

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 6, 2019

Call to Order

Chairman Julie Coonts called the March 6, 2019, meeting of the ECCOG Board of Directors to order at 7:32 PM at the TA Truck Stop – Country Pride Restaurant meeting room in Limon. The meeting was conducted by Chairman Julie Coonts who was joined by Board members: Dave Hornung, Troy McCue, Hal McNerney, Valerie Rhoades, Chris Richardson, Carl Smalley, Ron Smith, Rick Stegmaier and Scott Wills. Staff members present included: ECCOG Executive Director Candace Payne and Senior and Transit Services (STS) Director Debby Conrads. Gary Beedy, Steve Burgess and Karen Miller were unable to attend.

Approval January 2, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Chairman Coonts asked for additions or corrections to the January 2, 2019 meeting Minutes. There being none, Dave Hornung made a motion to approve the Minutes as presented. Hal McNerney seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Financial Report – March 6, 2019

Note: The February 6, 2019 Financial Report showing cash in the bank of \$85,390.79 at the end of January was approved by mail ballot in February.

The March 6, 2019 Financial Report was distributed at the meeting showing February 28, 2019 ending balance of \$85,939.41. A review of the balances in the various funding sources was conducted by Executive Director Candace Payne. Troy McCue made a motion to accept the Financial Report for filing. Hal McNerney seconded the motion, which passed.

Approval of Bills – February 2019

Note: January bills were approved by mail ballot.

The February payroll of \$29,683.56 and February expenses of \$59,356.99 and debit card transactions of \$5,662.39 were explained in more details with ECCOG staff. ECCOG Executive Director Candace Payne explained an error was found in the check run which caused check # 26014 to be voided and checks 26069 and 26070 were issued with no change to the total value. Troy McCue made a motion to accept the Financial Report for filing. Hal McNerney seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

2019 Board Members

Roll was called with four new board members: Carl Smalley representing Cheyenne County municipalities, Ron Smith representing Cheyenne County commissioners, Rick Steigmaier representing Elbert County municipalities and Scott Wills representing Elbert County private business, welcomed to the board. All board positions are filled at this time and ECCOG Board notebooks were handed out to the new members.

Four-Year Plan Approval

Senior and Transit Services (STS) Director Debby Conrads explained the process followed for writing and approval of the State Unit on Aging (SUA) Four-Year Plan for State Fiscal Year 2020-2023. Explanation was given that the public input meeting held this evening will be incorporated into the document next. Once that input is written into the plan, a draft copy will be given to the state staff for their suggestions on our efforts and plan functionality. From there, approval from the SSTB board and ECCOG board will be requested. The 4-Year Plan is due by March 31st to the state office and our intent is to be

submitted by March 29th. STS Director Debby Conrads may answer any questions between this meeting and the final copy being submitted.

Title III CAPS Background Check Policy (Vote)

STS Director Debby Conrads reviewed the Colorado Adult Protective Services Data Systems Check (CAPS) background check policy language as it pertains those who provide direct care to the consumer. She explained this check is provided to all staff having direct contact with at-risk adults including our Ombudsman staff. Hal McNerney made a motion to approve the policy language as presented. Dave Hornung seconded the motion for which a unanimous ballot was cast.

Our Journey and Off the Beaten Trail

Executive Director Candace Payne reported the 2019 Our Journey covers/brochures were included in the packet along with an event request form. Board approval was requested on the three cover design layouts as presented which included a new brochure to replace the museum ticket. New this season will be a pass phrase at the museums that will allow tracking of guest awareness of the brochure. The pass phrase "Our Journey" will be printed on the front cover of the new brochure. Museum staff will be made aware of this new pass phrase and alerted to other new marketing efforts. Also, new this year are multiple geocaching sites at the museums bringing new awareness to the Off the Beaten Trail program and increasing museums visits. Feedback on the covers was to improve the readability on the Fun, Fairs and Festivals brochure were the silhouette and background were hard to distinguish.

Executive Director Candace Payne presented details on a new digital option for Our Journey and the regional called Travel Storys. Travel Storys is an application (app) on a smart phone that alerts the user when they are passing an area with a special tour or story. The story may be downloaded to the phone in case there is weak cell phone service along a highway or path or in a remote location. Pikes Peak will be a new Travel Story this year that could lend to our efforts to increase tourism along Interstate 70. The basic ten geotag option costs approximately \$6,500 or the twenty geotag option costs \$10,000. We could offer OJ museum tags or historical/kids tours for an additional amount. An annual fee of \$500 covers maintenance of the information online. After good discussion, the board recommended more effort be given to this addition to the Our Journey program pending funding from sources like Economic Development Administration, Cooper-Clark Foundation and our own funds. Travel Storys may be added to in the future as demand increases.

2019 State Unit on Aging Onsite Audit

Our operations were audited in February for meal sites and home delivered meals. The auditor visited Flagler and Arriba meals sites this year. STS Director Debby Conrads stated the State Unit on Aging (SUA) onsite audit report has been received with one violation to be addressed concerning the contract with our Registered Dietitian. Our contract was not strong enough and was re-written and has since been given the state's approval. Our dietitian must sign the new contract and that be submitted to the state prior to March 21, 2019. Other items noted were training concerns that will be addressed by staff.

2019 ECCOG Annual Audit

Executive Director Candace Payne stated May Jackson Hendrick auditor, Lori Hendrick will be working off site April 1-5 then come onsite April 8-10 to the Stratton office. The audit report may be presented to the board in June or July based on the completion date and auditor's availability. Executive Director Candace Payne will verify the date with Mrs. Hendrick and confirm that date with this board when it's confirmed.

Enterprise Zone

ECCOG's Executive Director Candace Payne directed attention the four Enterprise Zone reports provided at the meeting. The first report shows the remaining eleven contribution projects that are active in 2019. The second report shows \$103,533.28 in cash contributions and \$5,118.85 of in-kind contributions in 2018 for our projects. The contributions almost doubled in dollar value and quantity since the new criteria went into effect. In 2018 there were 17 projects but some of those had no interest in continuing or not enough support to continue under the new criteria and have ended. Work with former projects and potential new projects to become an approved EZ Contribution Project has begun as it takes at least three months to be approved by the ECCOG board, the EZ peer review and the state Economic Development Commission.

Attention was then drawn to the Ten Year Annual EZ Certification Report which demonstrates 320 certifications from 2018 valued at \$33,555,396 for Investment Tax Credits. Total tax credits of \$1,174,497 were earned in 2018. The value increased while the quantity decreased compared to 2017. The other report distributed shows the EZ Certifications by County in our region which is a breakdown of the previous report. This report shows which county had what type of credits and for what amount.

Note: Boundary amendments will be presented in May to the state board to approve which we hope will include all of Cheyenne County without losing more of Elbert.

Opportunity Zone Prospectus

Executive Director Candace Payne shared that only two potential projects were suggested for the Region 5 prospectus. The projects are to be “shovel-ready” to attract investments this year. Investors will receive the best incentive to reduce their capital gains tax by investing by year end 2019. After the March 12th EDCC Forum in Hugo, other communities may want to bring forth ideas for projects as some counties have strong confirmed attendance for the Forum. Pending that outcome, we may not need or want to complete a prospectus depending on cost.

EIAF Strategic Broadband Plan

A report was given by Executive Director Candace Payne on the recent broadband steering committee meeting. The committee would like to consider a video and info-graphic for use on the website and for publications to educate regional residents on broadband needs or options. Two bids have been requested and received for both from two firms and based on cost, funds available and consensus, further educational efforts will be performed. Bids came in at \$2,750 vs. \$7,500 for the video and the info-graphic bids were \$880 vs. \$1,500. The funds we received from Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) will end on September 30, 2019. A determination on pricing has not been made yet by the steering committee.

Other

No items brought forth.

NEW BUSINESS:

CDOT Letter of Support (Noted for the permanent file)

In February, an email request was presented to the Board seeking approval to submit a letter of support for CDOT’s application for Federal funds on Highway 287 for passing lanes between Eads and Kit Carson. Passing lanes also included areas further south of Eads in the CDOT application. The board consented to the letter which was emailed on February 15th as requested to Secretary Chao.

Prairie Development Corporation Trade School Scholarship

Executive Director Candace Payne stated the new trade school scholarship provided by Prairie Development Corporation is now available. Applications are due by March 20th to the Stratton office by 3:00PM. To date there are two applications for consideration. PDC is discussing offering a similar type product for adults instead of high school seniors as suggested by Valerie Rhoades to help people get updated training or start a career.

Next Two Meeting Dates/Locations (1st Wed of each month)

April 3 – No meeting – Mail ballot

May 1 -Teleconference – audit presentation?

June 5 – Limon – audit presentation?

July 3- Undetermined

Other

STS Director Debby Conrads informed the board that the Eastern Plains Legislative Task Force voted to disband their organization at their last meeting. This means there will no longer be Speak Out and we may want to consider a one-day event to replace the two-day event. Region 5 could host their own style of informational meeting or road show if needed.

Adjournment

Chairman Coonts asked for any further business to come before the board. Hearing none, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:14 PM by Hal McNerney. A second on the motion was made by Troy McCue, which passed. Meeting adjourned.

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