



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

Board Meeting Minutes: Monday, Aug. 24, 2015, 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING / The Miner's Claim, 740 Main St., Silt

Board members present

Town of Parachute:
GCE Chair Stuart McArthur
Garfield County:
GCE Treasurer Tom Jankovsky
Town of Silt: Rick Aluise

Guests

State Rep. Bob Rankin
Joyce Rankin, State Board of Education
Silt Trustee Bryan Fleming
Silt Town Administrator Pamela Woods

Others attending

CLEER: Alice Laird, Heather McGregor

Next meeting: Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2015, Garfield County Administration Building,
108 Eighth St., Glenwood Springs

Call meeting to order: Chair Stuart McArthur called the meeting to order at 5 p.m.

Discussion

The purpose of the special board meeting was to inform state Rep. Bob Rankin about the goals and accomplishments of Garfield Clean Energy, and to discuss possible sources of state funding to complement local funding for GCE programs and services.

Rep. Rankin noted that he will be meeting with the Colorado Energy Office staff on Sept. 1. He said he attempted to pass a bill that would have exempted severance tax from TABOR restrictions, but the financial implications were too complex and the bill was dropped. He said there's a logical argument that severance tax revenues are "fair game," but changing the distribution would require a voter-approved constitutional amendment.

A handout prepared by CLEER was distributed. It listed GCE's history and structure, its four goals, and accomplishments from 2009 through YTD 2015. Tom Jankovsky highlighted several notable programs, including the efforts of GCE's West Slope CNG Network to bring CNG fueling to Rifle and Glenwood Springs, GCE's Renewables program that led to the installation of 1 megawatt of new solar arrays in Garfield County this year, and the Home Energy Program, which is providing energy upgrades to income-qualified households.

Bob Rankin asked to see GCE's budget. Rick Aluise and Tom explained that GCE is funded from general fund contributions from each of the member governments. Tom cited the instability of funding for GCE, noting the decrease from the City of Rifle. He said the other two Garfield County commissioners have asked GCE to become self-funded.

Tom said the GCE board has discussed several funding options, including asking voters to place a small fee on energy bills. Board members also talked about using a portion of severance and FML revenues, but Tom noted that would not work for Parachute, Rifle, Silt or Garfield County. He said board members do not believe a tax question would pass. Tom said Garfield County will continue its contribution, but said that situation could change.

Tom also noted that GCE includes all the towns from Carbondale to Parachute, and has all the municipalities working together with the county, RFTA and CMC. Alice Laird said GCE's clean energy work stimulates the local economy through energy savings, contractor work and sales of supplies. Rep. Rankin asked if the economic development and job creation could be documented, in order to create an economic model.

Rep. Rankin summarized the state government's funding picture. He noted that Colorado will be issuing TABOR refunds, yet state government is pinched for funding. He said it will be challenging to discuss use of severance tax revenues at the state level because there is so much competition for that funding.

Rep. Rankin advised that the area to look at is the state's economic development funding, and Gov. Hickenlooper's emphasis on helping build the economies in rural Colorado. Rep. Rankin suggested a proposal that would show the economic benefits, jobs impacts, and the value of generating energy locally. He advised focusing on the economic development aspects of the program over clean energy.

Alice noted that interest in the GCE model as an economic diversification effort is of interest to people in other rural counties. People in Mesa County are especially interested in creating a similar program. Rep. Rankin said the proposal to the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade should focus on how the concept could help multiple areas of rural Colorado, as a regional concept.

Rep. Rankin said he would seek a meeting with Fiona Arnold, the director of the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade, to discuss this concept and see if funding might be available from that agency. He asked the group for more details on the economic development results and ideas for making GCE an example for other counties.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 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 Sept. 16, 2015.