



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, May 13, 2015, 1:09 to 3:00 p.m.
Garfield County Administration Building, 108 Eighth St., Glenwood Springs

Board members present

CMC: GCE Secretary Rachel Pokrandt
Town of Carbondale: Pam Zentmyer (alternate)
Town of New Castle: Bob Gordon
Town of Silt: Rick Aluise
City of Rifle: Joe Elliott (alternate)
RFTA: Jason White

Others attending

CLEER: Alice Laird, Heather McGregor
Janet Obeji, GCE bookkeeper
Dan Cudahy, McMahan and Associates

Board members not present

Town of Parachute: GCE Chair Stuart McArthur
Garfield County: GCE Treasurer Tom Jankovsky
City of Glenwood Springs: Leo McKinney
Library District: Jerry Morris

Next meeting: Wednesday, June 10, 2015, Rifle Library, 207 East Ave., Rifle

Call meeting to order

Board Secretary Rachel Pokrandt chaired the meeting. She called the meeting to order at 1:09 p.m. and welcomed Joe Elliott, the City of Rifle's new alternate board member. Joe said he was appointed to the Rifle City Council in September 2014 to fill a vacancy, after serving on the city planning commission. With Keith Lambert stepping down from his position as GCE board alternate, Joe volunteered to serve. Joe is a Rifle native, and he is employed by Colorado Mountain College in the facilities department.

Roll call: Rachel Pokrandt called the roll.

Board member and public comment: none

Upcoming events

Glenwood Springs CNG station groundbreaking

While the board waited for Rick Aluise to arrive to form a quorum, Heather McGregor told the board there will be a groundbreaking event in late June or early July for the Trillium CNG fueling station in Glenwood Springs. She also reported that a grant application is in process for a new CNG fueling station in Rifle.

Presentation: 2014 Financial Review

Dan Cudahy, auditor and CPA with McMahan and Associates, presented his findings from the 2014 Financial Review. Dan noted that in March he submitted the filing to the Colorado Division of Local Government requesting an exemption from conducting an audit. An audit is not required for governmental entities with budgets of less than \$500,000.

Dan reported that GCE received a clean report in the financial review of the 2014 books. He noted that a board member (Treasurer Tom Jankovsky) reviews the bank statements and the financial reports on a monthly basis, a check-and-balance put in place in early 2014 because GCE does not have its own management staff. Dan said GCE adhered well to its 2014 budget and ended the year with a \$12,000 balance, demonstrating good financial management and planning on the part of the GCE board and CLEER. Janet Obeji, GCE's bookkeeper, described her financial reports and the banking checklist process as, "I am checking CLEER, and Tom is checking me."

Rachel Pokrandt asked for an explanation of the Colorado Mountain College 2014 contribution of \$12,750. Heather McGregor said it was a verbal pledge made by the CMC board representatives. Rachel said she would like to see the management report description of this amended, and she said going forward, CMC would like to have a contract with GCE so it is clear that CMC has authorization to make a specific contribution.

Board members accepted the Financial Review. Dan noted that an official board action is not required, and the report does not need to be submitted to the state government.

Consent agenda

With a quorum in place, board members took up the consent agenda: approval of the April 8 minutes, authorizing the chair to sign a letter of support for RFTA's grant application to the U.S. Department of Transportation for improvements to its Glenwood Maintenance Facility, and authorizing the chair to sign Garfield Clean Energy's 2016 CIRSA renewal forms.

Bob Gordon moved to approve the consent agenda, Rick Aluise seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0, with Joe Elliott and Pam Zentmyer abstaining.

Financials

April 2015 and YTD financial reports and accounts payable

None of the members of the GCE Finance Committee were present to comment on the April financial reports or invoices.

Rick Aluise moved to approve the YTD financial reports and accounts payable for April, Jason White seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Use of residential coaching funds for Home Energy Program

Heather McGregor summarized a memo in the packet regarding the 2015 Home Energy Program, to make sure the GCE board would approve of using GCE residential coaching dollars for this program if needed to supplement grant dollars.

Rachel Pokrandt moved to approve the use of GCE residential coaching funds for the 2015 Home Energy Program, if needed. Bob Gordon seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Strategic Planning

Review of 2015 Scope of Work

Rachel Pokrandt said she wanted to discuss GCE's 2015 Scope of Work. She said some board members have been questioning this year's work projects, and it has "felt like we are changing the goalposts on CLEER for 2015." She stated that the board reviewed and agreed on the 2015 Scope of Work. She said board members can raise questions when looking at the scope for 2016. Rachel said she wanted the minutes to reflect that the board has reviewed the scope of work and is committed to the current scope of work for 2015.

Jason White said if any of the new ideas coming from the April Strategic Planning Retreat can happen sooner, they could be added into line items for 2015. GCE should move forward on these new ideas, Jason said, because board members were excited about them at the retreat. Rachel said for the rest of 2015, the board can discuss these items in their monthly meetings.

Review Strategic Planning Retreat notes to identify future meeting topics

Rick Aluise said his idea of forming a district was as a broad goal. He said whatever GCE does, it will require a stream of revenue. Bob Gordon noted that he had brought up the idea of steam turbines, which would cost millions of dollars. Rick said he was thinking about the library district's mill levy that paid for building new libraries. Bob Gordon said GCE needs its own funding source. Joe Elliott said a mill levy would be a hard sell to voters.

Joe asked if funding could come from severance tax revenues. Pam Zentmyer said the Town of Carbondale has committed 20% of its severance tax revenues for energy efficiency and renewable energy programs and projects. She noted that Rifle and Garfield County are the biggest recipients of severance revenues, and suggested that they could also dedicate funds from that funding stream.

Rick said he feels that voters would approve dedicated funding if they find the work important enough. Pam said Carbondale expects a ballot question in 2016 for dedicated funding to reach energy goals.

Rachel Pokrandt suggested the board take one hour on the agenda for the next four meetings to discuss different funding models, with the Funding Committee (Rachel and Rick) meeting in advance to prepare a presentation to the board. Pam said she would like to participate in the committee. (The committee later made a plan to meet on May 21.)

Alice Laird said in follow-up to the Regional Roundtable of April 2 and the Strategic Planning Retreat of April 8, the next step is to hold a regional conference/workshop to bring multiple efforts together. A discussion ensued on conference topics, who to involve, when and where to hold the event. Board members indicated that this kind of conference would be better after the summer months and suggested that it be held the same day as a GCE board meeting with an event for the public and a discussion for GCE board members and elected officials.

Information and Action item

New CoPACE financing mechanism

Alice Laird referred to a memo in the board packet on this topic. She said the Colorado Energy Office (CEO) has formed a statewide district to help commercial property owners finance energy efficiency and renewable energy upgrades on their property. In any county where the county commissioners agree to “opt in,” property owners can borrow from the district and repay the debt on their annual property tax bill. She said it is a solution-based financing mechanism that also drives economic development.

Resolution No. 4, supporting the CoPACE financing district

Alice said Denver, Boulder, Adams, Eagle and Routt counties are discussing their participation, and CEO would also like Garfield County to opt in early. She presented Resolution No. 4, included in the board packet, which expresses support for the CoPACE financing program and urges the Garfield Board of County Commissioners to consider opting in.

Bob Gordon moved to approve Resolution No. 4 supporting the CoPACE financing program, Rachel Pokrandt seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Alice asked for a board member to be the lead person in presenting the concept to the Garfield BOCC. Rachel Pokrandt said she would like to help present to the BOCC on this topic.

Goal 4: Identify funding to meet goals

Follow-up to Regional Roundtable discussion and coalition-building for state funding

This topic was covered during the Strategic Planning discussion.

Update on grants submitted and possibilities

Alice Laird informed the board that CLEER prepared a grant application on GCE's behalf that was submitted to CORE for its Randy Udall Energy Pioneer grant program to fund a continuation of the Home Energy Program for income-qualified households. She said Allyn Harvey and Tom Jankovsky reviewed the proposal and approved the grant application.

Alice said the total funding request was \$414,150, and the requested grant amount of \$182,000 was matched more than 50 percent by funds from energy utilities, Energy Outreach Colorado, Garfield Clean Energy, and Garfield County. She said the project would be an exciting collaboration between CORE and GCE if it is awarded. GCE should hear back about the proposal by July or August.

U.S. Forest Service potential membership

Heather McGregor reported that CLEER Energy Coach Shelley Kaup met recently with staff of the White River National Forest, and the agency has renewed its expression of interest in joining Garfield Clean Energy and in making use of the Building Energy Navigator. A follow-up meeting is being planned for the week of June 1. Heather asked for a board member to participate in those discussions. Joe Elliott volunteered.

Upcoming events

“Ride Garfield County” bike-bus week June 19-26

Heather McGregor informed the board that a new event called “Ride Garfield County” is being planned for June 19 to 26 as part of GCE’s efforts to build petroleum independence. It will involve a team challenge for groups to register and compete for miles and prizes, as well as featured events in Rifle, Glenwood Springs and Carbondale. Bob Gordon asked Heather to contact the New Castle town manager about organizing an event there.

Adjournment

Rick Aluise moved to adjourn the meeting, Bob Gordon seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 3:00 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 June 10, 2015.