

# EAST CENTRAL COUNCIL OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

COLORADO'S CENTRAL PLAINS



Box 28 · Stratton, Colorado 80836 · 719-348-5562 · (FAX) 719-348-5887 · [www.eccog.com](http://www.eccog.com)

## EAST CENTRAL COUNCIL OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES MAY 2, 2018

### **Call to Order**

Chairman Nancy Bogenhagen called the May 2, 2018 meeting of the ECCOG Board of Directors to order at 7:03PM held as a teleconference. The Stratton ECCOG office, 128 Colorado Avenue, was open for public audience with Debby Conrads as the host. Board members attending in addition to Chairman Bogenhagen, included: Gary Beedy, Steve Burgess, Linda Corbin, Troy McCue, Hal Mc Nerney, Don Means, Karen Miller, Chris Richardson and Valerie Rhoades. ECCOG staff attendees included: Senior and Transit Services Director Debby Conrads and ECCOG Executive Director/PDC Administrator Candace Payne. Julie Coonts, Dave Hornung, and Trevor Smith were unable to attend.

### **Roll Call and Introduction of Guests**

Board member roll was called by Executive Director Candace Payne. Karen Miller was welcomed as the new Cheyenne County business owner member by our chairman. Lori Hendrick of May Jackson Hendrick was introduced to present the 2017 ECCOG annual audit. Later in the meeting, Karen explained her background and desire to serve on the Board.

### **2017 ECCOG Audit**

Chairman Nancy Bogenhagen called attention to the 2017 audit report and turned the floor over to Lori Hendrick. Mrs. Hendrick proceeded to present the audit to those in attendance. ECCOG was given a clean opinion, meaning there were no issues of concern. (Previously this was called an unqualified opinion.) Mrs. Hendrick reminded us of the single audit threshold requirement which we are not subject to. As part of the audit, Lori chose an invoice and worked backwards through the process to be sure it was accurate, and that documentation followed the process, which produced the desired results of a match of information and documents. The Statement of Position and Statement of Activity were reviewed along with the Management Discussion and Analysis written by staff to explain our current operation and activities. Mrs. Hendrick stated the Colorado State Auditor has written a letter asking for further explanation on the 2016 which may effect the 2017 however, the state office could not be reached prior to this meeting. Lori Hendrick will work to resolve areas of concern with the state and let Candace know the results. Therefore, the board decided to not approve this edition of the audit report pending that outcome. An email will be sent with the final copy of the 2017 audit and an email ballot may be cast to approve the audit report later in May. Chairman Bogenhagen thanked Lori Hendrick for her work and timeliness in performing the annual audit. Lori also thanked the ECCOG board for their support and trust in her services. At this time, Lori Hendrick disconnected from the call at 7:25PM.

### **Approval of March 7, 2018 Meeting Minutes**

Chairman Bogenhagen asked for additions or corrections to the March 7, 2018 meeting Minutes. There being none, Hal Mc Nerney made a motion to approve the Minutes as presented. Linda Corbin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

### **Financial Report – May 2, 2018**

A mail ballot was received accepting the April 5, 2018 Financial Report showing the March end of month checking balance of \$107,471.97. The May 2, 2018 Financial Report was emailed earlier in the day and reviewed showing the April end of month checking balance of \$85,495.78. A brief explanation of the remaining balances of funds as of May 2nd was given by Executive Director Candace Payne. It was noted funds remain in Broadband/Impact for continued work to be discussed later in the meeting.

### **Approval of Bills for April 2018**

A mail ballot was received ratifying the March 31, 2018 bills of \$57,059.68 and debit card transactions of \$18.84 and payroll of \$26,724.55. Executive Director Candace Payne reviewed the April 30th payroll expense of \$27,374.91 along with

\$50,903.53 of expenses and \$214.90 of debit card transactions. In addition to the typical monthly expenses, there were five Enterprise Zone contributions received and paid to the contribution project. Steve Burgess made a motion to ratify the bills and payroll and accept the Financial Report for filing. Troy McCue seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

### **2018 Board Member Selection**

The Cheyenne County private business representative position has been filled by Karen Miller. Karen owns and operates a local restaurant in Cheyenne Wells. Karen joined the call tonight with Linda Corbin. This fills the position vacated by Monica Halde. Welcome, Karen!

### **Broadband Plan**

Executive Director Payne reported the April 10<sup>th</sup> Broadband steering committee meeting was well attended by committee and the state Broadband Deployment Board consisting of Greg Winkler, Tony Neal-Graves and Jordan Beezley. The Deployment Board presented information to the Internet Service Providers represented by Eastern Slope Rural Telephone, Plains Telephone Cooperative, Rebeltec, and a tower company regarding the future funding that will be available to provide last mile infrastructure that was not covered under the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) middle mile funds. The steering committee felt with upcoming funding availability they should continue to meet and provide information where reasonable in the region. Candace will work to replace those members who have changed jobs or retired so the whole region is represented as best it can be. Troy McCue reported Viaero is expanding service in Limon's area.

### **Our Journey and Events Guide**

The 2018 Our Journey brochures and museum ticket are being distributed now to local schools, businesses and the Welcome Center throughout the region. This year 5,000 brochures and 1,000 tickets were ordered which is slightly less than in 2017 as more people continue to use electronic devices for finding their tourism destinations. Candace reported the website is being updated with this same information and Danielle Dascalos works to promote the unique events through her connections. Candace encouraged the group to share special events and activities with her, so they could be featured online and in print media. A report of Danielle's recent promotions which included the Mountain Plover Festival was provided. Troy McCue reported about 45 people attended the weekend event.

The Our Journey museum staff is participating in a social media training session with the Small Business Development Center of Greeley staff on May 21. This training will help each museum promote themselves more effectively on Facebook and Instagram.

Hal McNerney mentioned Nikki Wall conducted an advertising campaign for Old Town on RTD buses on the 16<sup>th</sup> Street Mall in Denver.

### **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)/Blueprint**

On April 10<sup>th</sup> the CEDS/Blueprint committee met and discussed future needs of those communities represented. Executive Director Candace Payne commented that the committee liked the idea of considering a co-working space and a new partnership that focuses on aging population. A co-working space allows multiple small business owners or lone eagles/entrepreneurs to share resources like office space, centralized staff, office equipment, and support from each other while starting or growing a small business. The partnership would address needs or wishes of the aging population and is designed to make this region a place to retire to and offer amenities specific to that age group. These two ideas are part of the Colorado Blueprint Initiatives 2.0 created by Governor Hickenlooper. Candace explained that individual communities could apply for training or assistance under Blueprint Initiatives to take advantage of state and local professionals to advance the efforts in these ideals. From this CEDS meeting, one community was contemplating pursuing the co-working space. As a CEDS group, it was decided to build on the aging partnership much like the healthcare effort that currently exists in the region.

Candace also reported municipalities and counties are still submitting their updated list of projects from the original CEDS. Any town or county who has not submitted yet still has time to do so. The updated full CEDS is not due yet but work has already begun to update our plan.

### **Letter of Support for Morgan Community College**

Between this meeting and the March meeting, we received a request for a letter of support from Morgan Community College who was applying for grant funding for a mobile welding laboratory in Lincoln, Cheyenne and Kit Carson Counties. By email consensus, the Board agreed to write a support letter which has been provided to MCC at Chairman Bogenhagen's direction

and noted here in the Minutes. Valerie Rhoades, MCC Burlington Center Director, reported that grant application was submitted but no news has been shared on its approval at this time. One unresolved concern is the liability insurance coverage.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Transit Bus Replacement**

Senior and Transit Services Director Debby Conrads presented a request to purchase one replacement bus for Dynamic Dimensions body-on-chassis (BOC) buses. Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) has awarded funds in the amount of \$51,310 for the Federal Transit Authority (FTA) Fiscal Year 2018 grant period to purchase this replacement vehicle. The required 20% match is provided by Dynamic Dimensions. Linda Corbin made a motion to accept the grant award to purchase the replacement bus for Dynamic Dimensions. Steve Burgess seconded the motion. A unanimous ballot was cast.

**Other**

Senior and Transit Services Director Debby Conrads also shared a recent Eastern Plains Legislative Task Force meeting was held and Region 6's new director, Jim Collins, has volunteered to host the next Aging Well Conference (formerly known as Speak Out) on September 20 & 21, 2018 in La Junta.

In other news, Debby Conrads reported in the HelpMATE program \$80,811 was awarded and only \$16,080 remains available. Allowed expenses include \$500 for eye glasses, \$2,000 for hearing aids, and mobility devices. Dental services requests from last year were honored, by permission of the State Unit on Aging, when the funds were awarded. Debby explained that is why the expense check is written to Burlington Family Dentistry. Dental requests are allowed when all other state programs have been accessed as we are the funder of last resort.

**Next Meeting Dates/Locations**

Discussion was held on meeting dates and locations to help the board plan their time and participation.

June 6 – Limon Senior Center dinner at 6PM – Meal count is needed by May 25<sup>th</sup> to Candace

July 4 – Mail ballot due to holiday and harvest

Aug 1 – Mail ballot due to county fairs

Sept 5 – Burlington Welcome Center tour- meeting at Old Town TBD

Oct 3 – TA Truck Stop, Limon

Nov 7 – Claremont Inn, Stratton

Dec 5 – Mail ballot due to holidays

NOTE: Special teleconference meetings may also be called at any time by the chairman. All teleconference meetings also have a physical location which is the ECCOG office in Stratton so that interested citizens may attend. Notice is posted online and in the ECCOG office window of the next meeting date and location.

**Adjournment**

Chairman Bogenhagen entertained a motion from Hal McNerney to adjourn the meeting. Troy McCue seconded the motion as no more items were brought forth to discuss. Meeting adjourned at 8:17PM.

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