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Colorado Economic Recovery Accountability Board
Meeting Summary
March 18, 2009
2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

MEETING DATE

March 18, 2009

Colorado Office of Economic Development & International Trade

1625 Broadway, Ste. 820

Denver, CO 80202

MEETING PARTICIPANTS

A. Board Members:

Don Elliman (chair), André Pettigrew, Representative Don Marostica, Ray Baker, State Treasurer Cary Kennedy, Taryn Edwards, Tony Hernandez, Secretary of State Bernie Buescher, Reeves Brown, Admiral Richard Truly, and Bob Gibson

B. Guests:

Michael Gifford, Kristen Wyatt, Wade Kloos, Matthew Tyburski, Terry Romero, George Roberson, Kent Glassman, David Rodriguez, Renny Fagan, Jennifer Mote, Terry Schrader, Tom Stoderburger, Tiphaine Terot, Gil Rudawsky, Kimberly Mentz, Miles Moffett, Tim Davis, Jon Gottsegen, Elise DeGeorge, Mike Musgrave, , Katie Heffner, John Olenberger, Jo-Ann Herrick, Fred Obana, Corky Kyle Vilma Hassera, Mike Cerbo, Jody Berger, Rick Collins, David Rodriguez

C. Governor's Office/OEDIT Staff:

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

MEETING SUMMARY

A. Introduction

Elliman called the meeting to order.

B. Review of the Draft CERAB BYLAWS

The bylaws were accepted with three additional amendments. Those amendments are as follows:

1. After paragraph 2 in the bylaws, the statement "in accordance with the five ARRA principals" will be included, as will the list of five principles.
2. Under paragraph 4, it will be added that Board members will be allowed to attend by phone.
3. Also under paragraph 4, it will be added that Board business can be conducted so long as 50% of the board members are present.

Request by Elliman for a volunteer to be Vice Chair of the Board

C. Review of Competitive and Formula ARRA Bucket Lists

There are two separate lists:

1. Comprehensive list of formulaic- who's responsible, what agencies are appropriate for these funds (pgs 1, 2 and 3 of attached document titled "Priority List")
2. Competitive Grant buckets (page 4 & 5 of "Priority List")

This method will give the Board an internal database which will allow the Board to move forward and to ensure that timelines are being met. It will be a tracking tool.

The prioritization is in terms of opportunity and or concern. Those factors are:

1. Timeline restrictions (how soon funds need to be dispersed)
2. Size of fund by formula or potential
3. Lack of guidelines (federal guidelines)
4. Lack of infrastructure on our part

Edits to this document will include columns that list what the goal of the funding is, how it is measured and if it has been measured, what are those measured results.

D. Discussion on GAO Relationship

The Government Accountability Office has announced that it will audit 16 states. Colorado is one of them. They'll use standard accounting practice, which is a random audit. The State's aim is to spend the money with transparency, accountability and effectiveness to the best of its ability, and grade the highest of any state in the country. GAO's involvement with other states, will potentially offer us best practice models. GAO will meet with every state agency, their executive director and their primary contact. The Board's staff will also be attending those meetings. GAO will also meet with representatives from major and smaller municipalities.

E. Discussion About the Need to Meet with Each Agency and Review Plans and Processes

Elliman and others from the State will meet with state agency directors to review their plans. The attached handout is a draft from the Colorado Dept. of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). This draft addresses, among other things, bucket-by bucket the timeline, how much money is involved, what the intent is, transparency, and federal requirements. Each state agency will be required to submit a plan similar to this. The purpose of this first effort is to identify good systems and systems with concerns. With those systems where we have concerns, we will be looking at a timeline and process that will allow us to get a good system. The Board will have input and opportunity in correcting or suggesting areas where the decision making process (in the plan) is not described as fully or is not as open as the Board would like them to be. These agency plans will be available at the next board meeting for review.

F. Update on Status of Website from Chris Smith

Included a web presentation by Chris Smith.

The website will be a communication tool in 3 different aspects:

1. It will provide information about ARRA funds in Colorado.
2. It will provide a link in communication between several different entities: the Accountability Board, state and local government, the federal government in reporting back to them, and members of the public.
3. It will do this using by providing modern web technology to provide ease of use and open access.

Key points of the website will include an FAQ button, mapping of funds by agency, and an RSS feed that will allow users to access all updates as they occur. They will also allow users to sign up for the following sites: jobs and progress lists, the helping people section, the Accountability Board section, Medicaid information and other lists. There will also be contact information for key people who are involved with stimulus funds from state agencies.

Doug Young from Senator Mark Udall's office commented that every congressional office has a team created to direct people to where they can get answers to questions regarding the stimulus funds. They are additionally directing people to other entities that might allow them to access money that is not stimulus related.

G. Update on Staff Needs and Additions

Within the next two weeks the State will be hiring a public information officer, a grant coordinator and some additional administrative support. Additionally, they may be outsourcing legal and accounting help. They will also be considering hiring staff for minority outreach.

H. Discussion on Possible Legislation and Other Measures to Secure and Distribute Monies

Staff needs to identify places in the state system where procurement and contracting rules will prohibit the State from doing what the Act asks it to do. They will identify those points across the board by bucket. They will then come up with a plan on how to deal with that. They will be working with relevant offices to assist them with this process.

I. Next Steps

Before the next meeting the Board will have state plans for individual agencies. The Board may review some or all of those plans. The Board will have a fleshed out "Priority List". They will have more information on staffing and web development.

J. Other Business

It was suggested that board meetings be more accessible to the public by the following: being held after work hours in a larger meeting space, the Board traveling through the state and meeting with the public and by allowing a broader public access by video conferencing.

It was stated that the Governor's Office of Information Technology will be assisting the Board with tracking the stimulus funds.

It was suggested that the web site be linked to local governments or entities that have received stimulus money and have existing web sites relating to that. Additionally the Board will be looking at tracking those funds as well.

K. Public Input

Rick Collins of CSU requested that hand-outs be made available to the public before each meeting. The response was that in the future, hand-outs would be made available.

Corky Kyle with the Kyle group requested ease of access to information regarding the stimulus and that the public be able to direct their questions regarding the stimulus to a person, not just a web site. The response was that those requesting stimulus funds become informed about their options as to what is available to them. This may not be limited to stimulus funds. Additionally, the web site will have a log system that will track those who have made requests for information. It will enable staff to track whether or not the individual received the information they requested and was directed to the appropriate place.

Rich Onstein with the United Way agency wanted to know how the private sector and non-profit sector could be utilized as a sounding board to the committee, as well as offer an outreach mechanism to communities. The response was that the Board would be open to his suggestions as to how they could work together to relay information and assistance to communities.

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John Olenberger with Colorado Independent Consultants Network asked if the Board would have an internal audit function to increase transparency. The response was that no decision has been made on that, however a decision would be forthcoming.

A representative from Senator Bennet's office asked how often the Board would meet. The response was that the board would meet when necessary. It was presumed that that they would meet every three weeks or, at most, every four weeks.

A representative from Clean Tech Solutions stated that capital investments were on hold while people waited to see if they were eligible for stimulus money. He suggested the Board inform people by letting them know who is eligible for the funds and who is not.

L. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be scheduled the following week.
With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.