

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 OCTOBER 4, 2023

Call to Order

Chairman Chris Richardson called the October 4, 2023, meeting of the ECCOG Board of Directors to order at 7:01 PM held as a Zoom call.

Pledge of Allegiance

The attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance led by Chairman Chris Richardson using a flag image on screen.

Roll Call and Introductions

Directors in attendance included: Steve Burgess, Marc Dettenrieder, Ryan Fulmer, Dave Hornung, Derek Isom, Sherry Jones, Valerie Rhoades, Chris Richardson and Ron Smith. ECCOG Executive Director Candace Payne and Senior & Transit Services Director Sean Vanous were present. Directors Rhonda Brown, Ben Ferree, Troy Schultz, and Megan Vasquez were unable to attend.

Approval of September 6, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes

The Minutes of the September 6, 2023, regular meeting were provided in the board packet. Director Steve Burgess made a motion to accept the Minutes as presented. Director Sherry Jones seconded this motion, which passed unanimously.

Financial Report of October 4, 2023

The Financial Report dated October 4, 2023, was emailed to the board prior to the meeting. Executive Director Candace Payne and Senior & Transit Services Director Sean Vanous reviewed the fund balances with the directors noting the funds available as paid through August. Director Dave Hornung made a motion to approve the financial report for filing as presented. Director Ryan Fulmer seconded the motion, which passed.

Approval of Bills & Payroll

Payroll and bills for September 30, 2023, were reviewed with the attendees. The September payroll of \$46,060.46 was reviewed. Credit card payments of \$3,727.61 included web hosting, subscription renewal, purchase of checks, meal site equipment, and medical kit supplies. September 2023 payments totaled \$72,344.02 including taxes, vendors, staff reimbursements, monthly utilities, provider costs, and SB 290 project reimbursements. Director Dave Hornung made a motion to ratify the payment of payroll and bills as presented. Director Ryan Fulmer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

ECCOG Staffing

Executive Director Candace Payne shared the Special Projects Assistant position which was being advertised again. One newspaper forgot to run the ad so that has been rectified this week.

Senior and Transit Services Director Sean Vanous updated the board on two recent resignation letters. First, Lisa Hester of Karval has resigned for personal reasons (10/02/2023). Second, Barb Higgason wishes to resign in December of 2023. Barb's last day will be December 13, 2023. Ads will run for the Karval/Hugo driver in the coming weeks. Ads will run as well for the Burlington driver to allow for some cross training with Barb and to provide back-up support during the longer trips into Denver with Barb. Ads regarding the Cheyenne Wells Coordinator and the separate Food Transporter/Outback Driver will be run the Kiowa County Independent Newspaper.

SB290 Update

Senior and Transit Services Director Sean Vanous stated two projects are still underway. There has been no further progress on contractor bids for the Kit Carson project. The Flagler project is moving along smoothly as an electrician has been on site this

past week along with the plumber. The exterior is wrapped in weather-proof sheeting. Once doors and windows are installed, the exterior can be finalized with stucco and some brick work.

Executive Director Candace Payne requested feedback on newspaper articles to show the communities one of the aspects in which ECCOG is involved. This request was to help promote ECCOG's involvement in the communities and shed some light on how the projects were funded. The board approved articles detailing the various projects in local communities with recognition to the legislators who supported SB290.

Audit

Executive Director Candace Payne updated the Directors that the audits have been filed with the Single Audit office and the state. The Adjusting Journal Entries were made and all audit tasks are wrapped up now.

CDOT

Following the CDOT evaluation, ECCOG was tasked with making some updates to the Outback Express Policy and Procedure manual, the website, and the Title VI manual as well. Suggestions from CDOT and other agencies involved will be implemented into the policies and later submitted to CDOT in response to the evaluation by October 17th's deadline.

CDOT staff contacted ECCOG staff in September regarding the two vans for Kit Carson County's vehicle replacements. CDOT offered to deliver the vans without contracts in place however, that meant ECCOG had to cover the costs of the vehicles until the contracts were executed. Executive Director Candace Payne and Senior & Transit Services Director Sean Vanous reviewed the current vehicle status and decided to hold off on accepting delivery until contracts were in place. The right to request early delivery of the new vehicles should a problem arise with the existing fleet vehicles was reserved with CDOT. For now, ECCOG did get a bus repaired to allow it to continue to be used until the contract could be finalized at CDOT. After discussion, the Board agreed with the decision.

NEW BUSINESS:

COG Board of Directors

Executive Director Candace Payne expounded on the nomination process which is needed due to our municipal vacancy in Kit Carson County. Polling the attendees, there seems to be only this one nomination needed. The process will start in late October asking each town for a nomination and then a local ballot will be provided to the towns. The county commissioners will then bless the nomination for the Kit Carson County municipality who will begin service in March 2024. The absent directors will be polled also for their continued service.

Enterprise Zone Contribution Project

The new contribution project application was not received by this meeting date. The application for Lincoln Community Hospital will be presented for approval at the next meeting explained Executive Director Candace Payne. Annual reports for each projects are due by middle of October.

ECCOG Benefits (Vote)

Executive Director Candace Payne reported the new employee health insurance premium is increasing for 2024 by \$95.00 per employee. The premium increased to \$833 from \$738. We have four employees on insurance at this time and could add another soon. Director Dave Hornung made a motion to cover the employee health insurance increase for the lowest premium amount of \$833. Director Steve Burgess seconded this motion. Motion passed unanimously.

SUA Desk Evaluation

Notice was provided to ECCOG staff that the State Unit on Aging desk evaluation was moved from January 2024 to November 2023. Senior and Transit Services Director Sean Vanous explained the list of information will cover September 2023. The review is scheduled for two days via Zoom on November 13 & 14. This review will keep ECCOG compliant with the State Unit on Aging and with the Older American's Act.

Recompete EDA Application –

Executive Director Candace Payne reported a letter of support was provided for the EDA grant. A regional application will be submitted on Oct 5th to help address workforce training needs for much of the south and eastern plains of Colorado. No match is required which allowed many partners to apply together. Twenty-two counties collaborated on the application for up to \$20,000,000 for development of training programs for skills like commercial drivers, upskilling and reskilling, and wrap-around services. At least one job will be created in our region to handle the program if funded for three years. The contract position will be for a program manager to cover Lincoln, Kit Carson, Cheyenne and Logan Counties. Elbert County is not eligible, but

services may impact them. Chairman Chris Richardson verified that a majority vote ruled in favor of the letter and no one objected. Executive Director Candace Payne confirmed that was the case.

Regional Grants Navigator

Year Two funding for the Regional Grants Navigator position was approved by the state. Executive Director Candace Payne asked if ECCOG wanted to accept the funding to continue this program service. A meeting with Stacy Salling was planned for earlier today but Stacy had a conflict so the meeting with Executive Director Candace Payne and Stacy Salling was moved to October 5. Based on Stacy's interest, a decision to request the year two funds will be made then. As part of the funds from year one remain available until Feb 2024, offering online grant writing classes through the Grantsmanship Center has been offered to each town and county that will be paid from the state funds. So far, five communities have expressed interest. Stacy Salling will take a course as will Candace Payne and potentially Sean Vanous. Building capacity is the intent with this offer.

Other

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

Nov 1 – Stratton's Claremont Inn – budget plus EDA staff, Trent Thompson will attend

Dec 6 – Mail ballot

Jan 3, 2024 – Zoom call

Adjournment

Chairman Chris Richardson adjourned the meeting at 7:45PM as no further discussion was brought before the board.

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