaf pattern of cones. The cow must be turned in a figure 8 around the first two cones and then be driven in several other directions around the cones without knocking any cones down. If cow or rider knocks one down they are disqualified -- not that the cow cares. All the moves in the draft are typically performed at high speed because this is a timed event. Jo said that this sounded like a perfect opportunity for extra coverage because it was different and unique.

Sequestration Impact on Aging and Transit Services

Terry Baylie reported that no information has been received from CDOT regarding the potential impacts on the Outback Express Transit program should there be sequestration. The State Unit on Aging staff expects an 8% cut overall, with the largest cut to Part “B” Support Services. Colorado’s older population is growing at a larger rate than the rest of the country, which resulted in a larger percentage of the cuts going to Colorado. The good news is that it appears there will be a \$4 million dollar increase (statewide) in State of Colorado funding for Senior Service programs. Should this happen, this more than offset the sequester cuts. The additional funds are currently in the Long Bill. The state intends to send out a spreadsheet showing the tentative allocations per region.

Next Two Meeting Dates/Locations

There will not be a formal meeting in May. The June 5th meeting will be held in Limon. Dinner arrangements will be determined at a later date. The July 3rd meeting location will be determined at the June meeting.

There being no other business, Chairman Nancy Bogenhagen declared the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

**A few days after the meeting, Jo Downey was contacted by EDA stating that a letter authorizing her to sign the grant application needed to be part of the application file. As the current signature authorization allowing Downey to sign applications (and other documents) was several years old and as there were four new Board Members, Downey sent an email to the Board asking for official permission for Nancy to send a letter to EDA stating that Downey had the authority to sign the application. This permission was granted by a majority of the Board Members by April 8th and the chairman forwarded a letter to the Denver EDA Office.