

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 3, 2021

Call to Order

Chairman Valerie Rhoades called the March 3, 2021 meeting of the ECCOG Board of Directors to order at 7:00 PM held at Stratton's Claremont Inn & Winery, 800 Claremont Drive. Attendees included: Chairman Valerie Rhoades, Steve Burgess, Marc Dettenrieder, Ryan Fulmer, Dave Hornung, Melody McKinsey, Chris Richardson, Scott Wills. ECCOG Executive Director Candace Payne and Senior & Transit Services (STS) Director Debby Conrads were present. Rhonda Brown, Ben Ferree, Troy Schultz and Ron Smith were unable to attend. Cheyenne County's municipal position is vacant currently.

Roll Call/Introductions

Introductions were made as directors arrived or were seated at the dinner table. Additionally, roll call was taken by completing the attendance sheet and a quorum was declared. Ryan Fulmer and Marc Dettenrieder were welcomed again to the board.

Approval of January 6, 2021 Meeting Minutes and Re-organization Minutes of March 4, 2020

Chairman Valerie Rhoades asked for any additions or corrections to the Minutes of January 6, 2021. Executive Director Candace Payne requested the Minutes of March 4, 2020 be added to the consideration. A motion was made by Chris Richardson to approve both sets of Minutes as presented. Steve Burgess seconded this motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Report – March 3, 2021

Financial Report for February 3, 2021 was approved by mail ballot. The March 3, 2021 Financial Report was handed out at the meeting. ECCOG Executive Director Candace Payne and Senior & Transit Services (STS) Director Debby Conrads reviewed the fund balance report and debit cards purchases with the board. Dave Hornung made a motion to accept the financial report for filing. The motion was seconded by Chris Richardson. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Bills and Payroll – February 2021

January payroll of \$32,359.39; bills of \$58,149.85; and debit card purchases of \$4,188.93 were approved by mail ballot in February. February payroll of \$38,535.28 and bills of \$66,584.36 and debit card purchases of \$598.59 were reviewed. Bill payment included the typical monthly utility bills, Enterprise Zone contributions, office equipment, HelpMATE provider payments, and grocery purchases for meals. Dave Hornung made a motion to approve payment of the bills and payroll. Chris Richardson seconded the motion. A unanimous ballot was cast for approval.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

FTA Bus Disposition

Senior & Transit Services (STS) Director Debby Conrads reported the Cheyenne Wells bus is expected tomorrow. This bus has been on order for over a year due to COVID. Cheyenne County contributed \$12,349 as their match portion. ECCOG applied for CDOT's Advanced Payment Waiver to avoid paying the 80% portion and then be reimbursed by CDOT. The transit program is currently under a mask requirement for riders and drivers who ride the Outback Express. After a brief discussion of the mask requirements, we will continue to post signs as required and wear masks if more than one person is aboard.

2021 Our Journey Brochures

Executive Director Candace Payne explained gathering information for the three 2021 Our Journey brochures featuring activities and businesses across the region has started. Blank event forms were distributed at the meeting. Printing of the *Fun, Fairs, Festival; Places* and the Our Journey museum brochures will be put out to bid for 3,000 pieces of each. Danielle Dascalos has been engaged for 2021 as our public relations consultant. She will begin work in April as many events are still on hold waiting for the governor's lift of gathering restrictions. Danielle's 2020 Year in Review report was provided at the meeting.

Travelstorys Update

The Travelstorys regional tour is winding down as the final phase is written and mapped. Adjustments were made to completion due to COVID as Travelstorys staff are still working remotely.

Other**NEW BUSINESS:****2021 State Unit on Aging (SUA) Carry Over Funds**

The 2021 State Unit on Aging awarded ECCOG with \$254,115 in carry-over funds that were not used previously. The funds must be used by June 30, 2021 which is the state fiscal year end. A contract is expected in the coming months to accept the amendment. Senior & Transit Services (STS) Director Debby Conrads reported the funds may not be expended that quickly due to reduced services in our region.

2021 Enterprise Zone

A year-to-year comparison chart of EZ tax credits was distributed at the meeting. A review of the information was conducted by Executive Director Candace Payne. In 2020, 400 qualified tax credits were claimed totaling \$1,194,826 from \$39,827,337 of investments. The report compared years 2016 through 2020 where the number of claims was steady, but the dollar values varied due to renewable energy credits.

2021 SUA Ombudsman

Senior & Transit Services (STS) Director Debby Conrads reported the annual training for our ombudsman began in March. We currently have one ombudsman, Louise Mills, taking the training as Debby has no need to renew her certification as she retires in 2021 and Kerry McNeil no longer desires to perform the role of ombudsman. Advertising for an ombudsman in the western end of the region and another person to help cover the eastern area will begin shortly.

Material Aide (aka HelpMATE)

Senior & Transit Services (STS) Director Debby Conrads explained funds are available to help purchase glasses, hearing aids, dentures and assistive devices for our service area. So far, we have expended \$9,557 for glasses; \$12,154 for dentures; and \$75,000 for hearing aids. Board members were encouraged to refer people to the office for assistance.

Legal Service Desk Evaluation Report

Senior & Transit Services (STS) Director Debby Conrads expressed her happiness in receiving the recent legal services desk evaluation showing no compliance issues. ECCOG staff received a letter stating the evaluation was performed and passed review by the state.

Next Meeting Dates/Locations (1st Wed of each month)

April 7 – Mail ballot

May 5 – TC or Limon – ECCOG audit presentation?

June 2 – TC or Limon – ECCOG audit presentation?

Other

Executive Director Candace Payne had a call from an aerial imagery company who offered to digitize the region in aerial maps. The projected cost reached \$225,000 and could be completed in fall of 2021. The county commissioners in attendance felt the price was high and at this time they were not able to cover such costs. Other commissioners will be surveyed about their participation.

Adjournment

Chairman Valerie Rhoades entertained a motion from Steve Burgess to adjourn the meeting. Dave Hornung seconded the motion which passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:44PM.

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

