



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, April 9, 2014, 10:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

New Castle Community Center, 423 W. Main Street, New Castle

Board members present

Town of Carbondale: GCE Chair Allyn Harvey

Town of New Castle: Greg Russi, Tom Baker

City of Rifle: Keith Lambert

Town of Parachute: Judith Hayward

Library District: Jerry Morris

RFTA: Jason White

Others attending

CLEER: Heather McGregor and Shelley Kaup

Garfield County, Environmental Health: Morgan Hill

New Castle: Bob Gordon

Garfield County: Drew Gorgey, County Manager

Town of Silt: Pamela Woods, Town Administrator

Town of Parachute: Stuart McArthur

Members not present

City of Glenwood Springs: GCE Vice Chair Leo McKinney

CMC: Nancy Genova, Pete Waller

Garfield County: Tom Jankovsky

Town of Silt: Rick Aluise

Next meeting: Wednesday, May 14, 2014, Garfield County Administration Building, 108 8th St.,
Glenwood Springs

Board member and public comment

None.

Consent Agenda - Approval of March 12, 2014 minutes: *Greg Russi made a motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Allyn Harvey. The motion passed unanimously.*

Finance Report

Accounts Payable, financial report

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

Action Items

CLEER staff requested the board sign two letters, included in the board packet:

- A letter of endorsement for House Bill 14-1326, Tax Credits for Alternative Fuel Trucks. *Greg Russi made a motion to authorize the chair to sign the letter, seconded by Jason White. The motion passed unanimously*
- A letter of comment to the Colorado Public Utilities Commission objecting to Xcel Energy's proposal to lower its demand-side-management (DSM) goals by 28 percent. *Judith Hayward made a motion to authorize the chair to sign the letter, seconded Keith Lambert. The motion passed unanimously.* Greg Russi asked for information regarding the PUC hearing date and more information on Xcel Energy's proposal.

Annual Strategic Planning Retreat

Board member Tom Baker facilitated the retreat. He opened the retreat with introductions around the room and set the ground rules for the meeting.

Celebrate successes: CLEER staff Erica Sparhawk and Mike Ogburn gave a 25-minute presentation highlighting successes of Garfield Clean Energy programs in 2013 and projects under way in 2014. The presentation touched on commercial and residential energy efficiency, outreach efforts, case studies, the GCE website, transportation programs and energy efficiency services for GCE member governments, including the Energy Navigator and Active Energy Management.

Keith Lambert opened the discussion by asking whether CLEER has analyzed its successes to determine how much progress is being made to achieve GCE's three goals. The board needs to know and understand progress being made to meet the goals. They would like to be able to say "This goal is done," or "Progress is being made." Keith noted that while the board set the vision, mission and goals, it calls on CLEER to set the action steps.

Shelley Kaup said CLEER is using Salesforce to track energy projects, which gives an indication of energy savings. Mike Ogburn said GCE member government buildings have made a lot of progress, but there's a long way to go to achieve the goals in the residential and commercial sectors. Heather McGregor said at last year's planning retreat, the group agreed to conduct a new countywide energy inventory in 2015, based on 2014 energy use, which would be a halfway point to 2020.

Vision: Tom asked the group to review the vision, "To make Garfield County the most energy efficient county in the country." People noted that "most energy efficient" may be difficult to determine, and will change in relation to other counties and over time. Board members agreed the vision is ambitious and worthwhile.

Mission: Tom asked the group to review the mission statement:

The mission of the Garfield Clean Energy Collaborative is to provide energy efficiency solutions, education and alternative and renewable energy opportunities to all individuals and organizations, in order to build a stronger, more resilient economy benefiting citizens of Garfield County.

Board members noted phrases that they particularly like, such as the reference to a stronger economy. Judi Hayward said the mission should be more visible to board members. Tom suggested printing it on the monthly meeting agenda.

Allyn Harvey questioned if the slogan on the GCE logo, “Communities joining for a clean energy economy,” truly captures the mission. He asked for some new slogan options and would like to work with board on revising it.

Goals: Greg Russi again asked how the GCE board can know what kind of progress is being made to meet the goals.

Keith reminded the group that a strategic plan is a vision document and a marketing tool, and said the dollar figures should be removed from the 2015 plan. “The budget component is a separate action. The strategic plan is the ability to dream. The budget puts you on the ground in the here and now.”

Tom asked if GCE should consider adding one or two new goals. In particular, he suggested a new goal related to long-term funding for GCE.

Jason White raised the idea of having GCE member governments lease out vacant land to the Clean Energy Collective, and using the lease revenues to fund GCE.

Drew Gorgey noted that as long as member governments agree to keep working on the GCE mission and goals, they will contribute General Fund dollars to the organization. Unless GCE asks voters to approve a new tax, GCE continues to depend on its member governments for funding. Keith noted that contributions are “subject to politics,” making it hard for GCE to develop its budget.

Allyn noted that GCE was formed to deal with incoming state and federal grant money, with some local contributions. The question is how does GCE transition from grant funding of the past to other revenue sources in the future.

Jason also suggested that GCE members consider reinvesting the dollars they have saved through energy efficiency.

The group took a break for a working lunch. During this time, Drew Gorgey, Jason White and Stuart McArthur departed.

After reconvening, Tom asked the group to develop language for a new fourth goal related to long-term funding. The first version was: “Identify and implement long-term and sustainable funding for Garfield Clean Energy by 2016.”

Ideas raised for funding include:

- Reinvestment of energy savings compared to the 2009 baseline year
- Mineral lease revenues
- Severance tax revenues
- Energy-related utility franchise fees
- Adding a small surcharge to energy bills (would require voter approval)
- Obtaining a portion of Xcel Energy’s DSM program funding
- Revenues from the lease of vacant land for a solar garden

Allyn said at least for the next year or two, funding will still have to come from member government contributions. He said Garfield County voters are unlikely to approve a new tax. Keith said he likes the reinvestment of energy savings idea. Allyn said that’s an idea he could sell to his board in Carbondale, and he thinks it would be convincing in Silt and Parachute too.

Pamela Woods said presentation is important, and the effort will be more successful if more member government trustees and council members are aware of the projects. Bob Gordon said the GCE contributions are a hard sell, but they should be an easy sell because of the energy savings.

Shelley Kaup asked how the proposed new goal speaks to the mission. She said it provides the funding so GCE can accomplish the other three goals.

The revised Goal 4 language is:

“Identify and implement adequate and sustainable funding for Garfield Clean Energy by 2016 to achieve our mission.”

Allyn encouraged the group to “think big” in looking at the new Goal 4, and repeated Jason’s phrase, “creative financial stability.” Morgan Hill said GCE can’t achieve its other goals without meeting Goal 4.

Keith called on the GCE board to work on Goal 4, and not leave it to CLEER to solve. Allyn suggested taking time at every board meeting to discuss the goal and figure it out. He suggested that the financial reports section of the board meeting be simplified to make time for Goal 4 discussions.

The overall discussion yielded the following action steps:

- Develop a draft version of the 2015 Strategic Plan for presentation at the May board meeting.
 - Add the new Goal 4 and develop action steps to make measurable progress on that goal.
 - Include conducting an energy inventory as an action step within Goals 1, 2 and 3.
 - Look at ways to make Goals 1A and 1B more measurable.

- Develop some options for a revised slogan that better reflects the mission.
- Change the monthly board meeting agenda to include discussion of Goal 4 at the beginning of every meeting and spend less time reviewing the financial reports.
- Present an update to the GCE board every month reporting on ideas coming out of the Carbondale Clean Energy 2020 process.
- Provide information on Boulder County's utility bill surcharge.
- Open a conversation with the Clean Energy Collective about installing more solar gardens throughout Garfield County. Determine how much lease revenue a solar garden can produce; learn the status of CEC's ability to build a solar garden in Xcel's Garfield County service areas; identify potential sites for solar arrays.

Tom asked everyone to suggest other ideas for Garfield Clean Energy. These ideas came forward:

- Make sure GCE board members do a good job of reporting back to their member government boards about what GCE is doing.
- Make sure new construction and remodels maximize energy efficiency.
- Educate ordinary people on how to save fuel with driving habits and auto maintenance.
- Reach out to property management firms about energy efficiency upgrades for rental housing; look for models of this that may already exist.
- Get involved with science fairs at schools; challenge students to solve an energy efficiency problem.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 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 May 14, 2014.