

Colorado Association of Regional Organizations (CARO)

Regular Meeting

Minutes

March 7, 2013

12:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Department of Local Affairs Office

Denver, Colorado

Introduction of members and guests.

CARO Members Present:

Rob MacDonald – Region 4

Mike Wisdom – Region 8

Laura Lewis Marchino – Region 9 (EDD of SW Colorado)

Bryce Capron – Region 9 (SWCCOG)

Scott McInnis – Region 11

Liz Mullen – Region 12

Judy Lohnes – Region 13

Priscilla Fraser – Region 14

Others:

Roni Wisdom – Region 8

Rachel Lunney – Region 12

Roll Call and Determination of Quorum.

Quorum achieved – 8 out of 12 members present.

Amendments:

None.

Action on Minutes of December 13, 2012 Meeting

M/S/P Mike Wisdom/Rob MacDonald to approve the minutes of the 12/13/12 meeting.

It was decided to have speakers at each CARO meeting and list on the upcoming agendas.

EDA Planning Grant

After discussion about the EDA grant, the group decided it was best to ask for a no-cost time extension of either 3 or 6 months. M/S/P – Liz Mullen/Mike Wisdom to request a no-cost time extension from the EDA of either 3 or 6 months, whatever they will allow.

Laura stated that there is funding in the EDA grant budget for training, so she requested that CARO members let Rachel know of any training coming up in the next 3 months that they are interested in.

Rachel reported that there is approximately \$8,700 left on the EDA grant for the remainder of the grant period (currently ends 6/30/13). There is money budgeted for “marketing materials”, and one idea discussed is creating a video of CARO to post on the website. The members liked this idea, and it will be explored. Rob MacDonald reported that PPACG presented their 2012 annual report as a video. They used El Paso County’s videographer (donated).

Officers:

Laura Lewis Marchino from Region 9 will serve as Chair for 2013. Mike Wisdom from Region 8 will serve as Vice-Chair for 2013. Laura stated that 2013 will be her last year as Chair per her board.

Non-voting associate membership: this issue was put on hold.

Alternates: the idea of inviting board chairs to CARO meetings and having alternates was discussed. M/S/P Judy Lohnes/Bryce Capron to amend the bylaws to allow granting power of a proxy to allow alternates to vote in the absence of the CARO board member. A draft change will be brought to the next meeting.

CARO Partner Updates:

Region 8 – Mike Wisdom

Mike reported on activities at the starch plant in the region, OEDIT collaboration, and water issues.

Region 13 – Judy Lohnes

Judy reported on their application for CMS project. They received two years of grant funding for their ARCH. Their region had its OEDIT Road Tour on March 13. Chaffee and Fremont Counties may see prison closings. They will need a workforce development plan to back up their broadband project. OEDIT / Sectors Summit –they had some issues with determining core team and team champion. They are working on a source water protection project. Their business loan fund is doing well, lots of activity.

Region 4 - Rob MacDonald

Rob reported that PPACG is applying to the Colorado Health Exchange (COHBE) to be a regional assistance hub. Rob distributed a memo on this grant opportunity. This is an appropriate role as they already function in this capacity for seniors through their AAA. The region will be working on a project with VA Community Based Services. They are working on a Military Impact Planning Program / Peak Military Care Network – connect service members with services in the community. They received a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant for this. The Transportation Authority funding passed in November, which extends the 1 cent sales tax for transportation projects.

Region 14 – Pete Fraser

Pete reported that Region 12 had its OEDIT Road Tour. They are also working on the SET process and Sectors Summit. Their region has a defunct Economic Development group, and they will be working on an RFP for a regional CEDS. The prison in Las Animas County may be closing.

Region 11 – Scott McInnis

Scott reported that AGNC has a political arm, and they do a great deal of work with public lands. They are very involved in legislative activities, and take active positions on legislation. Their office has moved to Parachute.

Region 12 – Liz Mullen

Liz reported that NWCCOG working on getting the Northwest Loan Fund up and running again, and that Eagle County will serve as lead county to receive CDBG funds to recapitalize the fund. NWCCOG has posted the job opening for Business Loan Officer. The regional broadband project is getting started. This project is being funded by a DOLA EIAF grant, and will include eight counties. A contractor has been hired. AAAA received a grant from the Colorado Health Foundation to develop a business plan for an ARCH. AAAA also hired a Program Specialist who will be managing the network of care (AAAA piggybacked w/ PPACG on the development of the network of care). Region 12 had its OEDIT Road Tour on February 27th. NWCCOG is exploring the creation of a regional purchasing consortium.

Region 9 (SWCCOG) – Bryce Capron (?)

Bryce gave an update on their regional broadband project funded by a DOLA grant for \$4million. They have partnered with EagleNet on this project, and now EagleNET has been ordered to stop work, pending resolution.. SWCCOG also serves as the fiscal agent for the all hazards group.

Region 9 (EDD of SW Colorado) – Laura Lewis Marchino

Laura handed out the Region 9 newsletter. Region 9 is getting several inquiries about businesses wanting to pre-certify enterprise zone tax credits of 2012, which is not allowed. Laura encouraged everyone to take a look at the new OEDIT prospecting/business recruitment system called Colorado InSITE. Laura urged everyone to look at the data layers for their region to make sure all the attractions, etc. are on it. Laura said their region was missing national parks, Fort Lewis College etc.. Region 9 has created performance reports for each county, broken down by municipality. Laura gave an update on the Four Corners Film Office that they are incubating. They are finding that it is tough to fund, so they are looking for qualified grant writers. Mike suggested retired English teachers or librarians. Region 9 is exploring CDBG funding for a feasibility study to develop geothermal energy resources.

Other Business

Next Meeting: The next CARO meeting will be in June or July hosted by Region 9 in Durango.

Website – Rachel walked the group through the website.....and will be making their suggested changes...

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Addendum to the Minutes:

Notes from the Strategic Planning Session held 9 am – 12 pm March 7th:
CARO Strategic Planning Session – 3/7/13
Facilitated by Steve Charbonneau

Time frame focus – next 18 months

Discussion of What is CARO? What does CARO want to be? What are the top priorities for CARO?

1. Improve relationship with each other and state partners
2. Increase relevance and capacity
3. Foster regional collaboration – between elected officials and staff
4. Peer Networking
5. Professional development
6. Outreach: legislative; elected officials; political. DOLA can't be everywhere – would like them to depend on us; Education- maybe an orientation (like DOLA, CML, CCI does)
7. Communication – back to local boards; CCI; CML – opportunities for outreach for CARO

Jo Downey – is there a role for CARO in the Colorado Blueprint and building Sector Partnerships within our regions, and for CARO as whole on a statewide basis?

Role of CARO - Convener, Gatherer, Coordinator, Facilitator

Jo Downey – “Peer Networking” is the most important useful thing for her

Mike Wisdom – get EDA and OEDIT in the same room

Goals:

Explore Long-Term Role of CARO over the long term

Scott McInnis – what infrastructure are we willing to fund? This will dictate what we will be.

Rob MacDonald – CARO needs to be the credible partner that the legislature goes to to ask for our main issues

Use media to get the word out there.

Be the “go to” on regional programs like:

Enterprise Zone

BLF's

TPR

EDDs

AAA's

Another role of CARO: Build the capacity of certain regions that can't do as much as other larger regions with more population

How do we get the regions that are not members? By showing value

Discussion on the need for CARO to have dedicated Staff

Do we need staff? DRCOG may have office space.

Laura's idea – part-time; sharing staff (i.e. get a staff member of a CARO member for .5 time)
Contract staff – maybe someone that has had their hours cut back

Mike/Liz – think CARO should have its own staff, not in a particular region, etc.

Scott – CARO needs a constant person who focuses on this

Goal for the next 18 months:

Explore having a Part-time CARO staff person:

10 hours/week

ACTION ITEM: Need a recommendation – how to pay for it; job description; where does supervision and direction come from (CARO board??) – Laura will do

Maintain website – part of job description of the CARO part-time staff person
All CARO members need to provide content

Is there a willingness to pay?

Jo Downey – would be willing to pay \$1,000 – her board would not have any problem with that, but no more.

Laura – need to have more \$ in the budget

501c3 would provide an opportunity to seek grants, but 501c3 cannot lobby – research on this

Action Item: research the most appropriate structure for CARO – Liz Mullen (2 months)

Do we need an address? Discussion on this. Staff person can work out of his/her home. Could establish a PO Box. Location neutral.

Goal #1: Identify and Prioritize CARO Members' top issues.

Part of job description of CARO administrator: provide CARO directory and a “white paper” to new legislators (state and federal and local) – every election season

- Bring all regional organizations to the CARO table
- Develop **a marketing plan: advertising; list of who we want to target; what do we want to say – who will take the lead on developing a marketing plan for the next 18 months?- Judy and Jo will work on this. Part of marketing plan should be a monthly report to each member’s boards. Submit minutes? Bullet points? Have board chairs attend some meetings again?**
- Increase visibility of CARO – state and federal elected officials; state and federal agencies
- Send out introduction letters – Scott McInnis – bets no one at the capitol knows what CARO is. Region 11 hired a professional writer; perhaps CARO does this as well.
- **Action Item: Reach out to Region 6 – Pete Fraser; Region 7 – Laura/Rachel; Jo – Region 2 (NFRMPO)**
- State and Federal Partners – bring to the table – give them time on our agenda – ask state/federal agencies to come and talk for say 30 minutes on a specific topic. Rob – pick 4 or 5 topic areas, and have each partner come and brief CARO on it. ID mutual areas of interest (e.g. Colorado Health Exchanges – to become a hub – Rob MacDonald Idea).
 - **Areas of Interest: - will make one or more speakers an agenda item on quarterly meetings**
 - BLF – May meeting in Grand Junction
 - Colorado Blueprint
 - EZ
 - EDA Planning Grant
 - Area Agencies on Aging
 - Transportation
 - Housing
 - State Broadband Plan – LTPT’s – Telecommunications- Brian Shepard, OIT wants to come talk to CARO
 - Technical Assistance Program thru colleges
 - Colorado Health Exchange – to be a navigator of all the insurance – Apps due April 8th- Colorado Public Health and Environment
 - Prisons – some being shut down – presentation on this – impact on jobs, economy (2 shut down in Region 13; one ? in Region 5)
 - Water management for state based on water rights – presentation on this
 - Fracking

Get Staff together for networking? Many already do (BLFs, AAAs) – not a priority

Goal #2: Enhancing the Role of COGs and CARO

What needs to be there in 18-month window?

Add “establish relationships with state agencies” to visibility plan.

Be an advocate for consistent boundaries and groupings for new programs, when possible. All COG directors are responsible. Ask to NOT be divided apart (we will partner up though)
Maybe we need to gather all the maps.

Goal #3 - (take out?)

Add "Region 11 lobbyist" to presentation list

Does CARO need to have some mechanism to ID possible legislation? Yes, internally. How will we monitor? This may be part of the job description for PT CARO staff. This may be 5 years out?

Goal #4 - (take out?)

This will evolve. NWCCOG has most of it.

Next Steps: Steve will put together draft plan within the next week. Give 3 to 4 days for feedback; then Steve will send out a final plan.