

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 OCTOBER 2, 2019

Call to Order

Chairman Julie Coonts called the October 2, 2019, meeting of the ECCOG Board of Directors to order at 7:01 PM held as a teleconference with public audience welcomed at 128 Colorado Ave., Stratton, CO. Attendees included Chairman Julie Coonts, Gary Beedy, Rhonda Brown, Steve Burgess, Dave Hornung, Troy McCue, Hal McNerney, Valerie Rhoades, Ron Smith and Rick Stegmaier. ECCOG Executive Director Candace Payne and Senior & Transit Services (STS) Director Debby Conrads were present also. Chris Richardson, Carl Smalley and Scott Wills were unable to attend. Trent Thompson of Economic Development Administration's Denver office was on the call.

Introductions

Roll was called by Executive Director Candace Payne to confirm a quorum. Trent Thompson of the Denver EDA office was welcomed on the call.

Economic Development Presentation by Trent Thompson

Chairman Julie Coonts invited Trent Thompson to share EDA information with the board. Mr. Thompson thanked the board for allowing him to join the call and present information on the EDA's investment priorities. EDA has awarded \$7 million for Disaster Supplemental funds of which Denver received \$1 million. These funds may be used in flood or tornado affected areas but have not been needed in our area yet. Other priorities include resiliency and recovery after a disaster, workforce development, infrastructure and Opportunity Zones. Kaitlin Johnson of Cheyenne County's economic development office is working with Trent Thompson to apply for funds to develop their Opportunity Zone prospectus and may complete a housing study. Limon attendees asked about infrastructure and Brownfields support. Trent reminded the group that before application is made beneficiaries should be identified. Trent's contact information is: tthompson@eda.gov or call 303-844-5452. Chairman Julie Coonts asked for questions and when there were no more, thanked Trent for sharing the EDA information.

Approval of August 7, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes

There was no meeting in September. Chairman Julie Coonts asked for any additions or corrections to the Minutes of August 7, 2019. A motion was made by Dave Hornung to approve the Minutes as provided. Troy McCue seconded this motion. A unanimous ballot was cast to pass the motion.

Financial Report – October 2, 2019

It is noted for the record, the September 4, 2019 Financial Report was approved by mail ballot in September. The October 2, 2019 Financial Report was emailed earlier today for board review. ECCOG Executive Director Candace Payne and Senior & Transit Services (STS) Director Debby Conrads explained the fund balances and purchases on the debit cards detail report. Motion was made by Hal McNerney to accept the financial report for filing. This motion was seconded by Rick Stegmaier. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Bills – September 30, 2019

It is noted for the Minutes, the August 31st payroll report and Account Payable checks were approved by mail ballot in September. Payroll for September totaled \$31,781.11 while September bill payments of \$77,363.09 and \$2,751.15 in debit card expenses were reviewed. Bills to be paid included the usual monthly bills, Enterprise Zone contributions, HelpMATE payments to providers, and grocery purchases for meals. Hal McNerney made the motion to approve the payment of September bills and payroll. Rick Stegmaier seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

EIAF Broadband Plan

Executive Director Candace Payne reported the grant funds have been spent and the contract has expired as of September 30th. Maintaining the broadband website and keeping the steering committee active for future efforts will be supported by ECCOG's funds from now on. The final report will be submitted to Department of Local Affairs or DOLA by the end of October.

HelpMATE

Senior & Transit Services (STS) Director Debby Conrads directed attention to the HelpMATE Project Policies and Procedures Fact Sheet sent in the board packet. After a brief review of the program requirements and following the Senior and Transit Service Board recommendation to keep the same level of services, Troy McCue made a motion to accept this recommendation as presented in the Fact Sheet. Hal McNerney seconded this motion, which passed unanimously. As a reminder, the Helpmate budget for SFY20 (July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020) is \$75,000. People over age 60 may contact our office for assistance with hearing aids, glasses, and assistive devices.

TravelStorys Digital Storytelling

Executive Director Candace Payne explained the new digital storytelling called TravelStorys is progressing. The stories are being developed and the tour should be online before year end. The second phase may be supported from another organization as developing a tour along Interstate 76 is being considered.

ECCOG Staffing

An update on staffing for the Area Agency on Aging was given by Senior & Transit Services (STS) Director Debby Conrads. James Mitchell has been hired to fill the Burlington Senior Center Coordinator/Outback Express Bus Driver position. James will work with Lois Henry through November 1st and then take over the position. Linda Reid was hired as Limon's Senior Center Coordinator to replace John Walsworth who resigned due to health issues. Vacancies remain for the Burlington Cook's Assistant and Elizabeth's Senior Center Coordinator.

Ports to Plains Resolution

Executive Director Candace Payne requested a ratification of the resolution approved by a majority vote cast via email that ECCOG supports the Ports to Plains designation of a portion of the Heartland Expressway and Ports to Plains as a future interstate in Colorado. Ten board members had responded to the email to support the resolution. Three members had no response, so the resolution was signed by our chairman and submitted to Joe Kiely on September 11th. During this call, Dave Hornung expressed his thoughts that Highway 385 is important to the region also. This comment was supported by Ron Smith and so noted.

Project SMILE Update

Senior & Transit Services (STS) Director Debby Conrads reported the Cheyenne Wells lunches will be served on Monday, Wednesday and Friday each week. For the months of May, June and July, the Friday meal will be moved to evening supper. In August, the Friday meal will be served at lunch time. The new guest fee recommended by the state is \$12.25 per person for those under age 60. At this price, our meal becomes as expensive as a restaurant meal but lacks the tip. The price change may effect the number of people who eat with us as guests.

Other

NEW BUSINESS:

SUA Ombudsman On-Site Visit

Senior & Transit Services (STS) Director Debby Conrads reported she and Louise Mills will be involved in an on-site State Unit on Aging Ombudsman evaluation tomorrow. The evaluation includes a documentation review and shadowing the Ombudsmen staff on facility visits. Once the evaluation is complete, a report will be given to the board.

2020 ECCOG Contributions/Dues

Enclosed in the board packet was the 2020 Contribution/Dues chart showing municipality and county dues based on the population projections received from the state demography office. Based on the current formula, Executive Director Candace Payne explained the calculation and billing of the quarterly paid dues. After a brief discussion, Dave Hornung made a motion to adopt the 2020 ECCOG Contributions as presented. Hal McNerney seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. This is the schedule to be used for invoicing in 2020.

SUA Performance Measures

Senior & Transit Services (STS) Director Debby Conrads reported the State Unit on Aging SFY 2019 Performance Measures review went well. A letter was received stating that ECCOG complies under the state contract. Congratulations were given to Senior and Transit Services Director Debby Conrads for maintaining the standards set by the state.

FTA and Transit

In news of the transit and Federal Transit Administration, Senior & Transit Services (STS) Director Debby Conrads reported the bus application and supporting documents were submitted previously for Dynamic Dimensions. The new bus was expected to be delivered September 30, 2019, but now the delivery from Creative Bus Sales may be made by November 5, 2019. Until then, DDI is welcome to use our Stratton bus as needed for long trips to avoid breakdowns or travel issues.

ECCOG Board of Directors

As fall approaches, the process of board members becomes necessary to discuss as people may not be in office early next year. Executive Director Candace Payne asked the board to consider their positions and let her know if they will be possibly staying on the board as all were encouraged to remain seated. Chairman Julie Coonts encouraged all members to contemplate their plans and report their decisions to Candace soon. Letters will be sent to each county in late October or early November of the impending election of board members. New members would start their term in March 2020.

Other

Executive Director Candace Payne sought input for the Department of Local Affairs grant funds to help with a regional housing study or specific individual county studies that required application by October 10th. Lincoln County reported they had a study recently completed by Prior and Associates that cost about \$8,000 and did not need another. Cheyenne County is working on an EDA application now as part of their staff's work to include a housing study. Kit Carson County is not interested in a study at this time. Elbert County had no response to an email sent last week. The consensus of the board was to not apply for the DOLA funds.

Next Meeting Dates/Locations

November 6 – Stratton at Claremont Inn with a beef entre

December – Mail ballot

January 8, 2020 – Teleconference (first Wed is a holiday)

February 5, 2020 – Mail ballot

March 4, 2020 – Face to face in Limon with new board members

Adjournment

Chairman Julie Coonts entertained a motion by Steve Burgess to adjourn the meeting. Hal McNerney seconded the motion which passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:21PM.

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