

Colorado Economic Recovery Accountability Board

**Meeting Summary
February 26, 2009
3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

MEETING DATE

February 26, 2009
Colorado Office of Economic Development & International Trade
1625 Broadway, Ste. 2700
Denver, CO 80202

MEETING PARTICIPANTS

A. Board Members:

Don Elliman (chair), André Pettigrew, Senator Moe Keller, Representative Don Marostica, Ray Baker, State Treasurer Cary Kennedy, Taryn Edwards, Sandy Gutierrez, Tony Hernandez, Secretary of State Bernie Buescher, Reeves Brown (by phone), Admiral Richard Truly (by phone), Scott Wasserman- representing Bob Gibson (by phone)

B. Guests:

Michael Gifford, Kristen Wyatt, Charles Ashby

C. Governor's Office/OEDIT Staff:

Jim Carpenter, Ken Weil, Todd Saliman, Mark Cavanaugh, Evan Dreyer, Kyle Miller, Chris Smith, Matt Cheroutes, Linda Gallegos

MEETING SUMMARY

A. Introduction

Elliman called the meeting to order. Board members introduced themselves.

B. Mission of Board

The purpose of this board is oversight, not management. We are here to ensure that those people making decisions with the stimulus funds, flowing to and through the State are doing so in a manner that is transparent, that ultimately they have accountability for their actions and that the money is going to the best possible effect that it can.

C. Accountable to Whom

The Board is accountable to the Governor of the state of Colorado. He is the one who has to certify proper procedures and funding uses to the President. The Governor is accountable to the citizens of Colorado. The Board is also accountable to the citizens of the State and the Legislature. The Board represents the entirety of the citizens of the State.

The various departments (funding sources) will be asked to lay out what they believe the goals for that funding to be, and they will be accountable for reporting back to the Board on the success or lack of it in relation to those goals. The Board will have a role in reviewing those goals, ensuring that they are well defined and be allowed to make recommendations regarding the funding plans. In regard to Federal money, it was discussed that the Board should take responsibility for any money that flows through the State in regard to transparency and accountability, to include funds distributed directly by State agencies, State institutions and funds passed through the State to local governments and institutions. Funds flowing directly from the Federal Government to private entities in the State (e.g., corporations) and to Federal

institutions in the State, (e.g., labs) will be difficult to track, but some attempt should be made to do so. The Board must communicate to the citizens of Colorado how the money is being spent.

D. Communication Issues

The Governor's office will provide a central communication resource for the citizens of the State so that they can access information about the stimulus funding. This will largely be through a web-based tool.

State Agencies will initially be asked to report where they are in the process, how they see themselves going forward and provide a report which details where the funds will be spent (as per CDOT example). These will then go on the website so that the citizens will have a resource to address their questions.

While agencies that are funding sources are ultimately responsible for providing outreach to communities to let them know how and where to apply for funds, it is the responsibility of the Board to ensure that those agencies are proactive in that effort.

E. Ombudsman Role

Managers of those agencies will be asked to provide a go-to person (Recovery Act Coordinator). The State is also looking at a "point person" who will be listed on the website as a contact for citizens who have questions.

F. Staff Issues

The Board discussed the hiring of staff to potentially include a competitive grant coordinator, a public information officer, an analyst and a compliance office. The Board will be seeking outside legal assistance and may outsource other functions.

G. Information on the Bill as it Impacts Colorado

As per the document *ARRA Colorado Estimates*.

H. Press calls

It was requested that all press calls in regard to the Board be directed to Don Elliman.

I. Next Meeting, Other Business

The next meeting date has not been determined.

Board bylaws will be drafted.

It was discussed that all Board meetings will be open to the public.

It was discussed that an outside analyst could be hired to support an economic model to measure job creation from a statewide perspective.