

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 3, 2020

Call to Order

Chairman Valerie Rhoades called the June 3, 2020 teleconference meeting of the ECCOG Board of Directors to order at 7:00 PM. Attendees included: Chairman Valerie Rhoades, Steve Burgess, Ben Ferree, Dave Hornung, Troy McCue, Melody McKinsey, Chris Richardson, Ron Smith, Rick Stegmaier and Scott Wills. ECCOG Executive Director Candace Payne and Senior & Transit Services (STS) Director Debby Conrads were on the call. Rhonda Brown was unable to attend. Municipal positions for Cheyenne Wells and Burlington are vacant but in the process of being filled.

Roll Call/Introductions

Roll was called by Executive Director Candace Payne.

Approval of May 6, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Chairman Valerie Rhoades asked for additions or corrections to the Minutes of May 6, 2020. A motion was made by Dave Hornung to approve the Minutes as provided. Scott Wills seconded this motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report – June 3, 2020

The June 3, 2020 Financial Report was emailed prior to the meeting. ECCOG Executive Director Candace Payne discussed the fund balances and debit cards purchases detail report with the group. Steve Burgess made a motion to accept the financial report for filing. This motion was seconded by Rick Stegmaier. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Bills and Payroll – May 29, 2020

May payroll of \$33,890.78 and bills of \$53,391.33 and debit card purchases of \$3,250.89 were reviewed. Bills to be paid included the typical monthly bills, Our Journey brochure design work, HelpMATE provider payments, and grocery purchases for meals. Steve Burgess made a motion to approve payment of the bills and payroll. Rick Stegmaier seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

2020 Board Members

ECCOG Executive Director Candace Payne reported contact had been made with the City of Burlington and Town of Cheyenne Wells in May to fill the vacant positions. At this point, there has been no response as each town council will ask for a volunteer for now and then the regular nomination process will start in the fall of 2020.

2020 Our Journey Brochures

Printing of the 2020 Our Journey brochures was the next topic discussed with the Board. A bid proposal from the Burlington Record received after the May meeting came in at \$1,680. The 3,000 brochures were printed locally which saved shipping costs and exposure to the virus if picked up in Colorado Springs. Brochures were picked up today and are being prepared for distribution this month to local museums, businesses, and Welcome Centers. Every business listed in "Places" should also receive a supply of brochures.

Project SMILE Update

Senior & Transit Services (STS) Director Debby Conrads reported on current activity of home delivered meals and grab-n-go since the Coronavirus continued to impact our meal site operations. Currently, meals are still provided on a home-delivered or grab-n-go basis. Participation in weekly teleconferences about this program leads staff to believe later this summer meal delivery could change. Some meal sites are using Zoom meeting calls to allow social interaction from a distance. Training on the use of

Zoom is a challenge in itself. Other ideas are being considered to allow outdoor meal sharing in parks or other venues while maintaining proper distance.

COVID-19 Operations Response Plan

Executive Director Candace Payne reported the staff is back at the office now with temperature checks, social distancing, and cleaning processes in action. The lobby is open for deliveries and to the public with an appointment and wearing masks. The thermometers have been distributed for meal sites, buses, and the office to help ensure compliance with the directions from the county public health department. Most staff members are content to be back in a more normal routine and environment.

2020 Enterprise Zone Status

ECCOG Executive Director Candace Payne explained the state Economic Development Commission has delayed approval of Contribution Projects until July 2020 due to budget discussions. That means the Lincoln County Economic Development Corporation contribution project will be reviewed by the EDC in July or soon thereafter so LCEDC may not market this benefit or accept funds expecting a tax credit until the project is approved by the EDC. For now, no new projects may come before the Peer Review or EDC. ECCOG's approved the Limon Heritage Society contribution project is also on hold pending Peer Review in June or July.

State Unit on Aging COVID Funds

The SUA CARES Act contract was accepted in May. The total allocation expected is \$153,370.85 to cover our senior services without match for these Federal funds. Senior & Transit Services (STS) Director Debby Conrads explained the Family First Funds are also Federal funds and will be used first as we deliver services which provides \$47,744.89 to ECCOG. A brief discussion was held on services provided and the delivery methods.

CDBG Amendment

An update was provided on the Community Development Block Grant amendment discussed in May. Both ECCOG and Prairie Development Corporation boards approved the amendment request. Lincoln County commissioners approved the request also and a letter was submitted on June 2nd to the state office for an additional \$80,874 for Business Assistance only (no new funds for Administration) at the suggestion of Executive Director Candace Payne. Approval is pending at the state level.

NEW BUSINESS:

ECCOG Staffing News

Staff openings include the senior center coordinator position in Arriba as Beverly Langley resigned and will help train the new person once hired. The Arriba position does not currently include bus driving responsibilities so that role is open. Executive Director Candace Payne explained that efforts are in the works to find another office staff member to help transition Debby Conrads into retirement in 2021. Advertisements will be placed in the workforce centers, newspapers and with the state in case someone wants to move to the rural region and continue working for AAA or CDOT in a less hectic location.

Economic Development Administration (EDA) Application

As follow up on the email request for the Economic Development Administration (EDA) application approval, Executive Director Candace Payne expressed the use of funds and no match requirement as we are an approved Economic Development District invited to apply. The application was submitted online on May 26th following majority votes from the board. The total \$150,000 application will include work on the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy and the Resiliency Plan to address COVID and other pandemics and other disasters. Contracts for services was included in the application but much work will be done with partners in the region and by ECCOG staff were possible. Approval notices are expected in mid June from EDA.

5311 FTA Admin & Operating Funds

Senior & Transit Services (STS) Director Debby Conrads directed attention the 5311 Federal Transportation Administration (FTA) Administration and Operating Funds application she is developing for the region. A vote to authorize the submission of the application for future funds was requested from the board. Steve Burgess made a motion to authorize the 5311 FTA Admin & Operating application. Melody McKinsey seconded this motion. Motion passed unanimously.

HelpMATE

Senior & Transit Services (STS) Director Debby Conrads described the current demand of the HelpMATE program which provides financial assistance for hearing aids, eyeglasses, assistive devices, and other needs. In April, there were no applications due to the COVID situation. In June, requests paid totaled \$11,000 through many applications. It is believed there will be no leftover funds for HelpMATE by June end of month.

(Melody McKinsey disconnected)

Other

None

Next Meeting Dates/Locations

July 1 – Mail ballot

Aug 5 – TC/In Person/Mail ballot

Sept 2 – TC/In Person/Mail ballot

~For Planning Purposes Only~

Oct 7 - TC/In Person/Mail ballot

Nov 4 – Stratton Claremont Inn

Dec 2 – Mail ballot

Adjournment

Chairman Valerie Rhoades entertained a motion from Steve Burgess to adjourn the meeting. Troy McCue seconded the motion which passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:54PM.

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