

# 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 JUNE 5, 2019

### Call to Order

Chairman Julie Coonts called the June 5, 2019, meeting of the ECCOG Board of Directors to order at 7:00 PM held at the TA Truck Stop, 2200 9<sup>th</sup> Street in Limon, CO. Attendees included Chairman Julie Coonts, Dave Hornung, Hal McNerney, Valerie Rhoades, Carl Smalley and Ron Smith. ECCOG Executive Director Candace Payne and Senior and Transit Services (STS) Director Debby Conrads were present also. Gary Beedy, Steve Burgess, Chris Richardson, Troy McCue, Rick Stegmaier and Scott Wills were unable to attend. The Cheyenne County business owner/manager position on the board remains vacant. With six members attending and three board members with last minute conflicts, a quorum was **not** met so any necessary votes will be conducted via mail ballot to be emailed the following day. **All agenda items were discussed only.**

Guests included Darlene Carpio from Senator Cory Gardner's office and Census 2020 staff Dustin Senger and Charlie Mussi.

### Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Julie Coonts led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### Introductions

Board members and guests were invited to introduce themselves by Chairman Julie Coonts. Three guests attended the meeting as noted above.

### Special Presentation

Dustin Senger, Partnership Specialist for the Census, introduced himself and cohort Charlie Mussi and then further explained their purpose of forming county committees across Colorado to ensure a complete count is performed in April 2020. Mr. Senger reported that Lincoln County and Cheyenne County have formed committees to formulate a plan to reach the hard to count people such as elderly, children, and non-English speaking residents. Elbert County has taken recent action to form a committee and will pass a resolution to support the Complete Count Campaign in their area. Mr. Senger has scheduled an appointment with Kit Carson County staff in the coming week in hopes of them forming a committee. Mr. Senger mentioned that grant funds will be available to help promote the need to be counted and its impact on the community when a person is not counted. Mr. Mussi explained he supports the work of Dustin and other positions in the El Paso County region and beyond. Handouts provided spoke of Census jobs available and how Census data is used and why it is important. The board members were encouraged to gather ideas for marketing campaigns and to consider a grant application for funds to offset the costs associated with the effort. Chairman Julie Coonts thanked the gentlemen for their efforts in our region and for attending. The guests left the meeting at 7:20PM.

### Approval of May 1, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes

Chairman Julie Coonts asked for any additions or corrections to the meeting Minutes of May 1, 2019. There were no corrections or additions. Without a quorum, the Minutes will be considered for approval via mail ballot.

### Financial Report – June 5, 2019

The June 5, 2019 Financial Report was provided at the meeting. As of May 31, 2019, cash in the bank was \$51,051.54 as provided on the corrected Financial Report.

### Approval of Bills – May 31, 2019

Payroll for May totaled \$29,807.33 and will be submitted for approval by mail ballot due to a lack of quorum. May bill payments of \$93,849.11 and \$3,358.54 in debit card expenses were reviewed and will be added to the mail ballot. Bills to be

paid included the usual monthly bills, Enterprise Zone contributions passed thru, HelpMATE funds paid to providers, OJ brochure payments and grocery purchases for the new summer meals which included fresh food items.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

### **2019 Board Member Vacancy**

Executive Director Candace Payne reported the Cheyenne County business owner/manager position remains vacant today. However, ECCOG board member Carl Smalley and Ron Smith each suggested a person to be contacted from Cheyenne Wells. Contact will be initiated this week by the executive director.

### **EIAF Broadband Plan**

The new double-sided, color Broadband info-graphic was shared with the attendees. One side talks about the use of connectivity from the household perspective while the other side speaks to the business user. Both samples show there are many needs that in previous years did not demand as much data. Executive Director Candace Payne explained the video recording will begin June 11 and continue through the 12<sup>th</sup> in Burlington and the area possibly using local venues like Morgan Community College, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Equipment, the library, and other businesses in the area to bring our script to life. Valerie Rhoades offered the Tuesday evening class at MCC to demonstrate the need for speed from an educational point of view. Dave Hornung was invited to participate in the farm equipment recording of technology in a combine or tractor demonstrating smart technology use today. The educational pieces will be used on the [ccpbroadband.com](http://ccpbroadband.com), [eccog.com](http://eccog.com) and [prairiedevelopment.com](http://prairiedevelopment.com) websites and be used on social media throughout the region. Should there be any unused funds, they will be de-obligated to DOLA in October 2019.

### **State Unit on Aging Update**

Senior and Transit Services (STS) Director Debby Conrads reported the dishwashers at Limon and Hugo were installed on June 3, 2019. CashWa's chemical rep will be in each location to set them up with the appropriate liquids soon. Cheyenne Wells senior center received their convention oven on May 31, 2019 along with steam table pans. The range will be delivered and then all equipment will be installed as a cabinet removal is necessary to facilitate the proper installation. Seibert's sinks are scheduled delivery by June 10th and will be installed as soon as the plumbers are available. An ad has been placed in the Ranchland News and a flyer with our contact information has been posted in Elbert County for a new Coordinator/Outback Express Driver. Any carry over funds remaining on June 30, 2019 will be de-obligated.

### **Our Journey Program**

Executive Director Candace Payne reported in May the three newly printed 2019 OJ brochures were delivered to OJ museums, featured businesses, Burlington's Colorado Welcome Center, hotels and various locations across the region. A handout showing the activity of the nine new geocaching sites and the existing Off the Beaten Trail locations was shared with attendees. The new sites have many posts online showing their popularity. Replacement of signs for the museums was discussed and Executive Director Candace Payne will check with each museum to see new signs are needed.

### **Enterprise Zone**

The East Central EZ boundary amendment to allow all of Cheyenne County back into the East Central Zone was approved at the May 16<sup>th</sup> Economic Development Commission meeting held in Sterling. Executive Director Candace Payne presented the information required for the amendment and answered questions from the EDC board. Cheyenne County's entire area qualified to be in the zone based on Per Capita Income, Unemployment, and Growth Percentage this year. Notification of the approved amendment was emailed on May 16<sup>th</sup> to the Cheyenne County administrator and commissioners and town hall. Notification was later provided to the tax preparers and accountants covering our region regarding this expanded area. Almost immediately ECCOG staff began seeing pre-certifications in the EZ portal based on this boundary amendment. Two new brochures explaining the EZ program and map changes will be put out to bid in June. In other EZ news, work continues with the entities who wish to apply to be a contribution project.

### **July 2019-June 2022 EDA Grant Application Status**

Executive Director Candace Payne reported there has been no news to date from Economic Development Administration on the application. It is expected to be announced in June to allow the Scope of Work to continue without a lapse. 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) allowed ECCOG to qualify for only 20% match or \$17,500 per year for three years. ECCOG's match portion would be \$52,500 with \$210,000 Federal funds for a total of \$262,500 spread over three years. The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) contains the Scope of Work for the region. Since the CEDS contains the economic development plans of Region 5 counties and municipalities, counties and municipalities may answer the question on a grant application that

their projects are in a documented, approved plan other than their own strategic plan or master plan which allows the county or municipality to qualify for grant funds in many cases.

### **HelpMATE**

Senior and Transit Services (STS) Director Debby Conrads reported the May 1, 2019 balance was \$61,500 of which \$18,560 is being processed or held for 16 pending applications. The applications have been approved but are not paid out to providers yet. Contact was initiated with the clients as to why they have not obtained the service or product approved. The number one reason stated was that the client does not have the money to cover the remaining amount owed as their portion. This leaves a balance of approximately \$42,000 to be expended by June 30th. The State Unit on Aging office was contacted by COG staff to gain approval to use the \$42,000 by the nutrition program as the food costs for fresh food has increased that expense. Approval for this transfer of funds between programs was given. Modifying the maximum award for each service was discussed and any recommendation for change would come from the Senior Service and Transit Board to help cover more costs for each qualified applicant.

Darlene Carpio mentioned NextFifty.org to see what needs or solutions there are for the aging population that ECCOG's AAA could partner with or develop.

### **TravelStorys Digital Storytelling**

Executive Director Candace Payne updated the board on the new digital storytelling to be used for Our Journey and the region called TravelStorys. All Our Journey museums are willing to participate, and the grant application has not been awarded to date. Tour creation has begun based on the availability of local funds provided by ECCOG and Prairie Development Corporation. TravelStorys is an application (app) on a smart phone that uses geotags on a Google map that triggers a special story to entice the traveler to pull into a community and see the area for themselves. 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. The first tour will be established along I-70 from Burlington to Limon and then expanded to the other highways in the region. Travelstorys.com is the website to see what other tours are available.

### **Other**

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **State Unit on Aging Evidence-based Programs**

Senior and Transit Services (STS) Director Debby Conrads stated The Independence Center is having great response with the Stepping-On evidence-based program. Burlington had 30 participants while Simla had 10 attendees. Eight participants are required to hold the session. Service contracts are planned for Cheyenne Wells, Kiowa and Flagler to start in July which would cost \$5,000 annually for all three locations. The classes are instrumental in maintaining flexibility, balance and movement for seniors and other participants.

#### **FTA 5311 Application**

An application was submitted on May 9, 2019 to Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) for the 2020 Admin/Operating grant of FTA Section 5311 funds. The administration amount requested was \$48,988 supplemented with the operating amount of \$140,607. Certifications and Assurances were submitted on May 22, 2019 for the 2019 Federal Transit Administration 5311 funds which was signed by Chairman Julie Coonts. Discussion was held to allow Chairman Julie Coonts to accept the award when it arrives. Due to a lack of quorum this evening, this authorization will be added to the mail ballot.

#### **Project SMILE Update**

Senior and Transit Services (STS) Director Debby Conrads reported that the State Unit on Aging (SUA) suggested we try doing a breakfast, evening meal, or a salad bar while we have the extra funding until June 30<sup>th</sup>. After talking with the cooks/senior centers, Cheyenne Wells became the Pilot Program location for an evening meal. The Pilot Program was conducted in April, May and June on Fridays. The meal has been well attended and the group enjoys activities like cards, board games and conversation. A survey will be conducted next to learn if the seniors want to continue the Friday meal option. During the winter months there is little to no interest due to weather and temperatures which put the aging at risk for falls and accidents.

Register Dietitian Jan Kochis has set up our summer menus across the four counties with several new menus on the lighter side. Fresh fruits and vegetables are very expensive right now, so frequent menu analysis may be required to keep the cost in

line with our funding stated Senior and Transit Services (STS) Director Debby Conrads. The feedback received is positive for most new recipes.

### **Other**

Darlene Carpio representing Senator Cory Gardner's office was invited to share about activity from Cory Gardner's office. Mrs. Carpio reported the bill known as the Map Improvement Act, which Senator Gardner promoted, is being considered for approval. That bill's purpose is to improve collection and aggregation of broadband coverage to identify gaps in service of fixed and mobile broadband internet access and place it on a map system to be updated over time. Senator Gardner also formed an initiative to help veterans receive better treatment called the VA Readiness Initiative. The Initiative has four parts that address improving access to and quality of services, encourage innovation, hold the VA accountable, and empower veterans in transition. These four parts are essential to helping veterans who helped our country. Senator Gardner's staff then shared that The Asia Reassurance Initiative Act (ARIA) of 2018, which was signed into law by President Trump, was enacted to assure the Indo-Pacific relations between Colorado and them are secured for the future as 50% of the world's population resides in this area and is a great ally for our country. Over 24,000 Colorado jobs are directly tied to exports to the Indo-Pacific region, which would be difficult to replace if lost. Over 20,000 in-direct Colorado jobs are tied to exports to this region. Colorado exports over \$7Billion of goods and services to Indo-Pacific area. The board stated their appreciation of Senator Cory Gardner's work for rural Colorado and appreciation of Darlene Carpio's attendance at this meeting. Chairman Julie Coonts thanked Mrs. Carpio for making the trip to Limon and for her time with the group.

### **Next Meeting Dates/Locations**

July 3 – Mail ballot

August 7 - Teleconference

September 4 – Limon TA Truck Stop

October 2 -TBD – Limon or Teleconference?

November 6 – Stratton Claremont Inn

December – Mail ballot

### **Adjournment**

Chairman Julie Coonts declared the meeting adjourned at 8:41 PM.

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