

Colorado Association of Regional Organizations (CARO)

Regular Meeting Minutes

Friday, March 30, 2012

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Shadow Hills Golf Club – Canon City, Colorado

HOSTED BY REGION 13

Call to Order:

10:00 am call to order. A quorum was achieved.

Attendees:

CARO Members Present:

Larry Worth – Region 1

Rob MacDonald – Region 4

Jo Downey – Region 5

Mike Wisdom – Region 8

Laura Lewis Marchino – Region 9

Liz Mullen – Region 12

Judy Lohnes – Region 13

Partners/Guests:

Lee Merkel – DOLA

Greg Winkler – DOLA

Christy Culp – DOLA

Joe Kost – USDA RD

Kari Linker – OEDIT

Jen Cassell – OEDIT

Trisha Korbas - EDA

Guy Dutra-Silveira – PPACG AAA Director

Jean Hammes – NWCCOG AAA Director

Rachel Lunney - NWCCOG

Amendments:

Laura added the EDA report from Trisha Korbas to the agenda, and removed Clarke Becker's report from the CDLE.

Minutes

M/S/P Mike Wisdom, Jo Downey, to approve the minutes from the 12/2/11 CARO regular meeting.

Reports:

Financial Report – Rachel Lunney

M/S/P Mike Wisdom, Judy Lohnes, to approve the financials from the first quarter of 2012. Rachel reported that all CARO members have paid their dues for 2012.

Old Business:

EDA Application – Laura reported that the EDA planning grant application for CARO planning support has been submitted. She reported that Rachel will continue to serve as coordinator, as NWCCOG will continue to be the fiscal agent. NWCCOG served as lead applicant on the CARO grant application. Laura distributed the EDA grant application and summarized the budget and scope of work. The grant amount requested was \$13,000 from the EDA, with a match from CARO of \$13,000, for a total project budget of \$26,000.

CARO Directory – Laura distributed the draft CARO directory to the group. Laura asked everyone to review it and provide any edits to Rachel. A final document will be emailed to the group so they can print and include in their materials. If anyone needs copies, printed, please let Rachel know.

Proposed move of AAA - Jean Hammes, AAA Director for Region 12 gave an update on the proposed move of AAA administration from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to the Department of Health Care Policy and Finance (HCPF). Guy Dutra-Silveira, AAA Director from PPACG, explained that the C4A leadership has met with the leadership at DHHS and HCPF and these meetings have gone well. Guy explained that C4A has not taken a formal position on this proposed move, but they have officially said that they want to be engaged in this process. A transformational council made up of legislators, executive directors of DHHS and HCPF, representatives from AAA’s statewide, as well as members of the senior community, Colorado Commission on Aging, consumers of aging services, a researcher, etc. is being formed to review the system, perform reviews/audits, and to identify priorities and themes. There were several questions and Guy and Jean will keep the group updated at the next meeting.

Benefits Survey - Liz Mullen explained that NWCCOG conducted a survey of NWCCOG members as well as CARO members on retirement benefits. Specifically, respondents were asked if they participated in Social Security and/or a Social Security replacement program, and how much the organization contributed toward each. The survey was distributed to the group. It was decided that it would be valuable to do a survey of CARO members on health insurance providers, costs, percentage of contribution towards each employee’s premium, number of tiers offered, and whether or not dental insurance is offered. Rachel will conduct this survey for the membership. Laura will send Rachel the NADO benefits survey.

Executive Order 5 – On-line system – DOLA

Tony Hernandez signed up interested directors to receive notice on potential rule changes and provide input. The general consensus among the group was that this system was effective.

Agency Updates

Region 1 – Larry Worth

NECALG recently celebrated its 40th year anniversary. They are working on their CEDS and becoming an EDD.

Region 4 – Rob MacDonald

Rob distributed the PPACG 2011 Annual Report.

Region 5 – Jo Downey

ECCOG is working on educating the community on procedures for precertification on enterprise zones. Their revolving loan program has picked up recently.

Region 8 – Mike Wisdom

Solar Reserve is proposing to put up towers. The Creede Repertory Theater has proved to be a great economic development project. There is a movie being filmed in Creede with Johnny Depp. SLVDRG is working on an update to the CEDS, and aims to make the document more animated and more of a tutorial. They are making budget cuts due to enterprise zone and EIAF funding being cut.

Region 9 – Laura Lewis Marchino

Region 9 is now on Facebook and Twitter. The regional broadband project has been very complicated. Region 9 is working on diversifying the business loan fund, and is looking at trying to provide loans for broadband equipment match for telecom and energy efficiency businesses. They are providing tax accountant training for EZ changes. They are working on a community development plans for each of the governments in the regions. The SWCCOG is transitioning to its own entity. They are grappling with how to treat the two tribes in their region in terms of membership - i.e. should they be auxiliary members? This brought up a discussion on legal structures of COG's. It was decided to have Rachel survey the members to find out the legal structure of each, and to add this to the CARO matrix – i.e. “inventory of legal structures”. Also, Jo Downey stated that she had a memo from the Attorney General with an informal ruling that stated that COG's are considered political subdivision of the state. She will forward to Rachel to get out to the group.

Region 12 – Liz Mullen

NWCCOG will hold an Elected Officials workshop on May 4th in light of the many new faces after the April 3rd elections. NWCCOG's weatherization program recently had to lay off 13 people due to funding changes, however they are still seeing a great deal of demand for this program. The Regional Transportation Coordinating Council (RTCC) is moving forward, and NWCCOG will be hiring a Mobility Manager to develop and run this program. NWCCOG is exploring becoming an Adult Resource Center for Care and Help (ARCH), but this process has gotten a bit more complicated.

Region 13 – Judy Lohnes

UAACOG has applied to become an ARCH. It is getting harder and harder to continue to provide the human services programs such as the meal program and housing programs due to funding cuts. They recently had a Rural Consortium Workforce Board Meeting, and the State of Colorado will get a 20% increase in workforce funding. The region has technical teams in place for all four of their counties to work on broadband.

State Partner Updates

OEDIT – Jen Cassell, Kari Linker

Kari Linker reported that OEDIT recently completed their regional road tours, which is Phase II of the Colorado Blueprint project. OEDIT is trying to understand and assess each region with respect to what work is being done, and what partnerships are already out there, and how OEDIT can add value to them and not duplicate efforts. OEDIT is committed to helping facilitate this process, and to being inclusive – i.e. having the right people at the table to talk about economic development. OEDIT has put together a strong resource package for the regions, and will be reporting back to the Governor on each of the regions and the progress made on each of the key industries. OEDIT seeks to have one representative

from each region to be at the table to represent that region on the Governor's Economic Development Council.

Jen Cassell from OEDIT gave an overview of legislation (consisting of five bills) that is being introduced by OEDIT in support of the Colorado Blueprint. She asked for support from CARO.

M/S/P Mike Wisdom, Jo Downey to support the entire legislative agenda (5 bills) of OEDIT, including the following:

- HB12-1154: The Colorado Regional Partnership Strategy
- SB12-144: The Colorado Key Industry Strategy
- SB12-005: The Colorado Business Retention and Expansion Program
- HB12-1286: Film Production Activities in Colorado
- SB12-xxx: The OEDIT Transparency Bill

Also discussed was SB157 which covers telecommunications. Judy said that 911 providers could be negatively impacted based on the current bill. Region 9 and the SWCCOG has written letters requesting a variety of changes. This bill will be tracked.

Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) – Regional Managers

Lee Merkel – TBD stands for “To Be Determined”, and aims to solve problems on a statewide basis. Local people are being sought to participate. Forty areas have been identified throughout the state. Meetings will be held throughout the 40 areas in April, May, and June and will be facilitated by professional facilitators. Lee also reported that technical assistance grants to COG's from the Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance Fund may be available again in the beginning of 2014. There was a lot of confusion and discussion about the TBD's timing and that many thought it was part of the Blueprint process.

U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) - Trisha Korbas

Trisha reported that the EDA computer system was hit with a major virus over the last few months, and therefore now has new contact information which she handed out. She reported that the CARO planning grant application will be reviewed by the investment review committee next week. She reported on the status of fiscal year funds, and stated that they still have some technical assistance funds, short term planning funds, and a small amount of funding left in public works. Invitation letters have been sent out to all districts for planning partnership funds. She will meet off-line with the organizations who have applied as economic development planning districts.

Trisha reported that several FFO's have recently been published including: (1) disaster FFO – but in Colorado there were no counties eligible. (2) FFO Rural Jobs and Innovation and Accelerator Challenge (EDA and USDA) (3) (on April 26) Advance Manufacturing Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge.

Trisha reported that since the Denver Regional Office will not hold a training this year, the EDA is partnering with NADO to provide their Peer Review meetings to co-inside with the planned Executive Director's Forum in June in Park City, Utah. Laura will send out the final dates and information as it becomes available.

U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development (USDA) – Joe Kost

Joe gave a summary of the funding programs available through USDA as well as the investment USDA has made in the state over the last year.

Policy Academy Grant from EDA to OEDIT - the Policy Academy is offered through the National Governor's Association (NGA), and has provided training to OEDIT on regional work, key industries, etc. The NGA has supplied a facilitator for the key industry session. EDA is providing funding for this initiative.

New Business:

Legislative Outreach update – Laura will keep forwarding EDA / NADO legislative updates. She asked the group if CARO should become an associate member of NADO. The cost is \$500. It was decided to revisit associate membership in NADO, should CARO be awarded the EDA planning grant.

Data Resource Sharing Discussion – This issue was brought up by June Walters from NWCCOG. There are several data sources available, both free and for-fee that our organizations use. The question was whether we could possibly share a license as CARO or share our experiences with the various software that we use. It was decided to have Rachel survey the membership regarding what data sources each uses.

Next Meeting:

NWCCOG (Region 12) will host the next CARO meeting. The next CARO meeting will be held in Breckenridge on Tuesday, June 19th (prior to the start of the CML meeting which will also be held in Breckenridge).

Adjourn:

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.