



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: Thursday, Oct. 1, 2015, 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**  
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING / Third Street Center, 520 S. Third St., Carbondale

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**Board members present**

Town of Parachute: GCE Chair Stuart McArthur  
Town of Carbondale: GCE Vice-Chair Allyn Harvey  
Garfield County: GCE Treasurer Tom Jankovsky  
RFTA: Jason White  
Town of Parachute: Judith Hayward  
Garfield County: Josh Williams

**Guest**

Jeff Ackermann, Director, Colorado Energy Office

**Others attending**

CLEER: Alice Laird, Heather McGregor, Shelley Kaup  
KMTS: Ron Millhorn

**Next meeting:** Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2015, CMC, 3695 Airport Road, Rifle

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**Call meeting to order:** Chair Stuart McArthur called the meeting to order at 11:06 a.m. Everyone in the room introduced themselves.

**Discussion**

The purpose of the special board meeting was to share GCE goals and results with Jeff Ackermann, Director of the Colorado Energy Office, and to discuss possible sources of state funding to complement local funding for GCE programs.

Jeff Ackermann provided background on his 30-year career working on energy efficiency in the government and nonprofit sectors. He noted that after many years of operating under different names and evolving purposes, the Colorado Energy Office was restructured by state statute in 2012, and has five years of funding to 2017.

The CEO's mission is to improve the effective use of all of Colorado's energy resources and the efficient consumption of energy in all economic sectors, through providing technical guidance, financial support, policy advocacy and public communications.

Tom Jankovsky said Garfield Clean Energy is Garfield County's energy office, working on renewable energy, weatherization, energy efficiency, CNG and alternative fuels. Funding comes from the nine member governments. Because funding comes from their general funds and can fluctuate, GCE is looking for other sources of sustainable funding.

Allyn Harvey said GCE helps households, businesses and governments, and reviewed GCE's four goals and a list of energy and economic development accomplishments. He said GCE is looking for ways to work together with state government to strengthen the economy and find funding opportunities. He also noted that CEO has "moved the ball a long way."

Judi Hayward mentioned the two large solar farms installed in the county. Jason White said RFTA is using CNG buses, funded in part by being able to participate in Qualified Energy Conservation bonds that CEO was able to offer several years ago. RFTA also applied for DOLA's Alt Fuels Initiative. Tom mentioned the income-qualified Home Energy Program.

Other energy efficiency programs were cited, which were made possible through a variety of funding sources and grants. Alice Laird said although sometimes the grant (such as SEP grants) came to CLEER as a 501c3 organization, none of the projects or programs would have happened without the government partnership and structure of GCE being in place.

Stuart McArthur said the Garfield County Commissioners gave GCE a mission to seek independent funding. Board members met with state Rep. Bob Rankin in August to discuss possibilities for state funding similar to the funding that made it possible to start GCE. Rep. Rankin reported that tapping state-level severance tax revenues is not feasible. GCE has also met with the Garfield FML District, and it is not a quite a fit. Stuart said GCE is approaching CEO for help in finding funding. Allyn mentioned that GCE is asking this question as one local effort. There are similar local and regional efforts around the state, and all these efforts can help Colorado in reaching its goals.

Alice said GCE and CLEER have partnered with CEO on many programs through the years and currently. She noted that Rep. Rankin identified this project as economic development with measurable benefits.

Jeff Ackermann shared a series of brainstorming ideas on funding sources in three categories, with examples in each category.

**Category 1:** Grants and contracts for projects to carry out for the state government at the local level, such as:

- Introducing and implementing the Home Energy Score system locally.
- Performance contracting for small projects in rural areas.
- Marketing CoPACE in the local community.

**Category 2:** New revenue sources

- Obstacles include TABOR and voters not supporting a new revenue stream.
- Many states have a system benefits charge on utility bills.
- Severance tax revenues will be more stressed in coming years

**Category 3:** Fee for service, charging people for the services currently provided for free.

- Manage USDA-funded loans for rural electric co-ops and charging an administrative processing fee.
- Administer PACE financing at a local level, particularly if residential PACE can be established.

Jeff offered more ideas on possibilities that might arise from the Obama Administration's Clean Power Plan. He noted that the EPA proposes an incentive for states that put an extra effort in bringing energy efficiency to low-income communities, offering states a double credit for programs delivered in 2020 and 2021. He said Colorado's response is, why wait until 2020? He said energy efficiency could become a trade-able credit, and become a revenue source to produce more efficiency. This system doesn't exist now, but he predicted that it may in a few years.

The group took a break to serve lunch, and then reconvened the meeting for a working lunch.

Allyn Harvey mentioned the state's transportation planning regions as an example of how different regions can work with the state to implement projects and determine priorities for funding. He asked if the governor could launch a bigger program to support local efforts so Colorado can be "on the ground running" by 2020. Jeff cited DOLA's Alt Fuels Initiative, and said other ideas could be suggested to change the focus of DOLA funding to achieve shared goals.

Tom asked for details on the USDA grant funds. Jeff said CEO has applied for loan funds on an aggregated basis to serve a sector. In 2015, CEO obtained enough funding for 80 loans for energy efficiency at dairy farms. CEO is also exploring aggregated USDA funding for small-scale hydroelectric projects on farms and ranches. Jason asked if other entities could request aggregated loan funds. Jeff pointed to electric co-ops.

Alice asked if, with the Clean Power Plan pending, there would be another DOLA-CEO joint initiative like the New Energy Communities Initiative of 2008. Jeff said under the Clean Power Plan, the state will have a variety of efforts to capture emissions through energy efficiency and renewable energy. The federal government does not fund those efforts. The Clean Power Plan becomes the new standard that states must meet.

Alice asked for contact information for CEO staff members working on these issues. Jeff mentioned Christian Willis for USDA projects, Jeff King for DOLA and Colorado Office of Economic Development, and Chris Worley for the Clean Power Plan.

Jeff also mentioned that the U.S. Department of Energy funds competitive programs, and one possibility is that CEO could propose a model of how state energy offices work with local communities to reach goals. He expects to see more information on that solicitation by February.

**Adjournment**

*Allyn Harvey moved to adjourn the meeting, Jason White seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 12:45 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 Oct. 21, 2015.