

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 MARCH 7, 2018

Call to Order

Chairman Nancy Bopenhagen called the March 7, 2018 meeting of the ECCOG Board of Directors to order at 7:15PM at the TA Truck Stop – Country Pride Restaurant meeting room in Limon. Board members attending in addition to Chairman Bopenhagen, included: Gary Beedy, Steve Burgess, Julie Coonts, Linda Corbin, Dave Hornung, Troy McCue, Hal McNerney, Don Means, Chris Richardson and Trevor Smith. ECCOG staff attendees included: Senior and Transit Services Director Debby Conrads and ECCOG Executive Director/PDC Administrator Candace Payne. Austin McCue was our guest. Valerie Rhoades was unable to attend. The Cheyenne County business representative position remains vacant at this time as noted for the Minutes.

Roll Call and Introduction of Guests

Board notebooks were distributed as part of roll call. Troy McCue introduced his son, Austin, as a guest.

Approval of January 3, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Chairman Bopenhagen asked for additions or corrections to the January 3, 2018 meeting Minutes. There being none, Dave Hornung made a motion to approve the Minutes as presented. Don Means seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Financial Report – March 7, 2018

A mail ballot was received accepting the February 7, 2018 Financial Report showing the January end of month checking balance of \$107,471.97. The March 7, 2018 Financial Report was reviewed showing the February end of month checking balance of \$119,851.23. A brief explanation of the remaining balances of funds as of March 7th was given by Executive Director Candace Payne.

Approval of Bills for February 2018

A mail ballot was received ratifying the January 31, 2018 bills of \$41,621.06 and debit card transactions of \$320.88 and payroll of \$22,711.83. Executive Director Candace Payne reviewed the payroll expense of \$25,224.64 paid on February 28th along with \$50,988.12 of expenses and \$1,158.64 of debit card transactions. In addition to the typical monthly expenses, there were two Enterprise Zone contributions paid. Gary Beedy made a motion to ratify the bills and payroll and accept the Financial Report for filing. Linda Corbin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

2018 Board Member Selection

It was noted for the Minutes that office elections were conducted in the re-organization meeting held at 7PM prior to the regular board meeting. Chairman Nancy Bopenhagen (C), Vice-Chairman Troy McCue (L), Secretary Don Means (E), and Treasurer Dave Hornung (K) were elected unanimously. Chairman Bopenhagen thanked the members for electing a good representative from across the region, as each county is represented. Candace reported that Prairie Development Corporation board appointed Troy McCue to serve as the ECCOG At-Large position for another term. The Cheyenne County private business representative position is still vacant, but efforts are being made to fill the position vacated by Monica Halde.

Broadband Plan

A brief discussion was held regarding the Regional Broadband Plan as a steering committee meeting is being set for April. It was recommended that the ECCOG board let the steering committee suggest the next educational effort putting their experience to work for the region. Executive Director Payne will report back after the Broadband meeting about the chosen direction.

Enterprise Zone

EZ Administrator Candace Payne directed attention to the three 2017 reports in the board packet. The first report was the annual summary of contributions received by project. Eight projects that had no contributions in 2017 will need to gain support under the new criteria or may lose active status. There are four projects in Lincoln county, three in Kit Carson County and one in Cheyenne county that had no contributions in 2017. The 2007-2017 Ten-Year Comparison Report showed 321 qualified businesses claimed over \$1,000,000 of credits in 2017 compared to 2007 showing 289 businesses claimed \$781,302 of credits. In the 2017 Year-End Certifications Summary Report, the county specific details by type of credit were reviewed as follows: Cheyenne had 40, Elbert had 36, Kit Carson had 183 and Lincoln had 62 claimants, for a total of 321 claims. Four projects need to re-apply to continue their projects beyond year end 2018. They are Peak Vista Community Health Centers, Limon Heritage Society, Keefe Memorial Hospital and Lincoln Community Hospital. Candace will work with their staff to re-apply before Sept 1st or they may decide to de-activate.

Reminder: The EZ criteria of a minimum of five donations of \$250 or more from different contributors **OR** \$5,000 in total from one or more donors during the past twelve months is needed to maintain “active” status.

2017 ECCOG & PDC Audit

The 2017 audit for East Central COG planned for March 5-9 offsite has begun which coincides with Prairie Development Corporation’s audit. Lori Hendrick of May Jackson Hendrick has reserved May 2 on her calendar to present the ECCOG audit. Because Executive Director Candace Payne is traveling that week for the Business Loan Fund meeting, Candace asked if a teleconference would be suitable. After a brief discussion, the board chose to host a teleconference at 7PM on May 2 in lieu of an in-person meeting to accommodate Candace’s travels. Candace will confirm the date with the auditor with the board’s approval this evening.

Our Journey and Events Guide

The 2018 covers for the Our Journey brochures and museum ticket were provided to the board as created by Visual West. Comments on the design showed the Places and Events brochures were fine but the board suggested improvements to the museum ticket which displayed an image that looked like a real estate map more than a place to visit. Candace will work with Visual West to bring a more enticing image to the ticket. Collection of the events and activities has begun. Blank event forms were distributed to the board to help gather details which is due to the ECCOG staff by March 21st. A new promotional idea being developed called, “Find your **topophilia**” which is translated as “find your **love of place**” on the eastern plains. Danielle Dascalos and Visual West are excited to market our region using this as a hashtag on social media and in our web presence to reach new and younger travelers who share what they see with their friends and family on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Bringing “Our Journey” into a wider spectrum of the digital age with this promotion is the intent stated Payne.

NEW BUSINESS:

AAA Annual Program Report

Senior and Transit Services Director Debby Conrads reviewed the 2017 Area Agency on Aging Year-End Program Report provided in the handouts. The one side of the report demonstrates the Outback Express ridership and expenses as compared to 2016 service units on the far-right column. The total trips have increased with increases noted in the **Disabled under 60** and **General Public** categories. The reverse side of the report shows the congregate and home-delivered meals expenses and cost per unit as well as other services such as legal services, ombudsman, and caregiver program support for Region 5.

CEDS/Blueprint

Executive Director Candace Payne asked the board for input on the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) planning for the years 2019 through 2020. Steve Burgess suggested the old list be provided to the board, town clerks and county administrators to refresh their minds of the previously selected projects or efforts. Candace stated an email would be sent upon return to the office. That response could develop a focused approach for a regional effort where suitable in technology, broadband, tourism, workforce and housing. The board agreed that was a good idea.

Next Meeting Dates/Locations

Discussion was held on meeting dates and locations to help the board plan their time and participation.

April 4 – Limon TA Truck Stop

May 2 – Teleconference to approve Audit at 7PM – requires a quorum!

June 6 – Limon Senior Center dinner at 6PM – Meal count is needed by May 25th to Candace

July 11 – Mail ballot due to harvest

Aug 1 – Mail ballot due to county fairs
Sept 5 – Site TBD
Oct 3 – TA Truck Stop, Limon
Nov 7 – Claremont Inn, Stratton
Dec 5 – Mail ballot

NOTE: Special teleconference meetings may also be called at any time by the chairman. All teleconference meetings also have a physical location which is the ECCOG office in Stratton so that interested citizens may attend. Notice is posted online and in the ECCOG office window of the next meeting date and location.

Other

Candace sought board interest in having special presentations at the board meeting for subjects like: program information from the Office of Economic Development and International Trade, our marketing expert Danielle Dascalos, or other areas of interest. The board was receptive to the idea and also expressed an openness to travel to other venues or tourism locations in the region.

Adjournment

Chairman Bopenhagen entertained a motion by Dave Hornung to adjourn the meeting at 8:30PM. Linda Corbin seconded the motion as no more items were brought forth. Meeting adjourned at 8:30PM.

All handouts and reports are retained in the permanent file of ECCOG Board meetings