

Colorado Association of Regional Organizations (CARO)

Regular Meeting

Minutes

December 13, 2012

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

DRCOG Office, Denver, Colorado

HOSTED BY REGION 3

Introduction of members and guests.

CARO Members Present:

Mike Wisdom (via phone) – Region 8

Laura Lewis Marchino – Region 9

Michelle Haynes – Region 10

Paul Gray – Region 10

Scott McInnis – Region 11

Liz Mullen – Region 12

Beth Lenz (for Judy Lohnes) – Region 13

Priscilla Fraser – Region 14

Partners/Guests:

Rachel Lunney – Region 12

Tony Hernandez – DOLA

Charlie Unseld - DOLA

Kari Linker – OEDIT

Robert Whalen – OEDIT

Reed Rowley – OEDIT

Karla Tartz – OEDIT

Mary Probst – Colorado Workforce Development Council

Jamie Spakow – USDA Rural Development

Roll Call and Determination of Quorum.

Quorum achieved – 7 out of 10 members present.

Amendments:

Representatives from OEDIT are present to give an update.

Action on Minutes of August 17, 2012 Meeting

M/S/P Paul Gray, Liz Mullen to approve the minutes from the 8/17/12 CARO meeting.

Reports:

Financial Report – Rachel Lunney reported that from January 1, 2012 through November 30, 2012, expenses have totaled \$6,911.33. There is a balance of \$8,109.92 in the CARO account. M/S/P Pete Fraser, Paul Gray to approve the financials (1/1/12 – 11/30/12).

EDA Grant – CARO has received a grant from the EDA in the amount of \$13,000, being matched by \$13,000 from CARO, for a total project budget of \$26,000. The grant period is 7/1/12 – 6/30/12. The

first quarterly reimbursement was received in the amount of \$1,971.38. There is a total of \$11,028.62 remaining to be received from the EDA. Expenses incurred include staff time, travel, NADO membership, and meeting expenses. Rachel will submit reimbursement requests to the EDA after each quarter, and then have NWCCOG fiscal office process checks to CARO members to reimburse mileage for the past 2 meetings in 2012 for those members that attended.

2013 Dues

Laura reported that Rachel will send out dues notices in early January 2013 to all CARO members. There will be two new members to CARO: Southwest Colorado Council of Governments (Region 9) and Associated Governments of Northwest Colorado (Region 11). Dues amounts will be the same as they were in 2012: Region 3 (DRCOG) dues is \$2,212.50; Region 4 (PPACG) dues is \$616.50; all other CARO members' dues is \$250.

Retirement of Paul Gray, Region 10 Executive Director

The meeting today is Paul Gray's last meeting, as he is retiring from his position as Executive Director of Region 10. Paul introduced Michelle Haynes, the new Executive Director of Region 10. Michelle was hired as the Area Agency on Aging director six months ago. She will now take on the role of Executive Director. The CARO group thanked Paul for his years of service, and participation in and contribution to CARO.

CARO Member Updates:

Region 12 – Liz Mullen

Liz reported that NWCCOG received a grant from DOLA through the Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance Grant Program for a regional broadband project. NWCCOG will be developing a joint purchasing consortium. NWCCOG received its official designation from the EDA as an Economic Development District at the end of August. NWCCOG has been working with a group of stakeholders from the region on the OEDIT blueprint process, and this group will continue to convene and will serve as the EDD working group to guide NWCCOG through its scope of work for the EDA planning grant.

Region 13 – Beth Lenz (for Judy Lohnes)

Beth reported that UAACOG was awarded a housing rehab contract. They are working on a broadband project. Their self-help housing program is moving into Lake County. They are opening up their Section 8 housing program waiting list. The AAA program is awaiting congress to resolve funding issues that will potentially impact funding for this program. They are waiting to hear on their Head Start Program grant award. The WIC program has a very tight budget, and they may have to reduce program staff hours.

Region 8 – Mike Wisdom

Mike reported that SLVDRG is working on blending their CEDS with the strategic summary work they have been doing with OEDIT. They received a grant from DOLA through the Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance grant program for a brownfields inventory. They are working on a broadband project, and are watching the issues closely as they unfold with EagleNET.

Region 14 – Pete Fraser

Pete reported that SCCOG is working on developing a multi-modal station with Amtrak and an I-25 overpass project. Their home and community based services program faces a real threat in funding due to Medicaid issues/uncertainty with fiscal cliff and sequestration. They too are watching EagleNET and

how the issues it is dealing with will affect their broadband project. The SET program with USDA RD continues. They are interested in learning more about OEDIT's southern border effort.

Region 10 – Paul Gray / Michelle Haynes

Paul reported that Region 10 received a grant from DOLA through the Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance Fund for a mini-grant program for members. They are working with Kelly Manning at OEDIT on establishing a small business support center – satellite office of SBDC – in their enterprise center. They are working on updating their CEDS. They are working on updating the study of the Three Rivers Regional Transit Coordinating Council. Region 10 has successfully received tax-exempt status for their enterprise center. Michelle Haynes introduced herself as the new Executive Director. She will also continue to serve as AAA director.

Region 11 – Scott McInnis

Scott reported that he is serving as part-time interim Executive Director for AGNC. Membership has been declining, but they are working on revitalizing the organization and increasing membership. They are very involved in minerals and resources in their region, and therefore have been involved politically with these issues. They will be relocating their offices from Rifle to the Parachute Town Hall.

Region 9 – Laura Lewis Marchino

SWCCOG - Laura reported that SWCCOG is still working on a \$3 million regional broadband project with funding from a DOLA grant. They too are watching what happens with EagleNET which has been ordered to cease and desist. They have taken on administration of the all-hazards region.

Region 9 EDD – Laura reported that they have 122 active loans and a \$4 million portfolio making their business loan fund the largest in the state. They have finished community action plans are working on a “state of the county” report for each of their member counties, and have developed a publication which integrates these CDAP’s with the Colorado Blueprint. They are working on a statewide geothermal initiative because they have 2 counties in their region with geothermal resources and partnering with another three counties. They have established the Four Corners Film Office, and are working with the State Film Office on developing some opportunities for residual tourism. Laura represented CARO at the recent OEDIT Governor’s Forum.

CARO Partner Updates:

DOLA – Tony Hernandez & Charlie Unsel

Tony gave an update on the first round of EIAF grants. They will have three cycles. They are developing a new website, which will have a new tool for capacity building. He distributed a DOLA service directory. Charlie reported on grant awards for the first round of EIAF grants. The following grants were awarded to COG’s:

- Region 4 – Forecasting project – work with MPO on Census 2010 data
- Region 8 – Brownfields inventory and economic development mini-grants
- Region 9 – Continuing support for regional broadband project
- Region 10 – Mini-grant program
- Region 11 – Mini-grant program
- Region 12 – Regional Broadband Strategic Planning project
- Region 13 – Waste audits
- Region 14 – SET effort – to support CEDS effort

USDA RD –Jamie Spakow

Jamie reported that Jim Isgar is taking a disability retirement due to his illness. USDA RD is working on reorganizing over the next 60 days, and will be realigning staff in program areas to streamline the application process. Area directors have picked up specialty areas; Pattie Snidow will now have statewide responsibility for community and economic development. Due to the federal government operating under a continuing resolution, funding for USDA RD will be a half-year worth. They will experience an 8.4% reduction in CDBG funding if the fiscal cliff/sequestration is realized.

OEDIT – Kari Linker

Kari reported that OEDIT is finishing up with their work on developing strategic summary documents for all 14 regions of Colorado. These summaries will be incorporated into the Colorado Blueprint. It is intended that these summaries will have tangible, actionable items for each region to work on.

Colorado Workforce Development Council (CWDC) – Mary Probst

Mary gave a presentation on Sector Partnerships: The Next Generation which covered workforce. This presentation described the integration of education, workforce development, and economic development. This presentation is posted on the CARO webpage.

OEDIT – Karla Tartz

Karla gave an update on the key industry work OEDIT is undertaking. The state has identified 14 key industries that they are collecting data on, and this data work will be delved into at the upcoming sectors summit at the end of January 2013. Karla stated that OEDIT is seeking champions to lead the work for each of the 14 key industries.

Old Business:

EDA Strategic Plan

Laura led the group through a review of the draft strategic plan framework for a CARO 2013 strategic plan. The draft document was developed using the scope of work outlined in the EDA grant. This grant is funding this project. The group made several edits to the draft document. Laura posed the idea to the group that perhaps a DOLA staff member could facilitate the group through a strategic planning session to finalize the document. The idea of having the meeting the DOLA offices in February or March was proposed. The idea of becoming associate members of CML and CCI was discussed; no decisions were made and this will be revisited at the strategic planning session in early 2013. The general consensus was that joining these organizations might not be needed.

Website RFP Selection

Laura reported that an RFP was sent out for a website developer for a stand-alone website. This project is being funded by the EDA planning grant. Four proposals were received, and the top choice of the selection committee is MTECH. M/S/P Paul Gray, Pete Fraser, to enter into a contract with MTECH to develop a CARO website. After discussing several different ideas, the following domain name was chosen for CARO: www.coloradoregions.org. Rachel will begin work with them and follow up at the next meeting.

New Business:

CARO Representative at OEDIT Economic Forum

Laura reported that she was asked by OEDIT to attend the recent Economic Forum in Denver to represent CARO. The group agreed to reimburse her for her travel through the EDA grant.

Officers for 2013 and alternates

New officers for 2013 will be selected at the first meeting of 2013. Anyone interested in being the Chair/Vice Chair should let Rachel know. Laura would be willing to commit to one more year as Chair.

Legislative agenda items from CARO

The sequestration document put together by DRCOG was distributed. Scott McInnis from Region 11 said that if the group was interested, he could have the Region 11 lobbyists come and speak to the group about the services they offer, if CARO is interested in getting into the legislative arena.

“Pits and Peeves” – this document was developed by DORA and addresses regulatory barriers to doing business in Colorado. The idea of CARO developing a list of “pits and peeves” in our organizations was discussed. The DORA “Pits and Peeves” document is posted on the CARO webpage.

Combined Meetings

The idea of combining CARO meetings with other statewide meetings (i.e. BLF meetings, STAC, C4A) was discussed. This will be further discussed at the strategic planning session early in 2013.

Orientation for new directors

Orientation for new COG Executive Directors, professional development opportunities, CARO staff member networking opportunities, and succession planning for CARO will all be discussed at the strategic planning session in early 2013.

Next Meeting:

The next CARO meeting will be in either February or March 2013. Rachel and Laura will look into having the meeting at DOLA. Part of the next meeting will be a strategic planning session.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.