

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 1, 2026

Call to Order

Chairman Dave Hornung called the July 1, 2026, meeting of the ECCOG Board of Directors to order at 7:10PM held at the Hub City Senior Center, 220 E Avenue in Limon, Colorado.

Roll Call and Guest Introductions

Directors in attendance included: Mike Buck, Ben Ferree, Dave Hornung, Terry Jaques, Hal McNerney, and Valerie Rhoades. ECCOG Executive Director Candace Payne attended with Senior & Transit Services Director Sean Vanous. Directors Rhonda Brown, Ryan Fulmer, Megan Gardner, Derek Isom, Sherry Jones, and Ron Smith were unable to attend. A quorum was not reached so an email ballot will be sent on July 2, 2026, to approve agenda items.

Approval of March 4, 2026, Reorganization and Regular Meeting Minutes

The Minutes of the March 4, 2026, reorganization and regular meeting were reviewed and will be sent for email ballot approval as presented.

Financial Report of July 1, 2026

The July 1, 2026, Financial Report, was discussed and questions were answered regarding fund balances and expenses. Due to the lack of a quorum, this report will be added to the email ballot for approval.

Approval of Bills & Payroll

Payroll and bills for June 30, 2026, were provided at the meeting. The June payroll included \$36,555.24. June 2026 checks and payments totaled \$51,040.61 including taxes, vendors, staff reimbursements, monthly utilities, provider costs, and Enterprise Zone contributions. Without a quorum, the ratification of bills and payroll will be added to the email ballot along with the financial report for those not able to attend tonight's meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Accounting Software Conversion

Executive Director Candace Payne reported Fiscal Officer Paulette Thompson is finding the software to be easy to use and generate easy to read reports. Her satisfaction with the software will be reported to CDOT as needed for follow up to the Single Audit in 2024.

COG Staffing

Executive Director Candace Payne reported an office employee will retire at the end of 2026 as a program coordinator under the Area Agency on Aging, which was planned last year. The tasks for this position may be absorbed by other staff with time to perform the duties or a part-time replacement may be hired. Senior & Transit Services Director Sean Vanous shared Elizabeth needs a coordinator, which has been placed on a hiring freeze pending budget funds. The Head Cook in Burlington is leaving in August for knee surgery so ads have been placed to replace her soon.

Renewable Energy Impact Study Committee

Director Terry Jaques and Chairman Dave Hornung reported the study is moving along nicely while taking a break in June and July from regional membership meetings so that the case study work is focused upon. Overall, the Council of Governments participating voice confidence in the consultants and pending results of the study.

CDOT Vehicle Application

Lincoln County's vehicle application has been approved and Lincoln County has committed their matching funds will be available to pay for the vehicle when it arrives.

Economic Development Administration Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

Executive Director Candace Payne reported on survey feedback received to date received from towns, counties, and EDOs. Public meetings will be held in July and the recent senior services survey responses will be incorporated as meals are the most used and requested program we offer for the AAA. The CEDS will be submitted to EDA by September 30th as required.

SUA Desk Evaluation

The State Unit on Aging desk evaluation was performed and one finding was mentioned in the report provided in the board packet. The finding was addressed and subsequent approval from SUA has been received as we will now use their form in the future for nutritional analysis for each menu. There are no outstanding concerns from this desk evaluation.

Regional Housing Needs Assessment

On May 19th in Limon, ECCOG hosted a special housing training day as part of the next steps to the HNA approved in December 2025. Eighteen people from across the region and our neighboring counties attended with great participation from partners like USDA, Colorado Housing & Finance Authority, towns and county representatives. Discussion was held on a regional housing authority but it did not seem that was necessary and would add another layer to several projects and work currently performed by local housing authorities.

NEW BUSINESS:

T3 Congregate and Home Delivered Meal Prices

Senior & Transit Services Director Sean Vanous drew attention to the included price charts generated by the State Unit on Aging effective May 19, 2026. Our meal price for guests is now set at \$21.00 for congregate and home delivered meals for those under age 60. This new price is posted at each meal site and online.

Fraud Monitoring & Prevention Policy and Procedures

Included in the packet was the policy and procedure requiring adoption by the board to meet the National Automated Clearing House Association new rules to be aware of fraud and how to monitor transactions for wire transfer and automatic payments for loans, bills, and other transactions, which may be fraudulent. Monitoring will be performed on ECCOG accounts by the fiscal officer and executive director who have permission for these types of transactions. This item will be added to the email ballot also to adopt the policy. Director Terry Jaques made a motion to adopt the policy. Director Valerie Rhoades seconded the motion.

2027 Budget for Meals and Services

The state and federal budgets for State Fiscal Year 2027 were discussed as a future shortfall is identified since the allocations from the State Unit on Aging have been received. Options for helping to cover the shortfall were: 1) reduce meal and labor costs to simpler meals; 2) consolidate meal services sites and transport participants to the kitchen sites instead of moving the food to improve presentation and food quality; 3) seek financial support from businesses and funders; 4) outsource the meal program; 5) serve only eight days per month from each kitchen; 6) serve only those with the greatest need; and/or 7) implement limited menus on a rotation basis to reduce labor and costs. After discussion of funds and options, the board chose to limit meal days to eight per month knowing meals are not served during county fair week, Thanksgiving and Christmas and New Year's weeks. The absolute last resort would be to only serve those with the greatest social and financial need. Work will continue with the new fiscal allocations with simpler menus.

Other – Enterprise Zone Contribution Projects

Executive Director Candace Payne explained Kit Carson County Health Services District may apply to be a contribution project later this year. Consideration was given to East Central Council of Governments becoming an economic development organization qualified project to build financial support for special projects to help the region. The board thought both would be great projects for the region so permission was given to pursue applications.

The Colorado Tourism Office Marketing Grant is open and ECCOG is qualified to apply for regional tourism projects. The board expressed consent to pursue a regional project also. Matching funds would be sought from the museums and other partners.

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

Aug 5 – Email ballot

Sept 2 – Zoom/email

Oct 7 – In-person/Zoom/email – budget approval?

Adjournment

Chairman Dave Hornung adjourned the meeting at 9:14PM.

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