

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 AUGUST 5, 2020

Call to Order

Chairman Valerie Rhoades called the August 5, 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, Troy Schultz and Ron Smith. ECCOG Executive Director Candace Payne and Senior & Transit Services (STS) Director Debby Conrads were on the call. Rhonda Brown, Chris Richardson and Scott Wills were unable to attend. Cheyenne Wells and Simla municipal positions are vacant and may remain so until the nomination process opens in November.

Roll Call/Introductions

Roll was called by Executive Director Candace Payne.

Approval of June 3, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Chairman Valerie Rhoades requested additions or corrections to the Minutes of June 3, 2020. A motion was made by Steve Burgess to approve the Minutes as presented. Dave Hornung seconded this motion, which passed unanimously.

Financial Report – August 5, 2020

The July 1, 2020 Financial Report was approved by mail ballot. The August 5, 2020 Financial Report was emailed prior to the meeting. ECCOG Executive Director Candace Payne discussed the fund balance report and debit cards purchases with the group. There being no concerns with the report, Dave Hornung made a motion to accept the financial report for filing. This motion was seconded by Steve Burgess and passed unanimously.

Approval of Bills and Payroll – July 31, 2020

June payroll of \$33,665.63 was approved by mail ballot. July payroll of \$34,008.01 and bills of \$79,117.75 and debit card purchases of \$791.14 were reviewed. Bills to be paid included the typical monthly bills, Enterprise Zone contributions, audit fees, HelpMATE provider payments, and grocery purchases for meals. Dave Hornung made a motion to approve payment of the bills and payroll. Steve Burgess seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

2020 Board Members

ECCOG Executive Director Candace Payne reported the City of Burlington filled their board vacancy with Troy Schultz who was on the call. Rick Stegmaier notified ECCOG staff that he resigned due to family health issues from the Town of Simla council. That opens Elbert County's municipal position. Town of Cheyenne Wells has two seats open on their council and that leaves Cheyenne County without a municipal representative. The regular nomination process will start in the fall of 2020 therefore the two positions may remain vacant during this transition time. Mr. Troy Schultz was given the floor to make his brief introduction to the group. He is the owner of Eastern Colorado Technology in Burlington and his wife is originally from Burlington. Chairman Valerie Rhoades welcomed Mr. Schultz to the board and thanked him for his commitment to ECCOG.

2020 Enterprise Zone Status

ECCOG Executive Director Candace Payne reported the Economic Development Commission has approved Lincoln County Economic Development Corporation as a contribution project on June 18th. New applications may now be considered again. Limon Heritage Society will be tweaking their application to pass Peer Review in August. Approval from the Economic Development Commission is expected in September. Work continues on a Elbert County contribution project related to agri-tourism.

State Unit on Aging COVID Funds

Senior & Transit Services (STS) Director Debby Conrads explained the Family First Funds have been expended as of July 31st as intended. CARES Act Federal funds are now in place to deliver aging services. The state funds will be used last if the other funding is fully expended. No budget shortfall is expected during this pandemic.

ECCOG Staffing News

The Arriba senior center coordinator position has been filled by Colleen Luft. Senior & Transit Services (STS) Director Debby Conrads explained the Arriba position does not currently include bus driving responsibilities so that role remains open. Executive Director Candace Payne reported work continues with the workforce center and local papers for open office positions. Bus drivers seems to be the most frequent open position we have as Flagler and Lincoln County have vacancies.

Economic Development Administration (EDA) Application

Approval was received for the Economic Development Administration (EDA) Economic Assistance Adjustment (EAA) application. Executive Director Candace Payne explained the funds are available through 6-30-2022 with no match requirement. The total \$150,000 application includes on the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy and the Resiliency Plan to address COVID and other pandemics or other disasters. Requests for Proposals will be used for service contracts under the work plan and will be posted in the coming months. Much of the CEDS work will be done with partners in the region and by ECCOG staff were possible.

CDBG Amendment

The Community Development Block Grant amendment was approved by the Financial Review Committee and has been adding to the contract. Both ECCOG and Prairie Development Corporation boards approved the amendment request after Lincoln County commissioners approved the request. An approval notification has been received for the Coronavirus Relief Fund \$80,874 addition to our CDBG contract also. Executive Director Candace Payne requested the board send any business our way to apply for a loan with these funds.

NEW BUSINESS:

Title VI Transit Plan and Limited English Proficiency Plan (LEP)

Senior & Transit Services (STS) Director Debby Conrads directed attention to the Title VI Plan and Limited English Proficiency Plan included in the packet for review. These plans are part of the Area Agency on Aging and Transit programs. Only data tables and dates were needed to be updated but this gave the board an opportunity to review the plans prior to future desk evaluations. A typing error was noted and will be corrected. After explaining the need for both the LEP and Title VI plans, Dave Hornung made a motion was made to approve both plans with the date correction. Steve Burgess seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

(Melody McKinsey left the meeting)

2021-2022 Part-time Salary Schedule

Executive Director Candace Payne asked for approval consideration of the Part-time Salary Schedule which was part of the board packet. The change to the document was expansion of the Step columns to the right but no formula change. The encompassing years was increased to cover a longer period of time since the formulas do not change. This schedule will not need to be reviewed annually with this expanded date coverage. Steve Burgess made a motion to approve the schedule as provided. Troy McCue seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Our Journey Geocaching Visitation Report

Executive Director Candace Payne reviewed the OBT & Museums Geocaching Visitation Report with the attendees. The report demonstrates the most popular geocaching sites Old Town (57) and Limon Heritage Museum (23). Online entries of visits are increasing and the pandemic seems to have more people visiting the safe rural areas which allow for easy social distancing. The most remote or off the beaten path sites have the lowest recorded visits but are still visited. This report does not include the log entries recorded at each location as staff travel has been reduced. Promotion of the region's Our Journey program continues with Danielle Dascalos during this time albeit different than normal.

Other

Steve Burgess reported the Lincoln County Fair setup a 60' by 100' tent for outdoor social distancing and it has been a great hit so far! He invited everyone to visit the fair in Hugo.

Dave Hornung reported the Kit Carson County Fair also had a tent to increase social distancing. To date, there has not been a COVID outbreak since the fair ended. Attendance in 2019 was approximately 4,000 while 2020 may have had 2,000. The livestock sale increased over \$100,000 from the previous year.

Ron Smith shared the Cheyenne County Fair had 1,100 to 1,200 attendees at the rodeo and a very good livestock sale. They also do not have a COVID outbreak to date since the fair ended.

Next Meeting Dates/Locations

Sept 2 – Mail ballot

Oct 7 - TC/In Person

~For Planning Purposes Only~

Nov 4 – Stratton Claremont Inn

Dec 2 – Mail ballot

Adjournment

Chairman Valerie Rhoades entertained a motion from Steve Burgess to adjourn the meeting. Dave Hornung seconded the motion which passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:05PM.

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