



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: Friday, May 8th, 2020, 1:00 p.m.

Conference Call

Board members attending

RFTA:	Vice Chair Jason White
Town of New Castle:	Bruce Leland
City of Glenwood Springs:	Rick Voorhees
City of Rifle:	Katie Mackley
Town of Carbondale:	Ben Bohmfalk
CMC:	Jerrod Kochevar

Others attending

CLEER: Erica Sparhawk, Katharine Rushton, Stefan Johnson
Jerrod Kochevar

Board members not present

Town of Silt:	Keith Richel
Garfield County:	Tom Jankovsky
Town of Parachute:	Chair Stuart McArthur
Garfield County:	Frank Coberly
CMC:	Sean Nesbitt

Call meeting to order:

Jason called the meeting to order at 1:03pm

Roll call and Approval of agenda:

Rick conducted roll call.

Jason invited changes to the agenda, there were none.

Katie Mackley moved to approve the meeting agenda; Bruce Leland seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Board Member and Public comment:

None.

Consent Agenda:

Rick requested that staff provide more details in the minutes when some industry specific nouns are used, such as “economic transition.”

Rick Voorhees moved to approve the Consent Agenda, Katie Mackley seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Program Updates:

Western Colorado Clean Energy Network

Erica shared that the CLEER team has been making good progress with the DOLA project and the Western Colorado Clean Energy Network and provided an overview of the new website.

Katie asked if the GCE Board would be able to explore the website before it goes live.

Erica confirmed that, yes, the GCE Board members would be invited to review the site before it goes live.

Solar Masterplan: Mapping Software Opportunity

Katharine Rushton provided an update on the solar mapping project and the search she did for existing tools and qualified GIS companies. The research led to a national firm, called National Land Realty (NLR), a firm with a proprietary GIS site and a business model that prequalifies sites and then gives access of the tool to developers. If the site goes into development, the solar-developer will then pay a fee to NLR

NLR would provide the tool free of charge. CLEER would be able to access the tool with a login and disclaimer that we are not a developer. There would also be access for developers and the public.

This collaboration would represent a public-private partnership. If we decided not to go this route, we would have to start from scratch. Some initial research suggests developing a very basic tool would cost at least \$20,000, and there would be a hosting fee to ESRI GIS.

Erica asked for direction from the Board.

Katie commented that the only negative she can see with the public-private partnership would be solar developers not being agreeable to paying the fee to access the NLR's tool.

Katharine responded that this tool has the potential to save developers a lot of money and time to screen and pre-qualify sites.

Katie asked what the cons are then?

Katharine responded that the cons are that you need to submit some data and information in order to login to the database and mapping tool.

Rick asked if the business model was such that we would take \$20,000 out of the DOLA grant and pay a licensing agreement thereafter.

Katharine responded saying that NLR would provide access for free with some up-front costs for our requested customizations.

Rick asked if this is a sustainable program once the DOLA grant funding runs out.

Katharine responded that, yes, there should be no problem with this. Additionally, Mesa County has expressed interest, so could be great to use the tool.

Ben commented that going with the public private partnership sounds like the way to go. Ben said he doesn't understand the value-add if the tool already exists.

Katharine said the value-add would be nobody else would be able to access the tool unless they're a solar-developer. There would be lots of value in letting local government staff and elected access to the portal and think about energy transition and planning from a big perspective, such as how much existing renewables do we have, how much more do we need to meet our goals, etc. She added that Holy Cross has a big interest in making this mapping tool into not just a solar tool, but a solar plus storage tool.

Katharine added that another example would be the potential for Xcel Community Solar Gardens. Xcel just expanded the capacity cap for community solar projects, and we want those projects to come to the 3-County corridor. The RFP turnarounds are pretty short, so having this solar-mapping tool would allow for developers to quickly access potential for sites and projects in our area.

Erica added that there could also an inventory assessment about the potential number of MW that could be added to our territory. This would also help us to empower landowners to fairly figure out the potential for their land-sites, and what would be fair compensation and terms for leasing to developers.

Erica said that they were seeking informal approval from the board to move forward exploring this partnership with NLR.

Jason voiced his approval and asked if the rest of the Board was okay with CLEER moving forward with their discussion with NLR. The Board all agreed.

Solar Permitting: Webinar May 14

Katharine shared another part of the DOLA grant is to really look at streamlining permitting for solar and storage to reduce soft costs. COVID has forced team to pivot to webinar format to educate jurisdictions across the 3-county region on best practices for permitting. Janet from Silt will also be presenting on the webinar about the Town of Silt's experience becoming designated as a Sol-Smart Gold community. There will also be a presentation from Holy Cross on their new small-scale energy storage program and how they plan to reduce soft costs.

Energy Coaching Update

Erica then shared an update on energy coaching. Normally, CLEER does lots of in-person face to face energy coaching. The good news is that in the first month of COVID, CLEER has received lots of calls from business and households, mostly people using their downtime to complete projects that have been on their list. She shared that staff are not currently doing any walk-through assessments for businesses and that Pete Waller has officially retired.

Erica shared that the team is putting together a new plan to shift from in-person outreach events to seeing what kind of webinars people might be interested in attended.

Upcoming Events and Workshops

TBD in light of COVID-19

Adjournment

Katie Mackley moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:52 p.m.; Rick Voorhees seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

GARFIELD CLEAN ENERGY COLLABORATIVE

By: _____
Stuart McArthur, Chairperson

ATTEST: _____
Rick Voorhees, Secretary

These minutes were reviewed and approved by a vote of the Garfield Clean Energy Board of Directors at its meeting held on July 10, 2020.