



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, June 10, 2015, 1:00 to 2:52 p.m.
Rifle Library, 207 East Ave., Rifle

Board members present

Town of Carbondale: GCE Vice Chair Allyn Harvey
Town of New Castle: Bob Gordon
Town of Silt: Rick Aluise
City of Rifle: Joe Elliott (alternate)
Library District: Jerry Morris
Garfield County: Kevin Batchelder (alternate)

Others attending

CLEER: Heather McGregor, Alice Laird
RifleNow: Michael Churchill

Board members not present

Town of Parachute: GCE Chair Stuart McArthur
CMC: GCE Secretary Rachel Pokrandt
Garfield County: GCE Treasurer Tom Jankovsky
RFTA: Jason White
City of Glenwood Springs: Leo McKinney

Next meeting: Wednesday, July 8, 2015, Garfield County Administration Building,
108 Eighth St., Glenwood Springs

Call meeting to order

Vice Chair Allyn Harvey chaired the meeting. He called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Roll call and Approval of Agenda: Allyn Harvey called the roll and asked board members to review the agenda.

Rick Aluise moved to approve the agenda, Bob Gordon seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Board member and public comment: Heather McGregor informed the board that due to an illness in her family, she will be taking a partial leave of absence over the next two to three months. Alice Laird will be responsible for Heather's tasks on GCE administration when Heather cannot be present.

Consent agenda

Minutes of the May 13, 2015, board meeting.

Bob Gordon moved to approve the consent agenda; Joe Elliott seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Financials

May 2015 and YTD financial reports

Allyn Harvey said he had not had a chance to review the May financial reports. Rick Aluise said he did look at them and said everything appears to be in order.

Rick Aluise moved to approve the YTD financial for May, Bob Gordon seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

May 2015 accounts payable

Allyn Harvey moved to approve the accounts payable for May, Rick Aluise seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Steps for accessing Alpine Bank grant awarded to GCE

Alice Laird noted that Alpine Bank awarded a \$2,000 grant to GCE for its Active Transportation program, which will be used to help fund the work on Ride Garfield County. Staff will include a resolution in the July packet to appropriate the funds and allocate them to the Active Transportation line in the 2015 budget.

Alice updated the board on the Ride Garfield County event. Publicity began June 1, including full-page ads co-sponsored by the Post Independent and the City of Glenwood Springs. The event will be June 19 to 26, with community events across Garfield County as part of GCE's petroleum independence goals. RFTA and the Garfield County Public Libraries are active partners in implementing the project, and the week-long event has attracted additional community partners.

Heather noted that the Town of New Castle will host a Bike Rode and a Family Bike Scavenger Hunt that will feature the town's new pedestrian bridges, the City of Glenwood Springs and the Glenwood Springs Library are co-hosting a bike to work day, the Parachute Library is hosting a ride on the Library Trail, RFTA is hosting a Bike to Work Day in Carbondale, and Rifle is hosting a guided tour of single-track mountain bike trails.

Strategic Plan Follow-up and Preparation for 2016

Planning and progress timeline

Alice Laird handed out copies of a GCE planning and progress chart, included in the board packet, that sketches out a month-by-month plan for 2015 in four work areas:

1. Work on Goal 4 to develop sustainable funding
2. Local power generation ideas, following up from Strategic Planning Retreat
3. GCE 2016 budget and revenue development
4. GCE 2016 Strategic Plan and Scope of Work

Alice noted that most member budgets get started in August, and a funding request needs to be accompanied by a Strategic Plan document. At the May meeting, board members said sustainable funding is so important, there should be time on each agenda to discuss it. Starting today, Rick Aluise will present an overview of various options. In July, August and September, board members can focus on possible funding methods.

Identify board members to focus on budget and strategic plan document

Allyn Harvey said he would help in developing the 2016 budget. Alice noted that Rachel might be interested in helping complete the Strategic Plan. Rick Aluise, Rachel Pokrandt, and Pam Zentmeyer will continue to work on sustainable funding options. Kevin Batchelder said he thinks Tom Jankovsky might also be interested in the budget committee.

Feedback on ideas from Strategic Planning Retreat

Rick Aluise said it would be wise to separate the ideas into short-term and long-term ideas, prioritizing the short-term ideas and looking at a five- to seven-year plan for the long-range ideas. Joe Elliott said the main idea is to keep the program alive and strong. Rick said much of this hinges on funding.

2015 Goal 4: Identify funding to meet goals

Presentation from Funding Committee on example funding mechanisms, discuss criteria and identify one or two to focus on at next meeting

Alice Laird distributed a handout chart from the ACEEE's 2014 report, "Keeping it in the Community: Sustainable Funding for Local EE Initiatives" and mentioned that the funding committee of Rick Aluise, Rachel Pokrandt and Pam Zentmeyer has been working on the topic. Rick walked the board through the various types of funding mechanisms being used by organizations across the country. Some sources are considered to be seed funding, while others are sustainable funding. He asked board members to give feedback on which types of funding sources they are most interested in.

Alice passed around another chart developed for the Town of Carbondale that listed more details on some possible funding sources. Allyn Harvey said the town passed a resolution dedicating 20% of its severance tax and federal mineral lease revenues for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects, which is about \$100,000 this year. That will make a difference, but will still be slow in helping the town reach its energy and climate goals.

Bob Gordon said GCE is doing exactly what it should be doing, and that he is pleased with the progress GCE is making. He reminded the board that GCE is a young organization that is getting more support all the time. The more support you get, the harder it is for someone to say no, Bob said.

Board members discussed the questions raised by the County Commissioners in 2014 regarding GCE funding. Rick Aluise said what he heard was that GCE needs to figure out funding sources very quickly. Allyn noted that the commissioners directed GCE to confer with the Garfield FML District board. Board members said there should be a follow up discussion with the FMLD board and GCE should find out if FMLD funding is a real possibility.

Board members discussed the idea of a fee on energy utility bills. Alice Laird said the fee would have to be approved by voters. Alice noted that Xcel Energy currently includes a small percentage on energy bills for energy efficiency programs. Xcel Energy staff has told her that funding is tied to a specific energy efficiency plan approved by the PUC. Rick Aluise said a fee on utility bills is something GCE needs to find out more about and has potential.

Joe Elliott said he would also like to look at severance tax as a revenue source, since the tax is connected to addressing impacts. Rick noted that the legislature debates this fund every year, and said one year it was siphoned off to settle a water case with the state of Kansas. Joe also raised the idea of forming a district. Alice said GCE is currently an authority. Rick asked if the board could ask Jim Neu to clarify the difference between an authority and a district.

Alice summarized that the feedback they had heard was that board members are interested in learning more about the following funding sources: federal mineral lease funding; energy use fee on utility bills, and severance tax funding. Staff and the funding committee will develop additional information on these topics and present at the next meeting.

Alice asked board members to take another look at the list of ideas from the strategic planning retreat and provide feedback for the strategic plan. Joe said free energy coaching is a good project. Allyn said if GCE were to pursue developing energy sources in South Canyon, that could drive some grants. Kevin Batchelder said some of the projects are short-term, some are long-term and then there are GCE's existing projects. He said the board should make some judgments about GCE's 2016 work plan, and where the board wants GCE to put its energies.

U.S. Forest Service potential membership

Alice Laird reported that she, Joe Elliott, Heather McGregor and Shelley Kaup met with three staff members from the White River National Forest on June 4. They discussed the potential for the Forest Service to join GCE. Joe reported that the Forest Service has many buildings in Garfield County and the surrounding region and they want to make them more energy efficient. Joe noted that the Forest Service mission is preservation and conservation, which aligns with what GCE does. Heather said the Forest Service staff would like to attend the July 8 GCE meeting.

Updates on 2015 work program

Meetings with GCE partners' staff on buildings and benchmarking task

Alice reported that staff are working on the task of benchmarking for GCE partner buildings, which will compare building energy use to similar buildings across the country. Benchmarking is a useful tool for continually improving a building's energy performance. Shelley Kaup is contacting GCE members' staff to get building data for this project. She and the CLEAR energy coaching team are also meeting with GCE members' staff to discuss recommended energy efficiency projects and to locate possible funding for those projects so that each GCE partner can continue saving energy in government facilities.

Home Energy Program

Heather McGregor reported that energy coaches have visited homes across Garfield County, and contractors are following up with additional work, such as insulation, air sealing, windows, doors, refrigerators and hot water heaters. She also reported that Xcel Energy and Energy Outreach Colorado have asked CLEER to take on more households in Xcel territory in the county, focusing on income-qualified families in all-electric homes. Xcel wants as many homes served as possible through August.

Countywide Energy Inventory

Heather reported that staff have started work on the countywide inventory, a study of 2014 energy use and energy spending. It will update the report done for 2009 energy use. Erica Sparhawk will be contacting GCE members' finance directors to get complete tallies of electricity, gas and fuel usage and spending.

Rifle CNG fueling station

Heather reported that a business meeting and luncheon was held earlier in the day to raise interest for a CNG fueling station at the Gilco Petroleum Park in west Rifle. Sparq Natural Gas of Oklahoma City is putting together a grant application to the Colorado Energy Office to help pay for the station. If the grant is awarded, the CNG fueling island would open in summer 2016.

Upcoming events

Glenwood Springs CNG station groundbreaking

Heather McGregor reported that instead of a groundbreaking event, GCE will work with station developer Trillium CNG to issue a media release announcing the start of construction on the station, expected to start in late June or early July.

Adjournment

Rick Aluise moved to adjourn the meeting, Bob Gordon seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 2:52 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 July 8, 2015.