

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 JULY 6, 2022

Call to Order

Chairman Chris Richardson called the July 6, 2022, meeting of the ECCOG Board of Directors at 7:03 PM held as a teleconference meeting to obtain a quorum. The Stratton office was open for public audience. Attending directors included: Chris Richardson, Steve Burgess, Marc Dettenrieder, Ben Ferree, Dave Hornung, Derek Isom, Valerie Rhoades, Troy Schultz, Ron Smith, and Megan Vasquez. ECCOG Executive Director Candace Payne and Senior & Transit Services (STS) Director Sean Vanous were on the call. Directors Rhonda Brown, Ryan Fulmer, and Carmen Halde were unable to attend. Congressman Ken Buck's Elbert County representative Travis Grant also connected.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Chris Richardson asked the attendees to recite the Pledge of Allegiance with him.

Introductions of Guests and Roll Call

Roll was called by Executive Director Candace Payne to determine a quorum was met. Travis Grant from Congressman Ken Buck's office was introduced and welcomed to the meeting.

Approval of June 8, 2022, Meeting Minutes

The Minutes of the June 8, 2022, regular meeting were provided in the board packet. Director Valerie Rhoades made a motion to accept the Minutes as presented. Director Marc Dettenrieder seconded this motion, which passed unanimously.

Financial Report of July 6, 2022

The Financial Report dated July 6, 2022 was emailed before the meeting. Executive Director Candace Payne recapped the fund balances with Senior & Transit Services Director Sean Vanous. It was noted the EDA 2021-2022 funds were fully expended so de-obligation is not needed as the contract expired. Director Steve Burgess made a motion to accept the financial report for filing. Director Valerie Rhoades made a second of the motion. Motion carried.

Approval of Bills & Payroll

Payroll and bills for June 30, 2022 were reviewed with the attendees. The June payroll totaled \$36,791.01 for the office and field staff. Debit card transactions were \$1,331.28 which included CASTA's hotel room, Carousel web hosting, Microsoft licenses, meeting refreshments, C4A's hotel room, and ECCOG web hosting. Monthly paid expenses reached \$70,634.81 which included HelpMATE vendor payments, EZ contributions, consultant fees, raw food, staff reimbursements, office rent, utilities, and marketing expenses. Director Steve Burgess made a motion to ratify the payment of payroll and bills as presented. Director Valerie Rhoades seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

COG Staffing Update

Senior & Transit Services (STS) Director Sean Vanous reported an application was received for the Cheyenne Wells head cook. He also had an inquiry for the Simla Outback Express driver position. The Special Projects Assistant position will be advertised in the summer but for now the high school student will help the staff with projects reported Executive Director Candace Payne.

Energize CO Gap Funds

Executive Director Candace Payne reported Prairie Development Corporation and the Energize Colorado Gap Funds is wrapping up as over \$3,000,000 in grant awards for Colorado businesses have been approved by this region. Approximately 590

applications were approved by staff. Funds were to be expended by September 15th. For the next meeting, Chairman Chris Richardson asked for a report of awards in the region.

Senate Bill 290 Update

STS Director Sean Vanous stated all SB 290 funds awarded to this region are now in ECCOG's accounts to be expended for the four projects. The four senior center projects are working with contractors to implement the scope of work as bid. Each project has its own fund for tracking purposes and to allow for easy reporting. Progress updates will be given periodically at the board meetings.

EDA Planning Grant Update

The new EDA contract has been awarded to East Central COG and funding is in place for July 1 as the contract has been accepted. Beginning July 1st expenses may be assessed against the new fund. The expired contract will be closed out with final expenses and activities reported before September 30th as required.

The consultant is still working on updating our CEDS with Census numbers for the CARES Act award under EDA which was extended through December 2022.

State Unit on Aging On-site Evaluation Report – Handout

Included in the board packet was the letter and evaluation findings from Karen Klein at the Division of Aging and Adult Services from May's evaluation. The evaluation cited strengths such as the Elizabeth site opening and new partnerships for the opening of that meal site and the staff's resiliency through COVID and ability to develop new ideas. Concerns included delays in reassessment of services which were addressed during the evaluation. Six compliance issues and the mitigation plan that was made the day the evaluation results were received were reviewed with the board. The state office has accepted the proposed plan from STS Director Sean Vanous and Executive Director Candace Payne, which was included in the board packet. Items listed included CBI background checks on volunteers, semi-annual food safety training, Motor Vehicle Records obtained on all drivers, free bus fares for those age 60 and over, and untimely provider evaluations. A report of progress will be given to the board at the next meeting. It was noted that several of these items reviewed were not reviewed in the past so the practices have been ongoing for a length of time but will now be addressed.

NEW BUSINESS:

ECCOG Personnel Policy – Vote

The mileage reimbursement rate is currently \$.45 per mile while the IRS rate has increased to \$.625. After a brief discussion, Director Valerie Rhoades made the motion to change the policy to reflect ECCOG will use the current IRS reimbursement rate effective July 1, 2022. Director Ben Ferree seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The Personnel Policy will reflect this change and the staff will be notified.

State Unit on Aging Contracts

STS Director Sean Vanous explained to the directors that due to increased expenses of the In-Home and Caregiver Services under Title III Part B program, the providers have asked for a renegotiation of their contract. Eastern Colorado Homecare has had a funding gap for several months especially since COVID. A new contract was negotiated for them from July 1 through December 31 of 2022. STS Director Sean Vanous will continue to work on these contracts to provide more accurate reimbursement rates given the current economy.

Broadband

Executive Director Candace Payne conducted a survey of the board to determine if any municipality or county plans to apply for Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act (IIJA) broadband funds. Elbert County is hoping to have a capital project with ISPs stated Director Marc Dettenrieder. No others expressed interest in applying for themselves. Most felt the Internet Service Providers needed to do that as they see fit. Using our Broadband Strategic Plan, ISPs may apply to provide services to unserved and underserved under the funding provisions. ECCOG may be asked to host meetings to discuss such needs like we did in April stated Executive Director Candace Payne.

CDOT 5311 Transit Contracts

Providers of the Outback Express transportation services have also asked for renegotiated contract due to fuel costs and staff wages. STS Director Sean Vanous is working with Town of Limon, City of Burlington, and Dynamic Dimensions to bring their cost reimbursements up also as the expenses are not being covered with the current contract.

Other

Congressman Ken Buck's staffer, Travis Grant, was given the floor. Mr. Grant covers the Elbert County area for the congressman and offered to help anyone with passport issues or immediate needs. This congressional office plans to host 1,500 meetings this year and they are on track to meet constituents as they already have 700 meetings completed. An offer to attend again was extended by Chairman Chris Richardson to Mr. Grant.

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

August 3 – Mail ballot

Sept 7 – Teleconference

Oct 5 – In Person in Limon

Adjournment

Chairman Chris Richardson ended the discussion at 7:50PM.

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