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## **Colorado Association of Regional Organizations (CARO)**

**Regular Meeting**

**Minutes**

**September 27, 2013**

**10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**Courtyard Marriott Hotel – Glenwood Springs, Colorado**

**Introduction of members and guests.**

**Roll Call and Determination of Quorum.**

Quorum achieved.

10:20 am call to order.

**CARO Members Present:**

Rob MacDonald – Region 4

Candace Payne (for Jo Downey) – Region 5

Michelle Haynes – Region 10

Scott McInnis – Region 11

Liz Mullen – Region 12

Judy Lohnes (chaired the meeting) – Region 13

**Partners/Guests:**

Brian Shepherd – Colorado Office of Information Technology (OIT)

Megan Chadwick – Colorado Office of Information Technology (OIT)

**Amendments:**

None.

**Action on Minutes of 6/28/13 Meeting**

M/S/P Michelle Haynes, Rob MacDonald, to approve the minutes from the 6/28/13 meeting.

**Action on Financials – Liz Mullen**

Liz reviewed the CARO financials 1/1/13 – present. The financials were approved by consensus.

**Reports:**

EDA Grant Budget & 2014 Dues– Liz Mullen

After much discussion, it was decided to do the following:

1 – Hire a part-time CARO Coordinator. This will be a part-time, contractor position with no benefits. It will be for approximately 10 hours per week. This contracted position would work out of his/her home office. CARO will advertise this position among CARO members as well as the general public, as there may be part-time staff of CARO members currently qualified for this position, and interested in applying.

2 – 2014: the idea was proposed to triple 2013 CARO dues to pay for this position. This would result in a total dues amount of \$15,992.10.

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3 – This dues amount would allow to pay up to \$30/hour for a 10 hour per week contracted CARO Coordinator position.

4 – Purchase a laptop computer for the CARO Coordinator with remaining EDA grant funds.

Items 1 –4 mentioned above were NOT voted on during the meeting today. Rachel will prepare an email with these items listed, and send out an email vote to the CARO group.

### **CARO Partner Updates:**

OIT – Brian Shepherd & Megan Chadwick

Brian and Megan led an interactive discussion of broadband efforts going on at the State level, and through regions from across the state.

### **CARO Member Updates**

#### **Region 10 – Michelle Haynes**

Region 10 is in the process of updating their CEDS. They are starting a small business resource center. They are partnering with the SBDC and working with the Connect to DOT program to help local contractors learn how to bid for CDOT programs. Their AAA is looking at budget changes closely, and looking to reduce their meal program by 1/3. They are working with CDOT on a 2040 planning process.

#### **Region 11 – Scott McInnis**

Region 11 is very dependent on the coal generation industry, and thus is currently hurting from new regulations. The region had Barb Kirkmeyer present to the Region 11 board regarding the 51<sup>st</sup> state movement. Their membership continues to grow. They have hired a new office position.

#### **Region 5 – Candace Payne**

Region 5 is dealing with drought issues. They are still operating a drought-impacted business loan program. The region is focusing on healthcare and agriculture for sector partnership work. They are working with the Colorado Main Street Program. Lincoln County will be getting another 200 wind turbines. The lack of licensed daycare is a big issue in the region.

#### **Region 13 – Judy Lohnes**

The region recently worked with the workforce center and SBDC to provide on-line workshops for businesses on topics such as social media, the cloud, digital security. These were held at City Hall, were free and televised. They will be posting on their website. Fremont County is currently the lead county for the 5-county AAA region; Region 13 will no longer serve this role. Their single entry point (SEP) is struggling with their meal sites. They are working on transportation planning for 2040. The region provides clerical support for this effort. Region 13 is in 3 TPRs. The Royal Gorge has been cleaned up from the fires. They are building an office/warehouse building open to local contractors. They did get a lot of rain and some localized flooding. Trying to roll out sector launches, first one will be health and wellness; second one tourism. They are working with the Colorado Rural WF Consortium, and on

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Immigration issues and the Affordable Care Act. They are having difficulty getting out loan funds. They may have to shut down their head start program due to federal budget situation.

### **Region 12 – Liz Mullen**

NWCCOG is now an assistance hub for a 9 county region for the Connect for Health Colorado program, and has hired a hub coordinator. They have an 18-month contract to serve as the hub. They have been rebuilding the Northwest Loan Fund for the last year; Eagle County is scheduled to sign the contract October 1<sup>st</sup>. NLF covers 9 counties. They have established a loan committee, and have gotten \$2 million in loan inquiries. NWCCOG EDD will submit an RFP to be the fiscal host for SBDC for 2014. The Regional Transportation Coordinating Council (RTCC) issued an RFP for call center equipment. The draft regional broadband strategic plan was presented yesterday to the NWCCOG Council and other stakeholders. The final plan will include a top 10 project list with estimated costs associated with each. The region will apply for DOLA funds in 2014 to hire a regional broadband coordinator, and keep the steering committee together. The NWCCOG EDD will be launching a health and wellness sector partnership on Monday, November 4<sup>th</sup>.

### **Region 4 – Rob MacDonald**

PPACG has been awarded a \$500,000 grant to serve as an assistance site for the Colorado Health Benefit Exchange. . This will be tied closely with the AAA. The region is keeping an eye on the state with respect to new AAA rules, audits, etc. hearing that AAA may get absorbed by County departments of health. The military impact planning program has ended after 6 years. This project looked at the impacts of military base growth including the need for additional schools, daycare, healthcare, transportation, etc. This was DOD program, 90% federal funding. Working on 2040 transportation planning. The region is trying to help friends up north in Boulder with the floods. The region is working on the storm water issue – i.e. there is a backlog in funding storm water management. They are looking at whether or not it would make sense to model after transportation authority. Scott McInnis will forward to Rob federal legislation regarding feds paying for storm water runoff. This issue – i.e. flooding/drainage systems that have failed – is front and center because of the floods.

### **Next Meeting Date:**

It was decided to have the next meeting via conference call either December 6<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup>. Rachel will poll the group via email on the date most members are available. This meeting will be for CARO members only (i.e. no state/federal partners).

The meeting adjourned at 1:40 pm.