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Colorado Association of Regional Organizations (CARO)

Regular Meeting

Minutes

December 13, 2013

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Conference Call

Call to Order:

10:30 am call to order.

Introduction of members and guests.

Roll Call and Determination of Quorum.

Quorum achieved.

CARO Members Present:

Rob MacDonald – Region 4

Jo Downey – Region 5

Mike Wisdom – Region 8

Laura Lewis Marchino – Region 9 (EDD)

Miriam Gillow-Wiles – Region 9 (SWCCOG)

Michelle Haynes – Region 10

Scott McInnis – Region 11

Liz Mullen – Region 12

Judy Lohnes – Region 13

Partners/Guests:

Rachel Lunney – NWCCOG

Devi Currin – PPACG (new CARO Coordinator)

Amendments:

None.

Action on Minutes of 9/27/13 Meeting:

M/S/P Liz Mullen, Judy Lohnes to approve the minutes from the 9/27/13 meeting.

Action on Financials:

Rachel reported that as of today (12/13/13), the balance in the CARO account is \$6,374.39. There is \$4,744.53 left to be spent on activities related to the EDA grant scope of work; half of this (\$2,372.26) will be reimbursed by the EDA. It was proposed to utilize some of these funds to purchase a laptop for the new CARO coordinator (approximately \$1,500) and a cell phone (approximately \$500). M/S/P Jo Downey/Mike Wisdom to approve the financial report 1/1/13 – 12/13/13.

Discussion on laptop and cell phone for CARO Coordinator

CARO (through NWCCOG as fiscal agent) will purchase a laptop for Devi. Devi will purchase a cell phone and CARO will reimburse her for this purchase. M/S/P Jo Downey, Liz Mullen to approve the purchase of a laptop and cell phone, using CARO funds, for Devi Currin, the new CARO coordinator.

Meeting Business:

CARO Contractor:

Laura reported that, after a competitive recruitment process, a hiring subcommittee has recommended, and the CARO board has approved, the hiring of Devi Currin as CARO Coordinator. Devi currently work part-time for PPACG in accounting (3 days a week), and will work part-time for CARO. Devi introduced herself and gave an overview of her background. Rachel and Devi met on December 11th to do some training. Items covered included overview of CARO, website management, board meeting coordination, and items identified in the scope of work on the horizon for 2014. Devi will set up a more in-depth training with the CARO website developer. She has also set up a time to meet with Laura to do additional training and orientation.

CARO Fiscal Agent:

Laura recommended that, because the CARO coordinator will be housed at PPACG, it would be logical for PPACG to become the fiscal agent for CARO in 2014. Currently it is NWCCOG. Rob MacDonald, PPACG, stated that his organization is willing to take on fiscal agency of CARO. M/S/P Jo Downey, Mike Wisdom to move fiscal agency of CARO from NWCCOG (Region 12) to PPACG (Region 4) starting January 1, 2014.

Election of Officers:

Nominations were opened for Chair and Vice Chair of CARO for 2014. Nominations for Chair: Mike Wisdom nominated Rob MacDonald, PPACG, for Chair. No other nominations were made. Rob MacDonald was elected Chair for 2014 by acclamation.

Nominations for Vice-Chair: Jo Downey nominated Mike Wisdom, SLVDRG, to be Vice-Chair. No other nominations were made. Nominations were closed. Mike Wisdom was elected Vice-Chair for 2014 by acclamation.

Everyone thanked Laura for her service to CARO and for being Chair of CARO for the last 3 years.

CARO Member Updates

Region 4 – Rob MacDonald

Region 4 is serving as a Connect for Health Colorado assistance site. They are asking for an advance of funds to do local press releases/outreach for folks to meet with Connect for Health navigators. Region 4 is working on getting specialized transportation services for seniors, veterans, those with disabilities; funding has increased for these programs. The region's transportation plan is due in the fall of 2014. The region is looking at impacts of amendment 64. They are considering a 0.7 cent sales tax to raise money for transportation projects around the state. They will be polling to decide if they should go to the ballot in 2014.

Region 5 – Jo Downey

Region 5 is now part of the CDOT funding region out of Denver. This may be a concern for recourse allocation, because of the number of vehicles in Denver vs. Region 5. Region 5 has met with various TPRs in the Front Range, Fort Collins, to talk about mutual concerns. Jo stated that she believes the

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enterprise zone boundaries are going to change. Region 5 is doing fine with respect to funding for their other programs.

Region 8 – Mike Wisdom

Region 8 received \$200,000 from the EDA for disaster relief, tourism redevelopment, due to the recent fires. They are working on a historic trails and recreation master plan with funds from GOCO. Region 8 is working on a re-write of their CEDS, with a goal of making it more animate. They have hired a new loan officer, and are actively trying to get loans out through their business loan fund.

Region 9 (SWCCOG) – Miriam Gillow Wiles

SWCCOG has just finished the 2014 budget. It looks like the TPR will now fall under the SWCCOG. They have a board retreat coming up.

Region 9 (EDD) – Laura Lewis Marchino

Region 9 is working on geothermal initiatives throughout the region; they may get some funding from DOE to facilitate this in the region. The Four Corners Film Office has been a very interesting program. In 2013, there were 39 film projects in Region 9. They are working on measuring the economic impact of the Film Office. Region 9 will be launching its second sector partnership on Agriculture in January 2014. Region 9 has started an accelerator program for entrepreneurs - 15 investors have put in \$5,000 to make a virtual business incubator to help businesses develop plans for building equity in their business. All investors will have equity in these companies through this program. They have just graduated two businesses.

Region 10 – Michelle Haynes

Region 10 is working on obtaining grant funds for a broadband implementation plan. Region 10 launched its health and wellness sector partnership in November. They may launch advanced manufacturing in February. They have put their CEDS on its website. It is the first update since 2000. Region 10's goal is to make the CEDS be a more valuable document; they may hire an economic development coordinator. The region is working on transit improvement in 2014.

Region 11 – Scott McInnis

AGNC is ramping up for the upcoming legislative session. Christmas break for legislators is coming up, and during this time they will invite the Governor and state legislators to come meet with them to discuss issues. The West slope is not seeing the recovery that the East slope is seeing. Coal mines are being threatened in the northwest part of the state, and this presents a threat to the oil and gas industry. AGNC has a great deal of political involvement in these issues, as they will likely impact the region's tax base. AGNC has a conference call every Friday with their government relations team in Denver. Membership in AGNC is growing, and meetings have been very well attended (30-40 people). They always bring in speakers of interest.

Scott recommended that each CARO agenda include a discussion of any statewide issues that CARO may want to take a position on. Scott recommends calling the agenda item "government relations". Miriam suggested one issue coming up in the state legislature is the broadband high cost fund. She will send more information to Rob on this issue.

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Region 12 – Liz Mullen

NWCCOG finalized its Regional Broadband Strategic Plan document yesterday and it will be posted on the website this afternoon. The plan sites 14 recommendations for improving broadband in the region. NWCCOG will receive additional funding from DOLA in 2014 to hire a regional broadband coordinator to help implement the plan. NWCCOG will serve as fiscal host of the NWSBDC in 2014. The Regional Transportation Coordinating Council has selected RouteMatch to provide the software for its one-click one call program. NWCCOG received a grant from Connect for Health Colorado has hired a regional hub coordinator to coordinate efforts of assistance sites for 9 counties (this includes 19 assistance sites). The regional hub coordinator will work to support the assistance sites in training, outreach, marketing, and will serve as liaison with the Connect for Health Colorado state office. NWCCOG has just completed its first year of being an EDA-funded, designated, Economic Development District.

Region 13 – Judy Lohnes

Region 13 is in the middle of its audit. Loan applications are coming in for their business loan fund. The WIC program is struggling with funding, so Region 13 has applied for additional grants to supplement. They currently have 4four homes under construction for the mutual self-help housing program. Chafee County is looking at geothermal projects. Monarch Pass is going to be a location for filming the Fast and Furious movie (Chafee County). Region 13 is working on a Broadband planning project, and will be looking at Region 12's strategic planning document as a guide.

Next Meeting Dates:

Proposed meeting dates for 2014:

- Friday, March 28
- Friday, June 27
- Friday, September 26
- Friday, December 12

Rob will check on possibly hosting the March 28th meeting at PPACG. Judy Lohnes stated that if PPACG could not host, she possibly could. The group recommended checking that March 28th date to make sure it did not conflict with spring break.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.