

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 4, 2020

Call to Order

Chairman Valerie Rhoades called the March 4, 2020 meeting of the ECCOG Board of Directors to order at 7:06 PM held at the TA Truck Stop – Country Pride Restaurant meeting room in Limon. Attendees included: Chairman Valerie Rhoades, Steve Burgess, Rhonda Brown, Ben Ferree, Dave Hornung, Troy McCue, Melody McKinsey, Hal McNerney, Carl Smalley and Ron Smith. ECCOG Executive Director Candace Payne was in attendance. Senior & Transit Services (STS) Director Debby Conrads was excused to submit audit documents to the state due to late receipt of partner materials. Rick Stegmaier and Scott Wills were unable to attend.

Roll Call/Introductions

Roll was taken upon arrival to the Re-organization Meeting earlier in the evening using the sign-in sheet.

Approval of January 8, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes

Chairman Valerie Rhoades asked for additions or corrections to the Minutes of January 8, 2020. A motion was made by Dave Hornung to approve the Minutes as provided. Hal McNerney seconded this motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report – March 4, 2020

The March 4, 2020 Financial Report was provided at the meeting. ECCOG Executive Director Candace Payne reviewed the fund balances and purchases on the debit cards detail report with the attendees. A few extra minutes were taken to explain the balances of funds and what they support in the ECCOG operation. Carl Smalley made a motion to accept the financial report for filing. This motion was seconded by Troy McCue. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Bills – February 28, 2020

February payroll totaled \$34,084.99 while February bills of \$69,169.73 and debit card purchases of \$511.76 were reviewed. Bills to be paid included the usual monthly bills, Enterprise Zone contributions, HelpMATE payments to providers, and grocery purchases for meals. Carl Smalley made the motion to ratify the February bills and payroll. Troy McCue seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

2020 Board Members

ECCOG Executive Director Candace Payne reported all board positions were now filled by Ben Ferree and Melody McKinsey. Each member explained who they represent and where they are from in more detail to enhance the function of the group covering four counties. Chairman Valerie Rhoades welcomed the new members to the board.

2020 Our Journey Brochures

Included in the board packet were the 2020 Event request form and letter explaining the process and deadlines for submission into the brochures and the website. Any special events to draw tourists to the area are encouraged and due back to the ECCOG office by March 17th. ECCOG Executive Director Candace Payne reported a new newspaper called Tidbits of the Plains will also list our events to people in Colorado, Kansas and Nebraska, which is that paper's service territory. The familiarization tour is planned for May for the museum managers so each museum knows what another offers and can speak to the museum contents with guests. Danielle Dascalos plans to feature Travelstorys in her area promotions as its new and exciting. The Travelstorys digital app should be ready before tourist season for the new highways of 24, 40, and 86 to cover the whole region.

Title III Stepping On Program

Due to the excused absence of Senior & Transit Services (STS) Director Debby Conrads, ECCOG Executive Director Candace Payne gave a report on the Stepping On exercise program provided by The Independence Center of Colorado Springs staff. At this time, The Independence Center does not wish to increase its class offerings to more locations. Therefore, Senior & Transit Services (STS) Director Debby Conrads has worked on finding a class for coordinators or office staff to get trained and offer the classes in our centers to increase the flexibility of the elderly participants. New board member Ben Ferree mentioned he teaches medication classes with these same participants locally and would be interested in offering the class in other locations. Thanks for the offer was given to Ben.

Other

NEW BUSINESS:

Federal Transit Administration Title VI Plan

Enclosed in the packet was the updated edition of ECCOG's Title VI Plan which explains the complaint process and guidelines against discrimination of the transit services. The Plan addresses the Limited English Proficiency (LEP) provision for riders who don't speak English fluently. The overall Title VI Plan has not changed since adoption on November 4, 2015 but updates to names, phone numbers and resources have been made. This Plan is posted on the ECCOG website for ease of access. Chris Richardson made a motion to accept the Title VI Plan as presented. Dave Hornung seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

2020 Enterprise Zone Contribution Project

ECCOG Executive Director Candace Payne reviewed a new Contribution Project request for Lincoln County Economic Development Corporation by their director Troy McCue. This project qualifies as an Operations: Economic Development Organization with a budget of \$125,000 per year with anticipated cash contributions of \$19,800 and in-kind donations of \$4,800. Dave Hornung made a motion to approve the LCEDC Contribution Project with an end date of 12-31-2025. (Economic development organizations should be an easy approval for the Financial Review Committee.)

Note: As the governing board over the East Central Enterprise Zone, the ECCOG board must approve each project before it goes to EZ Peer Review. Once approved at Peer Review, the Economic Development Commission gives final approval of each project before the project can accept support. Each cash or in-kind donation is approved by the East Central Administrator (Payne) for every project.

Community Block Grant Contract #18-611 Amendment

A brief review of the emailed request to consider an amendment to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Contract #18-611 was given by ECCOG Executive Director Candace Payne. This process was disrupted by the retirement of the state CDBG manager in early February who worked with PDC Administrator Candace Payne to get this loan approved with contingencies at the February 25th Financial Review Committee meeting.

The \$684,400 amendment was necessary to fund a loan request of \$600,000 to partner with a local bank on a business within the ECCOG service area connected to 30 jobs. The CDBG amendment provides a remaining balance of \$250,000 (after this particular loan is closed) to fund other loan requests in the four counties into November 2020 when a contract extension may be needed. The ECCOG board email approval was received on February 13 with eleven out of thirteen members voting yes and two no replies. Lincoln County commission approved the amendment on February 18th. Prairie Development Corporation will consider approval of the amendment on March 5th at their meeting. Each approval was contingent on the loan closing and the loan terms being accepted by all lenders and borrowers. Troy McCue made a motion to ratify the amendment request of \$684,400 as approved by email ballot. Chris Richardson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Note: ECCOG and Prairie Development Corporation are the sub-grantee on the CDBG contract with Lincoln County as the grantee. This has been the arrangement since the loan funds were established.

Prairie Development Corporation Trade School Scholarship

A reminder of the Prairie Development Corporation Trade School Scholarship deadline of March 20th by 3:00 PM was mentioned. A couple applications have been received but more would be appreciated. It was noted more trade school scholarships are offered now than previously by a variety of foundations and businesses.

Other

An update on the TravelStorys digital app was shared as Prairie Development Corporation received a \$10,000 grant to help develop phase two and market the Colorado Central Plains tour. The grant came from El Pomar Foundation and was considered in conjunction with the tour of the northern counties north of the central plains region.

Next Meeting Dates/Locations

April 1 – Mail ballot

May 6 – TC – ECCOG audit presentation?

June 3 – Limon – ECCOG audit presentation?

July 1 – Mail

Aug 5 – TC/Mail

Adjournment

Chairman Valerie Rhoades entertained a motion from Hal McNerney to adjourn the meeting. Ron Smith seconded the motion which passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:38PM.

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