

EAST CENTRAL COUNCIL OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

COLORADO'S CENTRAL PLAINS



128 Colorado Ave • Box 28 • Stratton, Colorado 80836 • 719-348-5562 • (FAX) 719-348-5887 • www.eccog.com

EAST CENTRAL COUNCIL OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 4, 2023

Call to Order

Chairman Chris Richardson called the January 4, 2023, meeting of the ECCOG Board of Directors at 7:10 PM held as a conference call. The public site was available at 128 Colorado Avenue in Stratton, CO hosted by Executive Director Candace Payne.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Chris Richardson led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance using flags at their home or online.

Introductions of Guests and Roll Call

Directors in attendance included: Chris Richardson, Rhonda Brown, Steve Burgess, Marc Dettenrieder, Ben Ferree, Ryan Fulmer, Dave Hornung, and Megan Vasquez. ECCOG Executive Director Candace Payne and Senior & Transit Services Director Sean Vanous were on the call. Directors Carmen Halde, Derek Isom, Valerie Rhoades, Troy Schultz, and Ron Smith were unable to attend. A quorum was reached. Darlene Carpio from Congressman Ken Buck's office was a guest on the call.

Approval of November 2, 2022, Meeting Minutes

The Minutes of the November 2, 2022, meeting were provided in the board packet. Director Ryan Fulmer made a motion to accept the Minutes as presented. Director Steve Burgess seconded this motion, which carried.

Financial Report of January 4, 2023

The Financial Report dated January 4, 2023, was emailed prior to the meeting. Executive Director Candace Payne and Senior & Transit Services Director Sean Vanous reviewed the fund balances with the attendees. The CARES Act Funds from EDA were expended by December 31 as required. Other funds are maintaining a strong balance due to funding received from federal and state agencies in addition to the Local Marketing Match, ECCOG Dues and other regular funding support. Director Steve Burgess made a motion to accept the financial report for filing. Director Rhonda Brown seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Approval of Bills & Payroll

Payroll and bills for December 31, 2022, were reviewed with the attendees. The December payroll of \$52,210.30 with bonus payments of \$14,250.28 was reviewed. Credit card payments of \$43,874.99 included web hosting, dues, equipment purchases and installation costs. Expenses paid for December 2022 totaled \$92,376.11 included tax payments, typical vendor payments, employee reimbursements, monthly utilities, enterprise zone contributions, and SB 290 project reimbursements. Director Steve Burgess made a motion to ratify the payment of payroll and bills as presented. Director Rhonda Brown seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

COG Staffing Update

Senior & Transit Services Director Sean Vanous reported driver positions remain open for Burlington, Cheyenne County, Lincoln County and Kit Carson County but the Simla/Matheson position is filled. Executive Director Candace Payne reported the Special Projects Assistant position is filled starting in mid-January.

ECCOG Board Nominations

Prairie Development Corporation has appointed Marc Dettenrieder to the ECCOG board for another term. After a brief explanation of the process, Chairman Chris Richardson asked if an email could be sent to all members requesting their interest in voluntarily serving on the executive committee and to survey current officers of their interest to remain in their current

positions. Executive Director Candace Payne will email the board within a week and based on those responses, a nomination committee may be formed if needed.

Partnership with Colorado State University and Rural Action Plan

Executive Director Candace Payne shared information on the new grant opportunity in conjunction with Colorado State University (CSU) for rural communities called Rural Action Plan. When the original request for information was submitted it was for all four counties but Cheyenne County had their own request submitted and approved. That left the other three counties as eligible for this initial grant funding. After conversations with CSU staff, CSU felt one county should be the applicant at this time and keep the other two eligible for the next funding round. After a brief discussion of the process and \$5,000 available per municipality, the board agreed to have Kit Carson County municipalities be the participants if they desire to participate based on their close proximity to the ECCOG office and staff convenience. Cheyenne County Extension Services is participating also but other counties may express interest and apply in the next round. Work will move on with Kit Carson County municipalities with an interest in these \$5,000 grants to help build community and advance a project of their choosing. ECCOG will facilitate and conduct the meetings associated with these funds. There is no match required for the grants but other funds could be used to complete a community project. Community participants are encouraged to attend three meetings to be held in February and early March before applications are due to CSU in late March.

Senate Bill 290

Senior and Transit Services Director Sean Vanous shared an update on the Senate Bill 290 funds. Burlington and Stratton projects are complete. Flagler should start in the spring and finish by fall 2023. Cheyenne Wells is still working on their project. A new award was made for Kit Carson's kitchen in the amount of \$31,057.09 through the second round of funding. That project will start in spring 2023 as funds were expended to ECCOG by December 31st.

Enterprise Zone

Executive Director Candace Payne reported three contribution projects applications were approved by the state committee. Elbert County Historical Society, City of Burlington's Old Town Museum Complex, and City of Burlington's Economic Development will all be eligible for contributions in 2023 through 2028. The Enhanced Rural Enterprise Zones were reviewed and approved by the Economic Development Commission so Lincoln, Kit Carson and Cheyenne counties remain in that group to offer more tax credits to businesses. Our annual EZ grant was increased by \$1,473 for 2023 which is matched by COG dollar for dollar. The new amount will reflect the slight increase in the 2023 award for EZ.

Regional Grants Navigator

Executive Director Candace Payne reported the funds were not yet available through the state contract so the position is not funded yet. We must wait for the executed contract before any expenses are covered by the contract including advertising for the position. Our ads were paid by ECCOG's funds or other funds on hand. A proposal is being considered for filling the position but is on hold until the executed contract is received.

NEW BUSINESS:

Material Aid or HelpMATE

Senior & Transit Services Director Sean Vanous reviewed Material Aid or Project HelpMATE information provided in the packet. He requested an increase to the assistance limits on the existing client service types, (eye care, dental care, hearing aids etc.) which had not been increased in several years but with rising costs was justified. Copies of the new Fact Sheet show eye care \$750; dental care \$2,500; medical devices \$350; emergency alert \$300; mobility related (walker, cane, etc) \$500; wheelchair ramps \$500; and home modifications (walk-in tubs/showers, doorways, counters, etc.) \$3,500 as new limits.

A new service type category, "Home Modifications" was discussed to be added to the list. Recent requests for walk-in tub/showers have been received which were not previously offered. Based on preliminary research, the shower or tub can be costly depending on features selected. The \$3,500.00 limit would be sufficient to assist older adults or their families in acquiring these items. Director Steve Burgess made a motion to increase the limits as recommended and to add "Home Modifications" to the services effective January 1, 2023 as discussed. Director Ben Ferree seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

A request to change the delivery method of the HelpMATE program from "Client Directed" to "Client Choice" was made by Senior & Transit Services Director Sean Vanous. Currently in the client directed format, the client may choose any provider in Colorado or outside Colorado which can be very cumbersome on staff for processing and to establish a working relationship with the vendor. A change to "Client Choice" means that a client selects from a list of pre-approved and established vendors willing to work with ECCOG or on a case-by-case basis. This ensures timelier processing of client requests for assistance in

the HelpMATE program. A motion was made by Director Dave Hornung and seconded by Director Mark Dettenrieder to change to a “Client Choice” option to expedite the process for HelpMATE services and to institute a case-by-case option in conjunction with the pre-approved list. Motion passed unanimously.

Our Journey 2023

In preparation for 2023, Executive Director Candace Payne asked for input on contracting for this year’s marketing promotions of Our Journey via the public relations firm we have used for several years, Danielle Dascalos. Danielle is responsible for promoting our tourism program on social media, helping with website updates, and securing television interviews and promotions for the Our Journey museums. It is difficult to attribute actions to her activities but in general her expertise is invaluable. Director Steve Burgess recommended we continue to support tourism through Danielle Dascalos. The annual budget for her work totals \$8,500 paid by ECCOG and Prairie Development Corp. The board agreed to continue this agreement.

Employee Credit Cards

Due to a recent bus equipment failure, it was brought to staff’s attention that other employees might need a ECCOG approved credit card specifically for bus drivers or cooks. Sometimes these staff members must use personal funds to cover expenses incurred on behalf of the transit or meal programs. After a discussion of needs, the board felt a survey of employees would be justified to make a determination. Executive Director Candace Payne and Senior & Transit Services Director will contact the staff to see who might need a card for their ECCOG expenses. Based on those answers we will know what steps to take if needed.

Other

Chairman Chris Richardson thanked Darlene Carpio for participating in the call and then opened the floor to her. Mrs. Carpio explained that Elbert County was now in her eastern plains region for consistency and the administrative function were moved to an office in Windsor due to redistricting. Priorities for Congressman Ken Buck are a Federal balanced budget and rural Colorado. If she could engage Congressman Buck on any issue for the region an invitation to let her know was extended.

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

Feb 1, 2023 - Mail ballot

Mar 1, 2023 – In-person in Limon

April 5, 2023 – TC, Mail, In-person TBD

Adjournment

Chairman Chris Richardson ended the discussion and adjourned at 8:36PM.

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