

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 MAY 1, 2019

Call to Order

Chairman Julie Coonts called the May 1, 2019, meeting of the ECCOG Board of Directors to order at 7:00 PM conducted as a teleconference. The Stratton office was open for public audience at 128 Colorado Avenue. Attendees on the call included Chairman Julie Coonts, Dave Hornung, Hal McNerney, Valerie Rhoades, Chris Richardson, Carl Smalley, Ron Smith, Rick Stegmaier and Scott Wills. Staff members at the office on the call included: ECCOG Executive Director Candace Payne and Senior and Transit Services (STS) Director Debby Conrads. Gary Beedy was unable to participate, and the Cheyenne County business owner/manager position is currently vacant. Troy McCue connected to the call at 7:30PM just after the audit report was presented. Lori Hendrick, auditor from May Jackson Hendrick, was on the call to present the audit.

Introductions

Chairman Julie Coonts verified that attendance was taken for the official record and the auditor, Lori Hendrick was introduced.

2018 ECCOG Audit

Lori Hendrick of May Jackson Hendrick reported that the 2018 ECCOG Audit was complete and that ECCOG received a clean opinion on the organization's operation which is the highest rating possible. She then presented her report using Version 2 of the 2018 Audit Report, which was emailed to the board on April 26, 2019. Mrs. Hendrick noted that the staff worked well with her throughout the audit process and gave her timely responses for information requested. The Report included Management's Discussion and Analysis of the operation. There were no deficiencies noted in the internal controls of the operation. Mrs. Hendrick explained that ECCOG is not subject to the Single Audit Threshold so that review is not performed. She praised Paulette Thompson for her work as there was only one Adjusting Journal Entry for depreciation, which is determined by Mrs. Hendrick during the audit. Mrs. Hendrick complimented Executive Director Candace Payne and Senior and Transit Services Director Debby Conrads for their work on holding expenses down. Chairman Julie Coonts thanked Lori Hendrick for her work with the ECCOG staff and this audit. Lori Hendrick stated her appreciation to work with the board and staff and would await a message to finalize the audit from Executive Director Candace Payne. She then disconnected from the call at 7:31PM. Chairman Julie Coonts asked for any discussion and hearing none, Dave Hornung made a motion to accept the audit report as presented for filing. Hal McNerney seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The auditor will be notified of this decision on May 2nd.

(Troy McCue joined the call)

Approval of March 6, 2019 Re-organizational and Regular Meeting Minutes

Chairman Julie Coonts asked for any additions or corrections to the Minutes of March 6, 2019 for the Re-organizational Meeting and the Regular Meeting. There being none, Troy McCue made a motion to accept both sets of Minutes as presented. Dave Hornung seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Financial Report – May 1, 2019

Note: The April 3, 2019 Financial Report was approved by mail ballot. The May 1, 2019 Financial Report was emailed this afternoon to the board for consideration this evening. As of April 30, 2019, cash in the bank was \$14,611.87. A motion was made by Hal McNerney to accept the Financial Report for filing. Steve Burgess seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Approval of Bills - April 30, 2019

Note: The March 31, 2019 bills were approved by mail ballot. The April 30, 2019 payroll of \$30,319.93 and April bill payments of \$84,481.41 and \$1,080.11 in debit card expenses were reviewed. Attention was drawn to Check #26198 for a new

van purchase for the AAA programs. All other bills were typical monthly payments or EZ contributions. Hal McNerney made a motion to ratify the bills which was seconded by Steve Burgess. Motion passed unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

2019 Board Member Resignation

Executive Director Candace Payne stated Karen Miller representing Cheyenne County businesses emailed on April 1st that she must resign as she was now working an evening job and could no longer serve on the ECCOG Board. Notification was given to the Cheyenne County administrator and three names were suggested as possible members. Executive Director Candace Payne spoke to the first candidate who was willing but could not spare the time to serve. Since then contact has been initiated with the other two suggested business owners and no response was available at this time. Efforts will continue to fill the vacancy by the next meeting.

EIAF Broadband Plan

As part of the educational effort for the Broadband Strategic Plan, the infographic and video production has begun. Nex-Tech, the selected media company, has been working with ECCOG staff on the script and information to be completed by July 1st. Printing of the infographic will be bid also as it was not part of the cost projections.

Our Journey Program (brochure samples included)

Executive Director Candace Payne reported the three 2019 OJ brochures were received and are being distributed in May. Three thousand of each "Places" and "Fun, Fairs and Festivals" brochures were ordered along with 1,000 OJ Museum brochures. The schools were not included in the distribution as many were not taken home as hoped so the order was reduced from previous years. Nine new geocaching sites have been established at various museums throughout the region as of May 1st. Online geocaching logs demonstrate that people are looking for or visiting the new sites. Danielle Dascalos provided a report of her activity since April which was available to the Board for review via email on May 1, 2019.

Enterprise Zone

The East Central EZ boundary amendment to allow all of Cheyenne County back into the East Central Zone has been filed and is slated for review at the May 16th Economic Development Commission meeting. Cheyenne County's entire area qualified to be in the zone based on Per Capita Income, Unemployment, and Growth Percentage this year. Once the EDC review is complete, the Board will be updated on the decision. Executive Director Candace Payne also reported there are 11 Contribution Projects for 2019. Two current projects will need to apply in 2020 or thereafter, if they have enough contributions to apply. Troy McCue for Lincoln County Economic Development Corporation and Valerie Rhoades for the City of Burlington Training Center hosted at Morgan Community College are the leaders on these projects. They committed to working on new applications to maintain their eligibility as directed by their respective boards. Two other new projects are working with the COG staff on new applications.

CEDS/Blueprint/RTAP (RTAP info included)

The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) discussion was held to review the newly disseminated Rural Technical Assistance Program which was formerly known as Blueprint 2.0. Now in its fourth year, the program's initiatives were discussed to see if there could be a regional effort or more community specific interest. Julie Coonts volunteered to speak to Limon town council about their interest in an initiative, Troy McCue will discuss this with Hugo town council and other county commissioners will see if interest abounds in their area. Applications are due June 30 and awards will be announced in July. Funds will be deployed in Fall 2019.

Prairie Development Corporation Trade School Scholarship

Prairie Development Corporation started a new trade school scholarship fund in 2019 and has selected a student from Limon High School to receive the \$1,000 to offset costs in their spring semester of 2020. Executive Director Candace Payne stated only three applications were received and of those, two were for regular college degrees, not trade schools. The announcement will be made in May to the recipient.

Other

NEW BUSINESS:

2018 Legal Desk Evaluation

Senior and Transit Services (STS) Director Debby Conrads reported that the 2018 Legal Desk Evaluation performed in April 2019 earned a clean compliance determination. This program is offered by a contract with Randa Davis-Tice from Lamar to provide legal services to eligible clients who need assistance with wills, powers of attorney (which can include guardianship, conservatorship, etc.), public benefits and consumer fraud issues, with follow-up advice/representation by an attorney. A suggestion was made to increase the service days per month to two instead of one so people could be helped more efficiently. The suggestion will be pursued by ECCOG staff.

State Unit on Aging Carry Over Funds

Senior and Transit Services (STS) Director Debby Conrads reported on the use of State Unit on Aging carry over funds. To date purchases included kitchen equipment, a food delivery van and outreach merchandise approved by the SUA office. These funds must be used by June 30, 2019 and will not be carried into the future.

July 2019-June 2022 EDA Grant Application

Discussion was led by Executive Director Candace Payne as she received an email from the Economic Development Administration in March to watch for the Notice of Funding in late April. An email was then received stating applications were due in early April. Based on Lincoln County's 5-Year ACS per capita income of \$14,765 (which was not more than 50% of the national average of \$15,588), ECCOG qualified for only 20% match. ECCOG's match portion would be \$52,500 with \$210,000 Federal funds for a total of \$262,500 spread over three years. That brings ECCOG's annual match to \$17,500 to the EDA funds of \$70,000. It was learned that other CEDS program use their Loan Committee members donation of time as match which we may consider in the future. The CEDS remains as our Scope of Work for the region with updates pending now. The new grant application was submitted on April 3rd. EDA plans to award funds by early June to continue the program without a lapse in funding or scope of work. A request to allow ECCOG's chairman to sign the new contract was made. Troy McCue made a motion to authorize Chairman Julie Coonts to accept the funding when the new contract is awarded. Chris Richardson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The Board will be apprised of the EDA decision when it's made.

HelpMATE

Senior and Transit Services (STS) Director Debby Conrads updated the attendees on funds available for hearing aids, eye care, dental and assistive devices under the HelpMATE program. ECCOG's initial award of \$74,000 has been spent down to \$2,500 to date. The balance must be used by June 30, 2019 and is not eligible for carry forward privileges. The Board was asked to spread the word to get applications to STS Director Debby Conrads by mid-June, so the money is spent.

Trees on the Plains

Executive Director Candace Payne received a call in March about replacing the dead or dying trees in the region. To speed up the conversation at that time, an email was sent to the municipalities and counties about this subject. Only one community responded to the email at that time which was not encouraging to pursue the effort. After a brief discussion on this call, a comment was made to see if there were any program to replace trees with 4-6-foot trees (not seedlings). Black Hills was suggested as a resource. ECCOG staff will research options to help the region.

TravelStorys Digital Storytelling

Executive Director Candace Payne reviewed details on the new digital storytelling to be used for Our Journey and the region called TravelStorys. TravelStorys 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 or no cell phone service along a highway or path or in a remote location. Pikes Peak will be a new TravelStorys this year that could lend to our efforts to increase tourism along Interstate 70. Expected costs will be \$10,000 for the first tour and each subsequent tour will be \$7,500. We would offer the OJ museums the first set of geotags and later add historical/kids tours for an additional amount. An annual fee of \$500 covers maintenance of the information online. Executive Director Candace Payne asked for financial support of the project pending funding from sources like Economic Development Administration, Cooper-Clark Foundation and our own funds. Steve Burgess made a motion to contribute \$10,000 for the expenses. Troy McCue seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Work will move forward on this project as soon as funding is secured.

Next Meeting Dates/Locations

June 5 – Limon TA Truck Stop with EDA and/or Census 2020 presentations

July 3 – Mail ballot

August 7 - Teleconference

September 4 -TBD – Limon?

October 2 -TBD – Limon?

November 6 – Stratton Claremont Inn
December – Mail ballot

Other

Adjournment

Hal McNerney moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:28PM. Rick Stegmaier seconded the motion, which passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:28PM.

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