

Colorado Association of Regional Organizations (CARO)

Regular Meeting

Minutes

June 19, 2012

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Beaver Run Resort, Breckenridge, Colorado

HOSTED BY REGION 12

Introduction of members and guests.

Roll Call and Determination of Quorum.

Quorum achieved.

10:00 am call to order.

Introductions:

Attendees:

Jennifer	Schaufele	DRCOG	Region 3	jschaufele@drcog.org
Jo	Downey	ECCOG	Region 5	jdowney@prairiedevelopment.com
Michael	Wisdom	SLVDRG	Region 8	wisdom@slvdr.org
Laura	Lewis Marchino	Region 9 EDD	Region 9	laura@scan.org
Paul	Gray	Region 10	Region 10	paul@region10.net
Liz	Mullen	NWCCOG	Region 12	lmullen@nwccog.org
Rachel	Lunney	NWCCOG	Region 12	rachel@nwccog.org
June	Walters	NWCCOG	Region 12	june@nwccog.org
Judy	Lohnes	UAACOG	Region 13	jlohnes@uaacog.com
Priscilla	Fraser	SCCOG	Region 14	pfraser@sccog.net
Karla	Tartz	OEDIT	State of Colorado	karla.tartz@state.co.us
Kari	Linker	OEDIT	State of Colorado	kari.linker@state.co.us
Jennifer	Cassell	OEDIT	State of Colorado	jennifer.cassell@state.co.us
Tony	Hernandez	DOLA	State of Colorado	tony.hernandez@state.co.us
Greg	Winkler	DOLA	State of Colorado	greg.winkler@state.co.us
Christy	Culp	DOLA	State of Colorado	christy.culp@state.co.us
April	Dahlinger	USDA - RD	U.S. Gov	april.dahlinger@co.usda.gov
Joe	Kost	USDA - RD	U.S. Gov	joe.kost@co.usda.gov

Amendments:

There were no amendments to the agenda.

Action on Minutes from March 30, 2012 CARO Meeting

M/S/P Mike Wisdom, Jo Downey to approve the minutes from the March 30th, 2012 CARO meeting.

Reports:

Financial Report – Rachel Lunney

Rachel reported that, to date for 2012, expenses have been \$1,164.88, which leaves a balance of \$11,885.01 in the CARO account. M/S/P Paul Gray, Priscilla Fraser to approve the CARO financials for January 1 – May 31, 2012.

Old Business:

EDA Application – Laura reported that CARO has been awarded \$13,000 from the EDA (matched by \$13,000 from CARO) for capacity building and planning. Laura stated that this is not an agenda item at today's meeting because we just found out yesterday, but that this will be the main topic of discussion at the next CARO meeting. One of the objectives identified previously by CARO is to join NADO as an association member. This we can move forward with. NWCCOG will serve as the fiscal agent for this grant, and some funds will be used to pay for Rachel's time in the coordination of CARO and administration of the EDA grant.

COG Directory – Rachel has developed a directory of regional organizations throughout the state. This was distributed to the group. Laura encouraged everyone to distribute this to all elected officials in each region. Laura reported that CARO now has a budget so if you want printed copies let Rachel know.

Proposed move of AAA – There were no updates. It was reported that the move of AAA administration to the Department of Health Care Policy and Finance is still happening, and would most likely occur in 2013.

Results from additional survey questions – Rachel has completed a survey of questions proposed at the last CARO meeting and the results are on the back table for those interested.

Data providers – there was a more detailed discussion about where CARO members obtain data for their regions. It was decided that the group would like to explore collaborating on this. Karla Tartz from OEDIT stated that they are working on getting an asset map/site selection tool for the state. OEDIT is down to two vendors and will be making a decision in the next 2 weeks. OEDIT will also hire a data director.

Discussion on data providers: Laura stated that prospecting tools are less valuable in the rural areas; our assets are completely different (i.e. quality of life, quality of space). Paul stated that what would be valuable is an analysis of how we are progressing with target industries. He stated that it would be very useful to have analysis to see how our economic efforts are doing across the state. Laura proposed that perhaps the state could do an inventory of data needs. Mike stated that if we all gather the data we normally gather, and get it to the state, it will be very helpful to the state for their planning. Karla stated that the data manager will reach out to all CARO members in the next 2 weeks or so asking CARO for their data needs, and what data they currently have. Paul stated that what is really needed is for someone to analyze all this data. What can we glean from this data? Find the patterns? Maybe we need an economist?

NADO Executive Director's Forum – June, Paul, and Laura attended. Laura reported that there was a lot of focus on statewide organizations. Laura distributed information from this meeting.

Partner Updates:

DOLA – Tony Hernandez

Tony gave a presentation on the Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance Grant Program. Tony's presentation will be posted on the CARO page of the NWCCOG website.

OEDIT – Karla Tartz

Karla reported on OEDIT's work toward aligning state resources (funding, capital, regulations) to help key industries. Karla opened the discussion on how OEDIT can best partner with CARO. Karla gave an update on the state strategy that focuses on 15 key industries. She reported that there will be an economic development forum at the end of the year.

OEDIT - Kari Linker

Kari reported that OEDIT's goal is to tie in the local, state, and federal efforts and resources. She stated that OEDIT would like to create a snapshot of each of the 15 key industries within each region.

Laura asked for each CARO member to describe how each is using the OEDIT Blueprint.

- Region 5 (Jo Downey) – will be using it during the CEDS update in 3 years.
- Region 13 (Judy Lohnes) – struggle with how to fund this effort – i.e. where can Region 13 staff charge their time for this effort?
- Region 12 (Liz Mullen) – still waiting for our EDD designation, it has been going on for 3 years, so Region 12 does not have funding for this effort either. Will ask the council at retreat in August for some funding to be designated. We have moved forward on the broadband project. We will be convening the players. The bottom-up process was taking place as we were compiling our CEDS, and the blueprint has been incorporated into the Region 12 CEDS.
- Region 9 (Laura Lewis Marchino) – incorporated the blueprint priorities into their CEDS (during update). ID's projects within each community that fit the blue print priorities. They will track these projects for the state.
- Region 14 (Pete Fraser) – one Region 14 county belongs to SCED. Region 14 is involved in the SET program.
- Region 10 (Paul Gray) – they participated in the bottom-up process and put off their CEDS update. The shortcomings with the blueprint are that it was uninformed with data, and therefore some unworkable ideas made it into the blueprint. Region 10 is also involved in the SET process. SET brought data and analysis of data. Now Region 10 is doing a CEDS update. Their goal will be to integrate what was good about the Blueprint and SET and tie it all together in the CEDS update. This will be a true economic development strategy that the region can support. Moving forward Region 10 does not want to go on with three different processes/documents, they want only one.
- Region 8 (Mike Wisdom) –Region 8's goal is to make more animate, living documents. They are having a series of meetings where each county looks at their demographics from SDO and relates back to the Blueprint. They have hired a writer for the CEDS update.

- Region 3 (Jennifer Schaufele) – DRCOG does not do economic development per se; there are a dozen ED groups in the region that do that.

OEDIT – Legislative Update – Jen Cassell

Jen thanked CARO for its support of the OEDIT legislation. She reported that the Blueprint legislation did not pass. OEDIT did, however, get three bills passed: 1) transparency bill that streamlined reporting dates; (2) funding for a strategic fund to be used to attract and retain businesses in Colorado; (3) Enterprise Zone task force development – will have 15 people from across the state to analyze the program; appointees named by July 1.

USDA-RD – April Dahlinger

April reported that the SET application period is now open through August. The Rural Business Opportunity Grant is open; there is not much money and it is highly competitive. USDA can assist regions frame the grant proposal; only the top 2 will be sent for national competition; the deadline is August 6. Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant program – this is zero percent interest, so very cheap money. The Community Facilities Loan Program is available for projects such as hospitals, day care centers, etc. April believes that these funds will increase for next year.

USDA-RD – Joe Kost

Joe will be the contact person on the SET Round II applications. The Rural Communities Assistance Corporation is doing MOUs to package housing applications from beginning to end.

CARO Partner Updates:

Region 3 – Jennifer Schaufele

AAA move update: Jennifer reported that her understanding is that some staff will be moved around at the state level, but AAA funding shouldn't be impacted. She wanted to see a DRCOG AAA representative on this committee, but this did not happen. DRCOG is working on a \$4.5 million sustainable communities grant from HUD, funding to be used to update metro vision plan. They will be doing very aggressive public outreach for this project. FastTracks is more than a billion dollars short, so RTD will submit a plan amendment to remove some corridors from the plan. Redevelopment of Denver Union Station – transportation components are 70% complete. There is a rumor that CDOT will ask voters for an increase to the gas tax in 2013. DRCOG won an award from NARC for a solar mapping project which determines solar rooftop capacity for every building in the region. Denver Data Consortium – working with public and private partners to create data sets and share them.

Region 5 – Jo Downey

Region 5 has extended the EZ marketing grant, and has set aside money to update marketing materials. They are concerned about the November county elections and the potential for many new faces and need for increased education of new board members.

Region 13 - Judy Lohnes

Region 13 has some large grant applications pending including the homeless veterans grant and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid grant. Region 13 must re-compete to continue to offer the Head Start program in 2013, and the region will be hurt if they lose this program. Workforce Investment Act will receive 15% more funding this year. The regional recycling program is going well. There are four technology teams in the region working on broadband. The business loan program is picking up as they are receiving many applications.

Region 12 – Liz Mullen

Current projects for Region 12 include creating an Economic Development District (application is still pending with the EDA Washington Office), broadband (regional meeting to convene stakeholders is set for July 30th) and recapitalizing the business loan fund. The Regional Transportation Coordinating Council has funding for a one call, one click program and hopes to make an offer to a new mobility manager soon to be on board by mid-July. Liz has been working on re-engaging NWCCOG members. NWCCOG will have a board retreat on August 23rd to set some direction for NWCCOG for 2013; economic development and broadband will be a big part of this discussion.

Region 9 – Laura Lewis Marchino

Region 9 is facing some challenges with developing their Council of Governments with respect to funding, staffing, governance, programs (they have been an EDD for several years). Region 9 has been staffing the COG. Ed Morlan has been working hard on the telecom project. Region 9 has established an energy efficiency loan program for businesses that pursue energy efficiency measures (i.e. solar, reducing electric expenses, etc.) They will be doing a major overhaul of their website. They are working with Chaffee County on developing geothermal resources for heating buildings. They will be pursuing a multi-county grant to determine the feasibility of geothermal energy.

Region 14 – Pete Fraser

Region 14 is recruiting a transit director. Seniors Inc. has gone away, which will result in another 100 clients without a provider. A grant for transit enhancements has been received. The region has received a grant to help seniors with energy assistance. There is a lot of interest in broadband in the region. The region wants to keep the SET group going for economic development projects. They are also a bit concerned about the November elections and the need for staring over with new faces on the board.

Region 10 – Paul Gray

Region 10 has been working with DOLA on a tax appeal with their building. They have a new loan fund director and AAA director. The Three Rivers Regional Transportation Council recently received a grant and will finish a transit study this summer. The EZ program is going well.

Region 8 – Michael Wisdom

The SLVDRG and COG continue to grow. SLVDRG is 501c3 and has an MOU to manage the COG. The EZ is the best tool for development and expansion of existing businesses or trying to create one in the Region. The region is using private donations from banks for the administration fee. Silver has been discovered in Creede, and a movie with Jonny Depp and Brad Pitt is currently being filmed.

New Business:

Presentation by Eagle-Net on state connectivity plans – Patrick Swonger, Regional Community Representative, EAGLE-Net Alliance

Patrick Swonger gave a presentation on the Eagle-Net broadband project. Information on the project can be found here: www.co-eaglenet.net.

Adjourn:

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.