



Town of Parachute | City of Rifle | Town of New Castle | City of Glenwood Springs | Town of Carbondale | Town of Silt
Garfield County | Garfield County Public Library District | Roaring Fork Transportation Authority | Colorado Mountain College

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 12, 2014, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Rifle Branch Library, 207 East Ave., Rifle

Board members present

Town of Carbondale: GCE Chair Allyn Harvey

Town of Parachute: Secretary Judith Hayward

Garfield County: Treasurer Tom Jankovsky

Town of Silt: Rick Aluise

City of Rifle: Barb Clifton

Library District: Janine Rose

Town of New Castle: Greg Russi

City of Glenwood Springs: Dave Sturges

Others attending

CLEER: Heather McGregor, Alice Laird, and Karen Wahrmond

GCE Bookkeeper: Janet Obeji by teleconference

Town of Parachute: Town Administrator Stuart McArthur

Members not present

RFTA: Ted Edmonds / Jason White

CMC: Nancy Genova / Peter Waller

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 12, 2014, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m., Garfield County Administration Building, 108 8th St., Glenwood Springs

Board member and public comment

None

Consent Agenda - Approval of Jan. 8, 2014 minutes. *Rick Aluise made a motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Tom Jankovsky. The motion passed unanimously.*

Finance Report

Janet Obeji: Accounts Payable, financial report

Janet Obeji presented the financial reports for January 2014. Tom Jankovsky asked about the CIRSA bill, and Heather explained it was an annual expense for governmental liability insurance.

Tom Jankovsky made a motion to approve the accounts payable, seconded by Judith Hayward. The motion passed unanimously.

2013 Audit Update

Heather McGregor reported that the audit is presently being done by Dan Cudahy with McMahan and Associates. He will present the findings to the board in March or May.

Action Items

Resolution No. 2: Energy savings reinvestment

Heather McGregor presented the revised version of Resolution 2, reflecting the January discussion and Tom Baker's proposed changes.

Tom Jankovsky said that he would have to take the resolution to his board first before voting for it. He said it would be hard to support without knowing specific dollar amounts, and questioned the duration of the reinvestment policy. Greg Russi said savings numbers were deliberately not included. He compared the reinvestment of energy savings to compound interest. Rick Aluisse noted that the resolution "encourages" reinvestment rather than requiring it. He said it's important to get the concept in place, but it would not be binding. Tom repeated his request for a number, even if it were just for this year.

Allyn Harvey said the resolution is part of a continuing theme aimed at sustaining Garfield Clean Energy. Greg Russi asked if there was a deadline to pass Resolution No. 2. Heather responded that there was not.

Greg Russi made a motion to table the Resolution until the May GCE meeting, seconded by Tom Jankovsky. The board's intent was to take the draft resolution back to their governing boards for review and comment. Motion passed unanimously.

CLEER will put together the 2012 and 2013 energy savings numbers for each partners and present that information at the May GCE Board meeting.

Program and policy updates

SEI Solar in the Schools/Solar Rollers

Heather McGregor provided background information about the SEI Solar in the Schools program. GCE paid \$9,000 for this program in 2013. SEI has had organizational changes since then. It spun off the Solar Rollers program to a new nonprofit, Energetics Education, being run by former SEI staffer Noah Davis. SEI is no longer providing its elementary classroom solar education program at present.

Heather asked the GCE board to decide how to allot the \$9,000 budgeted for this area in 2014, recommending a sponsorship of the 4 Solar Roller teams at schools in Garfield County for a lesser amount. Solar Rollers are remote-control cars operated by a solar panel. Greg Russi said energy education and working with children is important. He added that RE-2 and District 16

should be pulled into this curriculum. Heather said Noah Davis intends to expand the program into western Garfield County in the next school year. He is planning a regional competition for May 17 in Glenwood Springs.

Tom Jankvosky recommended that GCE sponsor the four teams at \$250 each, and challenge Noah to add the other three high schools for \$250 sponsorships.

Rick Aluise asked about the remaining money in the budget line. Tom Jankovsky said the CNG program is struggling this year and that he would prefer the unallocated funding go into reserve until it's known whether the FMLD grant is approved for the CNG work. Rick Aluise summarized that \$1,000 would go to Solar Rollers and that \$8,000 would go into reserve until GCE sees the outcome of the FMLD grant. Allyn Harvey said he would rather budget \$250 toward each school, creating an incentive to extend the program downvalley, for a total of \$1,750, and place the remaining dollar amount, \$7,250, in reserve for now.

Tom Jankovsky made a motion to budget \$1,750 for the Solar Roller program and reserve \$7,250, seconded by Judith Hayward. Motion passed unanimously.

Alice Laird: State and local efforts for future funding

Alice Laird presented an update on state and local efforts for future funding. The purpose of identifying funding sources is to make it possible to achieve GCE adopted energy targets. Reaching the adopted energy targets will require a variety of funding mechanisms to encourage and assist homes, businesses and governments make energy improvements, and the ongoing funding that makes it possible for GCE to accelerate progress.

Alice noted that GCE was first funded primarily by federal and state funding sources, which are not available today, along with local matching sources. Alice said 20 other states have clean energy funds, fed by set-asides of severance taxes or public benefits charge on utility bills.

Alice encouraged GCE to think big in order to achieve its goals. She noted that Colorado had a Clean Energy Fund a few years ago but the fund was discontinued by the Legislature.

On a local scale, Carbondale is considering funding a planning effort to engage the public to identify a dedicated funding source for its efficiency programs. Allyn Harvey said several trustees want to move these programs out of the General Funds. They want to find a way that does not over-tax people, but provides ongoing funds to support energy efficiency programs.

On a regional scale, Alice explained the workings of the Renewable Energy Mitigation Program (REMP) which is generated in Pitkin County and Aspen and funds rebates for energy measures from Aspen to Carbondale and Glenwood Springs. Rick Aluise asked what the revenue source is for REMP. Alice said new homes or buildings must meet an energy budget. Otherwise, the owner must install renewable energy onsite or pay into the REMP fund.

Rick asked how REMP funds are available to residents outside of Pitkin County, and Greg Russi asked why REMP doesn't extend to Parachute. Alice said the downvalley funding grew out of a growing sense of regional cooperation and regional interdependence, and asked if there might be

a different model to create a funding source in Garfield County and perhaps there is a way to leverage the REMP funding that currently is accessible to some Garfield communities. She noted that REMP funds won't be available forever, since buildings are becoming more energy efficient.

Allyn Harvey suggested that Pitkin County be educated about GCE; perhaps the two boards could meet together.

On the state level, Alice said state Sen. Gail Schwartz is putting together a "Green Schools Green Communities" bill. Alice said while the bill is presently focused on energy performance contracting for governmental buildings, the legislation is a great opportunity to create a funding source that can help entities such as GCE move forward with broad-reaching energy efficiency programs. The bill must be drafted by Feb. 28.

She suggested having the Long Term Funding Committee draft a letter of support. She also suggested meeting with legislators and requesting a meeting with the governor. Rick Aluisse suggested Alice draft a letter and then e-mail it to the board for comments. Greg Russi noted that bills must stick to the same subject matter. Allyn said a new statewide funding source could allow GCE the flexibility to use funds to benefit private sector energy efficiency. Tom Jankovsky expressed support for including a funding mechanism in the bill.

Greg Russi made a motion to have CLEER draft a letter asking that the legislation include funding sources for energy efficiency for local governments, and authorizing the chair to sign the letter. Rick Aluisse seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Refuel Colorado Fleets and CNG activity

Heather McGregor updated the board on the CNG activity including the CMAQ grant. Colorado Energy Office, CEO, is working with the Colorado Department of Transportation on a \$30 million, four-year grant for CNG stations statewide and vehicles along the Front Range. The grant could offer \$500,000 in incentives for new CNG stations, which generally cost \$1 million. In Garfield County, this might include a Glenwood Springs or Carbondale station.

Final approval for the DOLA rolling stock policy amendment is still pending. Mesa County has already applied for this funding.

Refuel Colorado Fleets is entering its final six months, but it has not obtained vehicle purchase commitments from GCE partner fleets. Refuel is providing free energy coaching for fleets to convert to CNG vehicles. Heather suggested a commitment letter in which fleets could pledge to buy vehicles, conditional on a station opening in their community and winning a DOLA buy-down grant. Allyn Harvey asked Heather to draft a sample resolution for the GCE members to consider. The board will consider the draft resolution at the March meeting.

Heather added that the West Slope CNG Collaborative, a GCE program, will take the lead on this effort to win grants for stations, with a concentrated effort beginning in the spring.

Budget and funding updates

Resolution No. 3: FMLD grant application

Heather McGregor updated the board that GCE does have a green light to submit an application for an FMLD grant. She is writing an application for a mini grant of \$25,000 to support the 2014 work of the West Slope CNG Collaborative within the GCE budget. The application is due Feb 28, and the results will be announced in mid-April. Part of the grant application is a formal resolution by the board of the governmental entity asserting support.

Tom Jankovsky made a motion to approve Resolution No. 3 in support of an application for a grant to the Garfield County Federal Mineral Lease District, seconded by Greg Russi. Motion passed unanimously.

Tom Jankovsky noted that GCE spend \$500 in legal fees for GCE's attorney to present the rationale to the FMLD's attorney explaining why GCE is eligible to apply for these grants.

Grant opportunities: CDPHE

Heather reported that the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment recently informed CLEER about a \$40,000 grant resulting from an air quality violation fine by a gas company operating in Garfield County. CLEER has applied for the grant, and would use \$33,000 to fund rebates in western Garfield County and \$7,000 for marketing, reporting, rebate processing and administration. The associated energy coaching is already funded in the 2014 GCE budget. Other entities may also be competing for the funds. The gas company must choose the preferred by Feb. 21.

Affiliate membership concept

Heather presented a memo on the Affiliate Member concept. GCE could offer non-voting membership to other governmental entities, such as special districts or state or federal government agencies with facilities in Garfield County, and to private sector businesses. This could bring in more organizations to take advantage of services. Her memo proposes two service and fee levels.

Tom Jankovsky said GCE is trying to build revenues and there is interest, so why not move forward? Judith Hayward said the only way to achieve GCE's vision is to add these bigger buildings to the effort. Dave Sturges said the Navigator is an educational tool, and is a good selling point for membership. Greg Russi said non-governmental entities cannot have a vote because GCE is a governmental authority. He does not think this will discourage the private sector. Heather added that the affiliates are welcome to attend meetings and serve on committees.

Allyn Harvey said that the challenge is creating a fee structure that doesn't drain the already strained resources. Heather said the fee structure can be based on numbers of buildings, or a percent of energy costs. Allyn asked why would entities join GCE and rather than contract with CLEER. Heather said the advantage to being an affiliate is public relations and participating in the broader GCE effort. Dave Sturges said that there should be some discount to incentivize affiliate memberships.

Rick Aluise asked if the staff could bring back more language and fee proposal for membership. CLEER will bring back prices for affiliate memberships and explain the value of membership.

Upcoming events

Utility Rebate Workshop & Trade Show: Feb. 13, Glenwood Springs and Feb. 20, Basalt
at Glenwood Springs Community Center.

Set meeting times for Strategic Planning Retreat

Tom Baker has agreed to be facilitator if the retreat can be shifted in time and place. He proposed Thursday, April 9th at the New Castle Library, meeting from 10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., breaking for lunch, and then wrapping up by 2:30. Board members said that time would work.

Tom Jankvosky asked about the Residential Revolving Loan Fund. A report on the fund is included in the monthly Financial report. Tom asked where the interest goes, and what expenses does GCE pay to have the loan program managed. Heather responded that the interest is going back into the loan program. She will research the other question and report back.

Judith Hayward will be gone for the March meeting and will check with Stuart McArthur about the Town of Parachute's alternate.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

GARFIELD CLEAN ENERGY COLLABORATIVE

By: *Allyn Harvey*, Chairperson

ATTEST: *Judith Hayward*, Secretary

These minutes were reviewed and approved by a vote of the Garfield Clean Energy Board of Directors at its meeting held on March 12, 2014.