



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

Board Meeting Minutes: Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2015, 1:05 to 3:00 p.m.
Rifle Branch Library, 207 East Ave., Rifle

Board members present

Town of Parachute: GCE Chair Stuart McArthur
Town of Carbondale: GCE Vice Chair Allyn Harvey
CMC: GCE Secretary Rachel Pokrandt
Garfield County: GCE Treasurer Tom Jankovsky
City of Glenwood Springs: David Sturges
Town of Silt: Rick Aluise
City of Rifle: Barb Clifton
Library District: Jerry Morris

Others attending

CLEER: Alice Laird, Heather McGregor
Rifle Channel 10: Jim Bell, Michael Churchill

Members not present

Town of New Castle: Bob Gordon
RFTA: Jason White

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 11, 2015, Glenwood Springs

Board member and public comment: None

Consent Agenda

Approval of Jan. 14, 2015, minutes: *Tom Jankovsky moved to approve the minutes, and David Sturges seconded. The motion passed unanimously.*

Distribution of board notebooks

Alice Laird handed out ring binders to each board member. The binders contain the 2015 Strategic Plan and Scope of Work, the GCE Collaborative intergovernmental agreement (IGA), the GCE bylaws, the GCE budgets for 2012 through 2015, and the GCE 2011-2013 Progress Report. Stuart McArthur said it would be useful to also have a copy of the CLEER contract in the binder; Heather McGregor stated this will be added at the next meeting.

Financial Report, accounts payable

Tom Jankovsky reported that he had reviewed the financial reports and bills for January 2015. He noted that January spending was in line with the overall 2015 budget.

David Sturges moved to approve the financial report and accounts payable, Tom Jankovsky seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Tom Jankovsky asked to see the total Budget to Actual financial report for 2014. Heather McGregor said she would ask Janet Obeji to produce that report. Tom asked that it be emailed to the board as soon as it's available.

Jerry Morris asked if GCE members can ask their accounting departments to do utility bill data entry on spreadsheets in order to save money on the UMS bills. Allyn Harvey said that might save GCE money, but will cost staff time for the members and not be as reliable.

Report from Board Officers meeting

Stuart McArthur noted that Board Officers had met and talked about their role. He said GCE is at a fork in the road. Tom Jankovsky provided a brief history of GCE, its past funding sources, and accomplishments to date. Stuart reviewed the GCE mission. Allyn summarized questions and issues that the board is focusing on, including purpose, how GCE carries out its mission, CLEER's role, and how GCE will be funded over the longer term.

CLEER background and funding

Alice Laird provided a brief history of how CLEER has evolved and how it helped to form the Garfield New Energy Communities Initiative (G-NECI), which later became Garfield Clean Energy. She recalled that CLEER was working in 2007-08 to extend the clean energy programs offered in Pitkin County out to Garfield County under a regional partnership concept. Gov. Ritter's New Energy Communities Initiative grant brought funding for that idea to Garfield County, with the county government serving as the fiscal agent. The county did not want to hire staff, so management of the program was put out to bid and CLEER competed for the contract. CLEER competed a second time when Garfield County was included in a DOE Better Buildings grant award. The G-NECI evolved into an independent authority, Garfield Clean Energy, as those state and federal grant funds began to run out.

Rick Aluise asked how CLEER's funding is different from GCE. Alice explained that 95% of CLEER's revenue is from fee-for-service contracts, with a small amount from donations. In the early years of the G-NECI project, CLEER's funding came almost entirely from that source, as the project was "all-consuming." CLEER built a team of experts and added more clients. Each year, revenues from GCE are a smaller part of CLEER's budget. Alice also shared CLEER's profit and loss statement from 2014, along with pie charts that show how other projects have grown in the past few years.

Alice also noted that CLEER has tried to seek donations from people and businesses that have benefitted from rebates and ask for their help in sustaining the program. There's a sense in this region, particularly because of the large amounts of money flowing through CORE, the Pitkin County-based Community Office for Resource Efficiency, that "government is taking care of things." CLEER has not seen a big response of donations from beneficiaries of the program to date.

Rachel Pokrandt asked if it would be worth using some funding to pay for a grant writer. Alice said having the flexibility to write more grants would be great, and said if there was a region-wide effort that included a full-time development director/grant writer, similar to

other nonprofits in the region, that would help. David Sturges said nobody feels they have a sustainable model, and utilities want to stay in control of their own rebate funding.

Rachel asked Alice about the “indirect” hours shown on the profit and loss statement. Alice said these are non-billable hours worked by CLEER staff, which means that work has to get done and projects need to be completed but there is no outside contract or funding source. Rachel said CLEER’s billing rate is low. Alice said the rate was negotiated early on, and is not sustainable. She said CLEER is trying to meet the needs of its government partners.

Stuart McArthur asked Rachel if the Funding Committee will continue to meet. Rachel said yes, and said today’s discussion adds insight to the committee’s work.

Program updates / actions

Multi-modal transportation projects

Alice noted that a transportation symposium/workshop is part of the GCE 2015 Scope of Work, as per the agreement for RFTA’s contribution to GCE. CLEER staff wanted to check in with GCE to make sure they are on the right track. She noted that RFTA asked for broader multi-modal transportation issues, beyond the Bike & Walk to School event, be included in GCE’s work program. The proposed symposium will cost more than the GCE budget allows, so CLEER will seek other sponsors. Alice asked if a GCE board member would serve as point person for staff to connect with in planning the event. Board members appointed Jason White to serve.

Jerry Morris asked if the symposium would be a GCE event. Tom Jankovsky said if the cost is more than GCE can cover, then the symposium would be a CLEER event and GCE would be a sponsor. He requested CLEER to bring back more information on the event and a sponsorship request that explains the sponsorship role and what sponsors get for being a sponsor.

Barb Clifton asked for clarification on the commitment to provide a symposium/workshop as part of RFTA funding. Alice noted that RFTA created a new approach for GCE 2015 funding which was in the form of a grant application. Some GCE members and RFTA staff had requested that the work plan include a broader approach to transportation than just the school bike and walk event. Heather McGregor said she wrote the application. Board members asked to receive a copy, and directed CLEER, in the future, to present such applications to the GCE board before submitting them. Rachel Pokrandt questioned whether membership contributions should be linked to specific goals.

The conversation turned to the Bike and Walk to School Challenge and a new summer bike week for the broader community. Tom asked if those events will need more funding and how the funds would be raised. Alice said in the past, CLEER has raised additional funds for prize money. Board members suggested that those funds flow through the GCE account. Rachel noted that the Garfield County commissioners are looking for more diversified funding sources, and this is one way to be responsive. Allyn Harvey asked if GCE would be a sponsor of these events, or the main organizer. Tom said Bike to School has been a GCE event, and he would like to continue that. Stuart suggested that if prize money is raised, those sponsors can be recognized as providing the prize money.

Navigator status for City of Rifle

Heather McGregor briefly reported that monthly energy utility bills for the City of Rifle will stop being collected once energy usage from the calendar year of 2014 is complete.

Goal 4: Identify funding to meet goals

Funding Committee report

The Funding Committee did not hold a meeting this past month.

Follow-up on letter to Gov. Hickenlooper, next steps on creating a statewide coalition and draft letter

Allyn Harvey reported that he and Tom Jankovsky recently met with Pitkin County Commissioner George Newman, who is also a CORE board member. They discussed ways to help CORE and CLEER work in tandem, and how to attract the state's attention to programs working in this area. Their ideas included writing a letter from many supporting entities seeking state funding for this work. Tom suggested finding legislators who will be champions. Alice Laird handed out a draft letter (also included in the board packet). Stuart McArthur asked what the next steps would be, and discussion turned to the next agenda item.

Proposed meeting with groups in three-county area

Alice Laird said it would be valuable for GCE, CORE and their member governments to meet with leaders in Pitkin and Eagle counties to share approaches and talk about opportunities for greater collaboration. Tom said GCE is not the only group looking at funding and how to continue into the future. A broader meeting may be needed that would then take a message to the governor and the Legislature. He asked if there was a statewide conference for similar organizations, a meeting where people could get together and brainstorm. Alice said other areas are asking this question, and many look to GCE as a model.

Conversation turned back to the draft letter. Tom noted that it would be great for the GCE board to sign, but the letter is focused on Garfield County. Alice noted that there is a spot to add results from other counties. Tom suggested getting Pitkin, Eagle and Garfield together for a bigger effort. Allyn said the letter should be shared with George Newman and CORE.

Paid contractor listings on the GCE website

With meeting time running out, Stuart McArthur asked if this item could be deferred to the March meeting. Rachel Pokrandt and Jerry Morris said it would be discussed at the next Funding Committee meeting.

Upcoming events

Set date for Strategic Planning retreat

Board members considered dates in March, April and May, and identified April 8 as the preferred date for the retreat. Rachel Pokrandt offered to host the retreat at CMC Rifle, with the Culinary Arts students serving lunch. Board members agreed to that plan.

Energy Smart Colorado Expo

Heather told the board that the annual contractor workshop will be an expo, with workshops and vendor booths. The \$17 admission fee will cover the cost of meals. The event is set for Thursday, April 2, at the Hotel Colorado in Glenwood Springs.

Adjourn

Allyn Harvey moved to adjourn the meeting, Tom Jankovsky seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 3 p.m.

GARFIELD CLEAN ENERGY COLLABORATIVE

By: *Stuart McArthur*, Chairperson

ATTEST: *Rachel Pokrandt*, Secretary

These minutes were reviewed and approved by a vote of the Garfield Clean Energy Board of Directors at its meeting held on March 11, 2015.

