

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 1, 2023

Call to Order

Chairman Chris Richardson called the November 1, 2023, meeting of the ECCOG Board of Directors to order at 7:01 PM held at the Claremont Inn, 800 Claremont Dr., Stratton, CO.

Pledge of Allegiance

The attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance led by Chairman Chris Richardson.

Roll Call and Introductions

Directors in attendance included: Rhonda Brown, Steve Burgess, Marc Dettenrieder, Ben Ferree, Ryan Fulmer, Dave Hornung, Sherry Jones, Valerie Rhoades, Chris Richardson, and Ron Smith. ECCOG Executive Director Candace Payne and Senior & Transit Services Director Sean Vanous were present. Directors, Derek Isom, Troy Schultz, and Megan Vasquez were unable to attend. Directors Rhonda Brown and Sherry Jones brought guests for dinner. EDA Denver office staff, Trent Thompson also was an invited guest.

Approval of October 4, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes

The Minutes of the October 4, 2023, regular meeting were provided in the board packet. Director Valerie Rhoades made a motion to approve the Minutes as presented. Director Marc Dettenrieder seconded this motion, which passed unanimously.

Financial Report of November 1, 2023

The Financial Report dated November 1, 2023, was shared with attendees at 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 September. Director Dave Hornung made a motion to approve the financial report for filing as presented. Director Steve Burgess seconded the motion, which passed.

Approval of Bills & Payroll

Payroll and bills for October 31, 2023, were reviewed. The October payroll of \$45,448.51 was reviewed. Credit card payments of \$2,241.98 included grant writing class fees, web hosting, equipment for fiscal officer, and conference registration. October 2023 payments totaled \$153,370.60 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 Steve Burgess seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

ECCOG Staffing

Executive Director Candace Payne shared the Special Projects Assistant position remains open. Ads may start in December after she returns from conferences and training.

Senior and Transit Services Director Sean Vanous reported positions are available for Cheyenne Wells coordinator, food transporter and transit driver. In Lincoln County, positions open include Karval and Hugo transit drivers. For Kit Carson County, a transit driver is needed for Burlington.

SB290 Update

Senior and Transit Services Director Sean Vanous shared an update on the Flagler and Kit Carson projects. Flagler's exterior now has bricks once the windows and doors were installed. The interior will progress now as the work moves indoors and is less impacted by weather. The Kit Carson center is stagnant as contractor bids are needed but the project stalled further when

the volunteer was asked to handle another project in the community with a year end deadline. Monitoring the project remains high on the list for 2024.

Board Member Update

Executive Director Candace Payne stated the only position open for the ECCOG Board to date is the municipal representative for Kit Carson County. Director Troy Schultz will leave the board and nominations are due in November. All other positions will remain filled at this time. The new director will start in March 2024.

NEW BUSINESS:

AAA Home Health Services

A new contract was executed to offer home health services in the region. Senior and Transit Director Sean Vanous reported he has a contract with Touching Hearts at Home which covers Cheyenne and Lincoln counties pretty well. Elbert and Kit Carson Counties are a work in progress. Finding staff is a challenge for Touching Hearts also but referrals for staff have been made to Touching Hearts' owner.

COG Budget

The 2024 Budget spreadsheets were emailed on October 31st to the directors. Executive Director Candace Payne reviewed the budget page by page. It was noted the headings are incorrect, which will be corrected on the final copy and fixed for the next year's template. Director Dave Hornung made a motion to adopt the 2024 Budget as presented. Director Rhonda Brown seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Enterprise Zone Contribution Project

The new contribution project application was not received by this meeting. Annual reports for each project were received on time. The City of Burlington Economic Development project has requested its project end this year as the project has not had good support over the years and feels it's not beneficial in the community.

Regional Grants Navigator

The Year 2 Funding has been offered so ECCOG will request the funding via a letter to the coordinator. The intent is to have continuous funding so there is no interruption in the work or program. In discussion with RGN Stacy Salling, she is willing and interested in continuing this effort for the second year. A new contract will be executed with Salling once the funding is approved and deposited by January 1st. Reports have been timely to the state as required and new goals were created and shared in our request letter.

Other

EDA Representative Trent Thompson was invited to address the group. Mr. Thompson came from Denver to the meeting to share Economic Development Administration is available for a variety of projects and funding opportunities. He offered his contact information via Executive Director Candace Payne or shared it with those requesting it. Colorado is a participant in the Policy Academy, Thompson stated with Candace serving as a Home Team member. EDA funding support includes broadband, workforce development, business incubation, and infrastructure, downtown revitalization with high quality jobs. ECCOG is part of a large application called Re compete which is designed to help address the need for higher paying wages for people age 25-54. Colorado also was awarded its first two University Centers at Colorado State University and Metro State University where collaboration between education and business will be enhanced and lead to greater opportunities for Colorado.

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

Dec 6, 2023 – Mail ballot

Jan 3, 2024 – Zoom call

Feb 7, 2024 – Mail ballot

Mar 6, 2024 – In person TBD

Adjournment

Chairman Chris Richardson adjourned the meeting at 8:09PM as no further discussion was brought before the board.

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