



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, July 10, 2020, 1:00 p.m.

Conference Call

Board members attending

Town of Parachute:	Chair Stuart McArthur
RFTA:	Vice Chair Jason White
Garfield County:	Frank Coberly
Town of New Castle:	Bruce Leland
City of Glenwood Springs:	Rick Voorhees
CMC:	Jerrold Kochevar
City of Rifle:	Katie Mackley
Town of Carbondale:	Ben Bohmfalk

Others attending

CLEER: Katharine Rushton, Maisa Metcalf, Stefan Johnson

Board members not present

Town of Silt:	Keith Richel
Garfield County:	Tom Jankovsky
CMC:	Sean Nesbitt

Call meeting to order:

Stuart called the meeting to order at 1:03pm

Roll call and Approval of agenda:

Rick conducted roll call.

Stuart invited changes to the agenda, there were none.

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

Board Member and Public comment:

Stuart invited comments from the Board and Public, there were none.

Consent Agenda:

Approval of minutes from the May 8th Board Meeting.

Approval of May and June financials

Approval of May and June bills paid.

Rick moved to approve the Consent Agenda, Jason seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Program Updates:

Western Colorado Clean Energy Network

Katharine provided an update about the solar-mapping project and ongoing conversations with the potential partner, National Land Realty (NLR). Katharine added that Jason provided feedback on the scope of work and terms of agreement with NLR suggesting that the partnership include Garfield County's GIS Department to make sure that high resolution satellite imagery is included in the Solar Mapping. Jason added that he wanted to clarify the terms of the contract in terms of access to the data at the end of the initial year of the contract. Katharine responded that there is the option for renewal and that if they didn't want to renew the agreement, GCE / CLEER would still be able to download the data at the end of the year. Jason suggested that an addition be made in the agreement to ensure that GCE /CLEER receives an annual data download to ensure access even with the likelihood of contract renewal. Stuart McArthur added it's always good to have insurance regarding the data.

Bruce added that the Town of New Castle would likely want to use the tool, but had questions about non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) and access to the data. The Town of New Castle's contracted engineer works with another company. Would he be able to have access to the NLR tool? Katharine responded saying that, yes, the Town of New Castle engineer would be able to access the tool upon signing an NDA.

Katharine explained that staff have discussed the risk of a party being able to get access to the data without an NDA by getting the data from someone who did sign the NDA. NLR acknowledges there is some risk in the public private partnership, but they believe the risk is low and are confident that they will collect their fee if a developer uses the tool and ends up building a project on land that was pre-qualified via the tool.

Bruce asked what the terms would be for landowners where projects are developed after being assessed via the NLR tool. Katharine responded saying the landowner is under no obligation to NLR. They don't have to use NLR as a broker and they don't have to pay any fees to NLR. It is the energy developers who pay NLR, not the landowner.

Stuart asked if the agreement with NLR is through CLEER or Garfield Clean Energy. Katharine responded that we had attorneys look at proposed agreement, and in terms of

accountability and fulfilling the deliverables, it would make the most sense for the agreement to be with NLR and CLEER, not GCE.

Stuart asked if GCE board members were comfortable with CLEER being the signing party. Ben said that he approved the idea of the agreement being with CLEER and there were no objections.

Rick Voorhees moved to approve CLEER moving forward with the agreement with NLR on the conditions that Jason's recommendations be incorporated AND that CLEER would bring the agreement back to the board at the September board meeting for ratification. Bruce Leland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

GCE Stimulus Proposal

Maisa presented a proposal for CLEER to utilize Department of Energy funding to provide stimulus funding for commercial and residential energy efficiency assistance in Garfield County. Maisa described how funds would be used for rebates for commercial rebates and residential assessments. CLEER's staff-time would be covered via the existing GCE funding for 2020.

This proposal would be for the remainder of the year to evaluate the program and introducing additional stimulus programming in 2021. Ideas for the 2021 stimulus include allocating \$27,000 from the remaining DOE funding to offer \$1,500 rebates for residential solar PV projects. Staff is also working with partners including Energy Outreach Colorado and utilities on a low-moderate income solar pilot program.

Rick shared that the proposal is roughly a quarter of the remaining funds with lots of remaining uncertainty about residential and commercial appetite for programs.

Jason asked if the remaining DOE funds are at our discretion to spend. Maisa responded that yes, the GCE board is free to allocate the money as desired, as long as it is going towards regional renewable energy and energy efficiency programs.

Katie Mackley asked for clarification whether the DOE funding could simply be used as general operating funding. Maisa responded adding that she believes that the funding must go towards programs and not just general operating funds, but that she would check with Erica on the exact requirements.

Rick Voorhees added that the program should include low-income residents. He added that he talked with Erica about engaging the Latino community on projects. He asked Maisa to explain more about this program.

Maisa responded by sharing that the CARE program is now administered by Northwest Colorado Council of Governments, but staff still assist them in outreach and connect residents to these programs.

Stuart asked that the outreach materials for the stimulus program be done in Spanish as well as English.

Jason White motioned to allocate \$33,000 for the stimulus program in 2020 with the existing 2020 GCE Budget covering CLEER staff time to administer the program. Frank Coberly seconded the motion and it passed unanimously

Public Utilities Commission Letter

Katharine provided an overview of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) letter concerning community solar gardens and bill credits. Many GCE jurisdictions have signed agreements with community solar gardens.

Katharine explained that Xcel has gone to the PUC and asked to be able to recover costs by taking it out of the bill credit amount for community solar gardens. In a June hearing, PUC verbally agreed for XCEL to be able to recover costs by taking them out of bill credits for community solar gardens. Katharine explained the need for GCE communities to sign a letter expressing their concern of the financial terms governing community solar gardens being changed retroactively, especially with local government budgets being impacted by COVID-19.

Jason asked if the Colorado Solar & Storage Association(COSSA) has an active complaint or campaign going on around this issue. Katharine replied confirming that COSSA is very active on the advocacy side and is indeed fighting for this issue to be addressed to be fair for communities that opted into the community solar garden program.

Bruce asked if it would be effective for each individual municipality to submit a letter voicing their complaint to Xcel and the PUC. Katharine responded that CLEER would work with interested communities to create a custom letter. New Castle, Rifle, and Carbondale indicated an interest in creating custom letters to send in addition to the GCE group letter.

Bruce Leland moved to approve the GCE Letter to be sent to the PUC. Frank Coberly seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Upcoming Events

Legislative Solar Tour with Representative Perry Will

Katharine gave an overview of this recent development. She explained that Erica received an email just earlier this week from Representative Perry Will asking for GCE to assist in giving a group of legislators a tour of the Rifle Airport solar array on July 23rd. Stuart and Katie expressed interest in attending and representing GCE and asked to be kept in the loop.

EV Sales Event Extended until July 31st

Maisa shared that the EV Sales Event was scheduled to end on 6/15 but that CLEER worked with partner dealerships to extend the Sales Event through the month of July. Stuart asked how the sales numbers have been. Stefan Johnson reported 21 total EV sales through the end of June.

Adjournment

Katie Mackley moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:46 p.m.; Jason White 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 September 11, 2020.