



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, August 13, 2014, 1:00 to 3:10 p.m.

Rifle Branch Library, Rifle

Board members present

Town of Carbondale: GCE Chair Allyn Harvey

Town of Parachute: GCE Secretary Stuart McArthur

Garfield County: Treasurer: Tom Jankovsky

CMC: Rachel Pokrandt

City of Rifle: Barb Clifton

City of Glenwood Springs: David Sturges

RFTA: Jason White

Library District: Jerry Morris

Others attending

CLEER: Heather McGregor, Shelley Kaup, Erica Sparhawk

Garfield County staff: Kevin Batchelder, Deputy County Manager

Rifle Cable Channel 10 / RifleNow.org: Jim Bell

Members not present

Town of Silt: Rick Aluise

Town of New Castle: Bob Gordon

Next meeting: Wednesday, Sept. 10, 2014, Garfield County Admin Building, Glenwood Springs

Board member and public comment

None

Consent Agenda

Approval of June 11, 2014 minutes: *Allyn Harvey moved to approve the minutes, Jerry Morris seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.*

Approval of July 9, 2014 minutes: *Barb Clifton moved to approve the minutes, Stuart McArthur seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.*

Finance Report

Accounts Payable, financial report

Jerry Morris moved to approve the accounts payable, Allyn Harvey seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Presentation

Next steps for household and business programs, regional Energy Smart partnership

Erica Sparhawk of CLEER staff made a presentation on GCE residential and commercial programs. She noted that since 2009, GCE has helped 242 homes and 190 businesses make energy upgrades. Their total project investments were \$2.8 million, and their estimated savings are more than \$450,000 per year. CLEER is continuing to look for ways to make the program better, and sees three ways to increase its impact:

- Reduce confusion for customers
- Create reliable rebate parity for western Garfield County
- Join forces and leverage regional programs

She explained that CORE extends its rebates from Pitkin County as far as Glenwood Springs, awarding about \$50,000 a year to eastern Garfield County homes and businesses. Western Garfield County does not have access to the same level of rebates, which can mean a difference of hundreds of dollars on a customer's energy efficiency measure. CLEER received SEP grants this year from the Colorado Dept. of Public Health and Environment to fund rebates in western Garfield County, but this is not a steady funding source. Ideally, GCE would have a source of money for rebates for western Garfield communities to complement the CORE rebates.

CLEER is also in conversation with **Energy Smart Colorado**. It is a partnership of clean energy organizations in Pitkin, Eagle, Gunnison, Summit and Lake counties. They are providing a residential and commercial program under the shared brand of Energy Smart Colorado. CLEER would like Garfield Clean Energy to consider branding its residential and commercial programs as Energy Smart Colorado. Joint branding could reduce customer confusion and leverage marketing dollars.

Common features: Energy coaching, similar rebate structure, loan program, training and support for contractors, use of Salesforce to track customers.

Biggest difference: Required home energy assessments as a first step. The assessments include combustion analysis, and in the five counties, analysts have already found 189 homes where combustion appliances (furnaces, boilers, hot water heaters and kitchen ranges) have been spilling gas or CO₂. The assessment is a \$400 value; the homeowner pays \$100.

Board members raised several questions about the concept that Erica was able to answer.

- Q. How is Energy Smart funded? A. Each local program funds work in its area. In Pitkin and Eagle counties, there is a building permit fee on homes that exceed the county's stated "energy budget." In Summit and Lake, funding is coming from local government general funds. Utilities are also involved in funding home assessments and rebates.

- Q. Does it have staff? A. No. Management of the program rotates among member organizations.
- Q. Is there a pot of state funding that could come to the groups that collaborate? A. Not at this time. At present, the Colorado Energy Office is focusing its EE efforts in the agricultural sector.
- Q. How much money is in the Pitkin-Eagle loan pool? Could GCE's loan pool be merged with theirs? A. Pitkin-Eagle had a total pool of \$900,000. Erica will find out how much remains in the pool, and whether DOE would approve a merger of the pools.

Some questions were raised that will require further study:

- What would be the impacts to the GCE budget? Will it cost money or save money?
- Will there be more meetings to attend?
- How does this affect the brand of Garfield Clean Energy?
- What advantages and disadvantages does this concept present for GCE and Garfield County residents and businesses?
- Is there a political advantage to joining Energy Smart?

Allyn Harvey said the collaboration on residential programs makes sense, but he doesn't want to lose GCE's services to the commercial and government sectors. Erica said CLEER will keep the board informed on the Energy Smart process. There will be more decisions to make in the future.

Strategic Planning

2015 Strategic Plan

Shelley Kaup presented the final draft version of the 2015 Strategic Plan. The last two items to consider are a possible rewrite of Goal No. 2, and the addition of a new action item in the Active Transportation section.

Board members discussed three new versions of Goal No. 2 language. Tom Jankovsky questioned adding the phrase "imported petroleum," noting that the county will become more energy secure not just by reducing imports but also by reducing net consumption. Rachel Pokrandt said the goal should include the word "transportation" so people understand that is the energy use sector this goal is aimed at. Allyn Harvey noted that large machinery also uses gasoline and diesel, and Tom noted that many drill rigs are converting from diesel to natural gas. Rachel asked if the goal should aim more broadly at fossil fuels. Shelley noted that CNG and electricity come from fossil fuels, but GCE supports their use as cleaner fuels.

Allyn said he favors leaving the goal as written, and describing transportation efficiency in the action items. Jerry Morris said the goal should stand alone, and he wanted the goal to connect to GCE's work on CNG. "The goals should drive the action items, not the action items driving the goals," he said. Tom said this goal also addresses alternative transportation such as buses, biking, walking and vehicle efficiency.

Board members agreed to leave Goal No. 2 as it is, and approved the new action item under Active Transportation.

David Sturges moved to approve the 2015 Strategic Plan, Tom Jankovsky seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Long-term funding

Shelley noted that this item will be discussed at length during the September board meeting, with Alice Laird presenting.

Budget Planning

Revised Draft 2015 Budget

Heather McGregor presented the second version of the draft 2015 budget. The two major changes are (1) cuts to many expense line items to deal with the lower expected contribution from the City of Rifle, which is currently expected to drop from \$30,000 to \$3,000, and (2) an addition of \$25,000 in the West Slope CNG line item, based on a hoped-for increase of \$25,000 in Garfield County's contribution.

Board members discussed Rifle's lower contribution. Barb Clifton said the city is facing higher than expected bids for its water treatment plant, and needs to come up with \$5 million to help pay for the first phase of the project. She said the city still definitely wants to be a member of GCE and participate fully. Allyn Harvey said Rifle has been a leader in GCE, particularly by investing in so much solar energy for its buildings. He said the city is saving money, and should have more money in its budget to work with because of that. David Sturges said the partners understand Rifle's problem, but encouraged the city to "stay with something that is effective to continue the program."

Jerry Morris asked if programs will be affected. Heather said she tried to make small cuts in many areas, but that overall program reach will be affected. Jerry said he wants to be sure that energy coaching services do not decline. Allyn Harvey asked if the board should consider defunding one budget area or line item to preserve funding for the others. Tom Jankovsky said he would hate to shift away from energy efficiency, and Stuart McArthur voiced support for the CNG program. Tom said this is a good budget, and he would hate to take out anything.

Jerry asked for the budget to show a new column for each version as the budget process evolves. Shelley Kaup noted that the energy inventory project will be moved to a new program area to separate it from administrative tasks.

Budget request presentations to member boards

Shelley Kaup presented the schedule for requesting 2015 budget contributions to member government boards. She noted that some presentations are being paired up with annual energy presentations, for those partners that did not receive their presentation earlier in the summer. Allyn Harvey volunteered to attend the Parachute and possibly the Library board meetings, and David Sturges volunteered to attend the Silt board meeting.

Action items

Resolution No. 2, Energy Savings Reinvestment Policy

Heather McGregor refreshed the board on the policy, which was requested early in the year by board members. Board meetings in subsequent months have been too full to discuss the resolution. The idea is for each member government to use its energy savings to reinvest in more energy efficiency projects for itself, and to invest in Garfield Clean Energy.

Stuart McArthur said he brought the idea to the Parachute Trustees and they did not favor it. Tom Jankovsky said the proposal is somewhat watered down from its original language. He noted that GCE partners are already doing what the resolution proposes by investing in energy efficiency projects and by supporting GCE financially. Allyn Harvey said the resolution gets people thinking about reinvestment, and said Carbondale is also doing this now. “Our budget is better because of it,” he said.

Jason White noted that RFTA board members have differences of opinion on RFTA’s membership in GCE, but when they see RFTA’s energy savings, the value is undeniable. David Sturges proposed that the board try to pass the resolution. Even if it does not take hold with every member government, it’s a fair question to ask.

David Sturges moved to approve Resolution No. 2, Jason White seconded, and the motion passed in a 7-1 vote, with Stuart McArthur voting no.

2015 Professional Services Providers

Heather McGregor noted that former board member Greg Russi had asked for board review of GCE’s professional services contracts in August so there would be a board statement to continue with the contracts or a decision to seek other bidders. The board has contracts with Karp Neu Hanlon for legal services, with Obeji Accounting for bookkeeping services, and with CLEER for program-related services.

Board members said GCE is getting good service from Karp Neu Hanlon, and the bills are so minimal it’s not worth starting over with a different firm. They said the contract with Obeji Accounting just started a year ago, and it’s too soon to reopen it. Heather noted that both companies provide excellent service. Regarding CLEER, Tom Jankovsky said the other alternative would be to hire an employee. He said in reviewing CLEER’s invoices, he is confident that GCE is getting very good service from CLEER.

Program updates

Electric Vehicle Road Rally

GCE and CLEER will be hosting an Electric Vehicle road rally in late September, with vehicles starting from Parachute, Vail and Aspen and converging in Carbondale for a celebration.

Low-Income Residential Program

Erica will present more information on this program in September, when it will be rolling out.

Rifle Creek Museum lighting upgrade

GCE Energy Coach Matt Shmigelsky is working with Rifle Creek Museum on a lighting upgrade, making use of T8 fixtures salvaged from a Garfield County facility. The work is being paid for by CLEER's SEP grant and by the city of Rifle, with a projected payback of less than two years. Jerry Morris noted that the library district has some spare cases of T8 bulbs that it won't be using, and offered to give them to the museum.

Adjournment

David Sturges moved to adjourn the meeting, Stuart McArthur seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

GARFIELD CLEAN ENERGY COLLABORATIVE

By: *Allyn Harvey*, Chairperson

ATTEST: *Stuart McArthur*, Secretary

These minutes were reviewed and approved by a vote of the Garfield Clean Energy Board of Directors at its meeting held on Sept. 10, 2014.