

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 NOVEMBER 2, 2022

Call to Order

Chairman Chris Richardson called the November 2, 2022, meeting of the ECCOG Board of Directors at 7:02 PM held at the Claremont Inn & Winery, 800 Claremont Dr. in Stratton CO.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Chris Richardson led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Introductions of Guests and Roll Call

Directors in attendance included: Chris Richardson, Steve Burgess, Rhonda Brown, Ben Ferree, Carmen Halde, Dave Hornung, Valerie Rhoades, and Troy Schultz. ECCOG Executive Director Candace Payne and Senior & Transit Services (STS) Director Sean Vanous were in attendance. Directors Marc Dettenrieder, Ryan Fulmer, Derek Isom, Ron Smith, and Megan Vasquez were unable to attend. Susan Ferree attended as a guest.

Approval of September 7, 2022, Meeting Minutes

The Minutes of the September 7, 2022, regular meeting were provided in the board packet. Director Steve Burgess made a motion to accept the Minutes as presented. Director Troy Schultz seconded this motion, which passed unanimously.

Financial Report of November 2, 2022

The Financial Report dated November 2, 2022, was distributed at the meeting. Executive Director Candace Payne and Senior & Transit Services Director Sean Vanous reviewed the fund balances. It was noted the balance in the EDA CARES fund would be fully expended by November 30th. Local Marketing Match contributions were billed and received. Enterprise Zone funds will be expended by the end of December and a new contract is expected for 2023. The Title III funds exceed our typical uses for the programs due to the pandemic. Director Dave Hornung made a motion to accept the financial report for filing. Director Troy Schultz made a second of the motion. Motion carried.

Approval of Bills & Payroll

Payroll and bills for October 31, 2022, were reviewed with the attendees. The October payroll of \$41,744.65 with bonus payments of \$12,457.53. Credit card payments of \$4,013.43 included ServSafe class, car repairs, staff training, equipment, raw food and meeting expenses. Expenses paid for October 31st totaled \$85,804.48 included tax payments, typical vendor payments, employee reimbursements, monthly utilities and SB 290 project reimbursements. Director Dave Hornung made a motion to ratify the payment of payroll and bills as presented. Director Troy Schultz seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

COG Staffing Update

Senior & Transit Services (STS) Director Sean Vanous stated the assistant director position remains vacant after interviewing applicants. Current employees expressed interest in doing more tasks, so duties were reassigned and the position remains unfilled. Driver positions remain open for Burlington, Simla/Matheson, and Cheyenne Wells. Executive Director Candace Payne reported the Special Projects Assistant position will be advertised in the local papers to be filled by the beginning of the year.

Senate Bill 290

Senior and Transit Services Director Sean Vanous reported an application for the second round of funding was submitted for the Town of Kit Carson to renovate their senior center facility. The scope of work included replacing kitchen equipment and improved functionality. Once the project is complete, meals could be prepared and served on site and eliminate the need to

transport food from Cheyenne Wells. The project received approval in the amount of \$31,057.09. Two SB290 projects are progressing which means Burlington and Stratton should be wrapped up before year end. Flagler has not yet started due to the major improvements of their location. Cheyenne Wells is still working on their facility.

ECCOG Board Nominations

Feedback from each board member in attendance was solicited by Executive Director Candace Payne on their commitment to serve another term. All attendees confirmed their service and those absent will be asked this coming week. Prairie Development Corporation may reappoint Marc Dettenrieder to the At Large position which Chairman Chris Richardson supported on behalf of Elbert County. If all directors continue, there is no need for nominations and town clerks will be notified.

NEW BUSINESS:

Enterprise Zone

Executive Director Candace Payne reported three contribution projects have applications for approval consideration. All three projects are expiring December 31, 2022 and must submit a new application to continue receiving financial support. Elbert County Historical Society submitted a budget of \$15,000 of which \$5,000 could earn tax credits. The City of Burlington's Old Town Museum Complex submitted their application with a budget of \$50,000 of which \$30,000 could earn tax credits. The City of Burlington's Economic Development Organization applied with their budget of \$3 million of which \$250,000 could be tax credits. They have a parks and recreation project which may use the tax credit option well. All three projects have had support in the past. Director Dave Hornung made a motion to approve all three projects as East Central Enterprise Zone contribution projects for 2023 through 2027. Director Troy Schultz seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director Candace Payne reported the World's Wonder View Tower of Genoa (a contribution project) requested a letter of support from ECCOG for a grant application they were submitting. The Board approved such a letter and it was submitted.

2023 ECCOG Budget

Executive Director Candace Payne directed attention to the packet emailed October 27th to the board. The Budget includes the assumption that ECCOG pays 100% of the least expensive employee only health insurance premium of \$738 per month. Currently, only five full-time employees access this benefit by choice due to age or other coverage. STS Director Sean Vanous explained line-item increases were made for Town of Limon's Outback Express and Eastern Colorado Home Care services as the contracts were modified to cover most incurred costs. Limon also expanded public transit services, so more funds were needed to cover those services.

Discussion was held on FAMLI coverage as it impacts the Budget. Director Steve Burgess made a motion that ECCOG opt out of FAMLI coverage. Director Ben Ferree seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The Budget does not include the provision of FAMLI coverage.

After a review of the income and expenses including payroll, travel and services costs, Director Dave Hornung made a motion to adopt the 2023 Budget as presented. Director Ben Ferree seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

EDA CARES Act

Executive Director Candace Payne explained the final work conducted by Deb Brown and Becky McCray from SaveYourTown which will be a wrap up Q&A call on November 17th. The October 11th & 12th Becky McCray presented in Limon and Burlington, respectively, to small groups. Director Valerie Rhoades said she attended the Burlington session and felt the presentation did not meet her expectations. Others who attended Limon's session appreciated the more direct, intimate conversation with encouragement and ideas to implement plans. This funding is wrapping up in November 2022 and the funds will be fully expended by year end.

Other

Elbert County 2022 Supercall Bus Order – STS Director Sean Vanous shared a floorplan change for the bus order was needed as the new body style is 4 inches narrower. The wheelchair positions must be modified as well, which could eliminate a seat to accommodate two wheelchairs. Price agreements are pending which will impact Elbert County, City of Burlington, and Kit Carson County orders in process.

Community Development Block Grant - Executive Director Candace Payne reported the state Financial Review Committee was meeting November 7th. This meeting date change caused all CDBG applicants to submit a letter to the FRC for new CDBG contracts in lieu of an application in late November. Our letter for a new contract was submitted for loan funds covering all four

counties as usual. The committee is expected to approve the application and a new contract may take a bit as procurement staff is way behind.

Regional Grants Navigator – Executive Director Candace Payne explained the contract for the regional grants navigator funding from the state has not been received. Discussion was held on the required scope of work as a grant researcher and why it is not a grant writer. A grant writer position would be difficult as someone needs to choose which community would use the grant writer and when, while the grant researcher pairs up funds with community projects. COGs were notified that Requests for Proposals or job postings could be made as long as expenses incurred prior to contract execution were not paid by the contract later on. The RFP will be posted on the website, in the local papers and online with Economic Development Council of Colorado and anywhere else that is affordable and reasonable. The position may not start until the contract is executed which is planned for December 2022. Director Ben Ferree had a request that this position be dedicated to the scope of work which should be based on the RFP.

Tourism Program Update - Executive Director Candace Payne asked for the board to complete the tourism surveys using the QR codes handed out at the meeting. One survey seeks input from stakeholders and how they feel tourism should be developed or changed in the future with its impacts on their operations. The other survey is a residents' survey asking for input on how they see tourism effects the area and how well tourism is being handled. Director Valerie Rhoades encouraged the board to participate using their smart phones with the printed QR codes offered at the meeting.

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

Dec 7, 2022 – Mail ballot

Jan 4, 2023 – Teleconference

Feb 1, 2023 - Mail ballot

Mar 1, 2023 – In-person in Limon?

Adjournment

Chairman Chris Richardson ended the discussion and adjourned at 9:00PM.

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