



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, January 22, 2020, 1:00 p.m.**

Conference Call

### **Board members attending**

RFTA: Jason White  
City of Glenwood Springs: Ingrid Wussow  
Garfield County: Frank Coberly  
CMC: Sean Nesbitt  
Town of New Castle: Bruce Leland  
Town of Carbondale: Ben Bohmfalk

### **Others attending**

CLEER: Erica Sparhawk, Stefan Johnson, Katharine Rushton

### **Board members not present**

Town of Silt: Keith Richel  
Garfield County: Tom Jankovsky  
City of Rifle: TBD  
Town of Parachute: Stuart McArthur

### **Call meeting to order:**

Jason called the meeting to order at 1:01pm

### **Roll Call and Approval of agenda:**

Erica conducted roll call.

Jason invited changes to the agenda, there were none.

*Ben Bohmfalk moved to approve the meeting agenda; Bruce Leland seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.*

### **Board Member and Public comment:**

Jason invited comments from the Board and Public. There were none.

### **Consent Agenda:**

*Ben Bomfalk moved to approve the Consent Agenda, Bruce Leland seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.*

### **Action Items:**

**Officers & Finance Committee for 2021**

Erica shared that Stuart is looking to step down from his role of GCE Chair and that he is hoping to retire this year from his position as Town Manager with Parachute.

Erica added that Tom has informed her of his desire to continue on serving as Board Treasurer.

Erica said that the Finance Committee includes the Board Chair, Vice Chair, and Treasurer. The Finance Committee reviews financials every month that includes CLEER's billable hours and other expenses.

Bruce suggested we start with the Chair Position and nominated Jason White as Chair.

Jason said he was flattered, and asked if there were any other nominations. There were none and Jason accepted the nomination saying he believed strongly in the organization.

Ben moved to nominate Ingrid for Vice-Chair. Ingrid shared that she would do her best to jump in as Vice Chair, but said she remained new to the Board and would defer to more senior board members interested in the position.

Ingrid then accepted the nomination and asked for a meeting with the previous Chair, Stuart, in order to get up to speed on GCE.

Bruce Leland volunteered to nominate himself as Board Secretary.

In sum, the 2021 Officers nominated: Jason White for Chair, Ingrid Wussow for Vice-Chair, Tom Jankovsky for Treasurer, and Bruce Leland as Secretary.

*Ben Bomfalk moved to approve the new Board Officers and Finance Committee for 2021, and Frank Coberly seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.*

### **Resolution No. 1 Place of Notice for Public Meetings**

Erica recommended that the Board move future January meetings to the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> week of January to allow additional time to prep following the holidays. Otherwise, Erica suggested keeping the times and meeting locations, and Place of Notice for the public the same. The Place of Notice is the GCE Website, with Carbondale Town Hall as a backup location.

*Bruce Leland moved to approve Resolution No.1, Place of Notice for Public Meetings, Ingrid Wussow seconded the motion.*

### **Confirm meeting schedule and locations for 2021**

Jason asked if the Board would plan to move back to rotating meetings between CMC Rifle and Glenwood Springs when social-distancing measures are relaxed and in-person meetings can resume.

Erica said she would defer to the Board on their choice for in-person versus virtual meetings.

Ben shared that we remain a large, spread out county that makes it difficult for everyone to travel long distances for meetings. He suggested we have some in-person meetings but keep the virtual meetings as the default.

Ingrid said that she supported Ben's idea and suggested potentially meeting in-person on a quarterly basis.

The entire Board supported the idea of primarily holding board meetings virtually with a few in-person meetings annually.

Sean noticed that there was a mistake in scheduling the May Board Meeting for May 7<sup>th</sup>, which is the first Friday in May, not the second. The Board agreed to move the May 7<sup>th</sup> meeting to May 14<sup>th</sup>.

*Ben Bohmfalk moved to approve the meeting locations and schedule for 2021 with the revision of moving the May meeting to the 14<sup>th</sup>, and Frank Coberly seconded the motion.*

### **Retain Karp, Neu, Hanlon for legal services**

Erica shared that she recommends retaining Karp, Neu, Hanlon for Legal Services as the firm's work is quite minimal and the organization has always been very supportive of GCE.

Ingrid asked if there was anything in bylaws that obligated GCE to review the contract for retainer on an annual basis. Erica said she would double check but was fairly certain this was not necessary as the contract remains below the number that would trigger a review.

*Bruce Leland moved to approve the retention of Karp Neu Hanlon for legal services, and Ingrid Wussow seconded the motion.*

### **Retain Balanced Bookkeeping for bookkeeping services**

*Bruce Leland moved to approve the retention of Balanced Bookkeeping, and JasonWhite seconded the motion.*

### **Draft 2021 Strategic Plan**

Erica shared that staff made some updates to the 2021 strategic plan, and that those changes have been highlighted in the packet.

Jason commended the team for all of the accomplishments during a very difficult year. Jason said that he would add some revisions to the transportation section offline from the RFTA's perspective.

Jason also suggested that given everything happening in the world, there has been a resurgence of and desire for local food production in Garfield County, so that maybe this should be included as a new area to support. The total quantity will pail in comparison to hay and commodities, but Jason still suggested adding local food production to scope of work since it can help reduce emissions from transportation, methane from food composting, etc.

Bruce supported this idea and suggested that he thinks local food-producers would be eager to take any support they could get from GCE.

Ingrid offered the general comment that we often don't know enough about what our neighbors are doing, an example being municipal building code. One of the ways we can promote community growth and integration is to come in front of town councils and share what neighboring municipalities are doing. This information sharing from CLEER between communities on best practices could provide great benefit to GCE members.

Bruce suggested that a first action item would be for each Board Member to write up a short report on recent activity and accomplishments from their respective organizations.

Under Goal # 4 (Sustainable funding for GCE), Jason suggested that he doesn't foresee farmers being able to become funding contributors, but that he revisited the idea of Holy Cross Energy potentially joining as a member of GCE. Jason reported he's received really positive initial feedback from Holy Cross about this idea. Jason floated the \$25,000 annual membership level and that seemed palatable for HCE. The next step is to set up a meeting between Jason, Erica, and Jenna Weatherred, Communications Director with Holy Cross Energy

Bruce suggested we might need to include a separate membership category for non-governmental organizations.

Sean asked if that would be a question for our legal counsel to examine.

Erica responded that yes, this would be something for legal counsel to look at. Erica asked if Holy Cross's potential membership should be an agenda item for the GCE March Board Meeting and the Board agreed.

In the interim, Erica will follow up with Karp, Neu, and Hanlon on the eligibility of Holy Cross joining, and Erica and Jason will schedule a meeting with Holy Cross Energy.

Erica asked if the group wanted to work more on the plan or adopt the plan.

Jason said he would entertain a motion to adopt the 2021 Plan today. Ingrid seconded the motion.

Jason asked if a motion could be approved with ability to make minor revisions regarding transit and transportation.

*Jason White moved to approve the 2021 Strategic Plan, with the ability to make minor revisions, and Ingrid Wussow seconded the motion.*

### **Program Updates:**

#### **Solar plus storage masterplan Mapping Site Demonstration**

Katharine provided a demonstration of the new mapping tool that is part of the deliverables for the DOLA grant and a key part of the Solar plus Storage Master plan.

Bruce asked if this mapping tool is accessible to GCE Board Members. Katharine responded, yes, login credentials will be provided for GCE members to access the tool.

She added that everyone must sign a Non-disclosure agreement to access the tool. This will ensure a layer of oversight and that solar developers benefiting from the tool will be tracked and accountable to pay NLR should information yielded from the tool lead to a project.

Ben commented that first, this is an amazing tool that is really laying the groundwork for the clean energy economy to accelerate. Ben then asked how solar developers will find out about the tool.

Katharine shared that team will share it to local solar developers and work with the Colorado Solar & Storage Association (COSSA) to promote it with the developers in their network.

Ben then asked how the contacting of landowners is being done. Katharine responded that the team is using NLR protocols to reach out to private landowners. This includes a two-pronged approach with a letter sent first, and then a phone call following. Then the landowner engages with NLR and either agrees to have their parcel highlighted for interest in development or excluded from the list.

For any parcels that are publicly owned (county or municipally owned), GCE asked NLR to hold off so CLEER can leverage GCE relationships to do that outreach.

Ben then asked how the impact of this project will be measured and tracked.

Katharine responded that another filter will be added to track projects in various stages from agreements in place, in construction, in completion, etc. Once projects come online

with Holy Cross, the CLEER team will be able to access this information via Holy Cross contacts, while Xcel's projects are public record.

Ben suggested that the more we can highlight this project, the better as it's a stellar example of a public private partnership leading to economic development in a rural county.

Jason commended team for the level of detail with this tool. He then asked about the possibility of showing these sites to the planning staff with the local governments. Katharine responded saying the team will be sure to do lots of outreach on the tool with local government staff, including the P&Zs.

Ingrid put forward the idea of using this tool as a learning resource for high school students. Katharine shared that everyone can submit intake form and the tool could be made accessible for student research.

Ben asked if Holy Cross Energy will have access to the tool since developers responding to HCE's RFP for community solar will have access to it. Katharine responded that HCE can also request access, they are considered a local stakeholder.

Erica shared that one of the big takeaways from the preliminary site identification and pre-qualification is that Garfield County is rich with solar resources. She thanked the board for trusting CLEER to go forward with NLR as this partnership allows for much more expansive scope than what was originally envisioned.

Ben emphasized there is a need to share the information that Garfield County has great solar potential. This is essential as the county transitions away from a fossil-fuel based economy and towards a clean energy economy and he thought it should be powerful for persuading the general public to think differently about renewable resources, in addition to just the landowners who benefit financially from solar-lease payments.

Bruce suggested a big presentation at the Garfield County Commissioners with local press and press out of Denver invited as well.

Ingrid asked if there has any negative feedback from landowners that were contacted. Katharine and Erica shared that they had not heard about any locally.

Erica shared that she would get login credentials for all board members to access the tool.

### **DOLA Implementation Grant Opportunity**

DOLA posted an update on the Renewable Energy Challenge Grant, which could provide funding for specific renewable projects. September 3<sup>rd</sup> is the deadline and Erica proposed looking for projects in early summer to apply for September.

### **4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2020 Report**

Jason asked if there would be any value in doing a quarter page ad in the paper every quarter to promote GCE accomplishments. Erica responded that she would talk to Dave, the communications director, on how best to distribute that information.

Jason shared that RFTA does a planning report for the RFTA Board, and GCE's quarterly report would be a great addendum to that larger RFTA report.

### **Upcoming Events & Workshops**

#### **Air Source Heat Pump workshops**

Erica shared this webinar series is being made possible via a partnership with Walking Mountains Sustainability in Eagle. The first webinar in the series was very well attended with great feedback received.

#### **Solarize Garfield County**

Erica shared that Maisa is in charge of this project. The program is similar to the EV Sales Event where in exchange for marketing and lead generation, customers will be able to get a discount on solar. The team should be getting proposals from solar companies that want to be the preferred installation partner by the end of this month.

Interested homeowners will then get a streamlined solar assessment, a home energy efficiency assessment, and can then get in the que for solar PV installation. This type of program has been done in several other Colorado counties. Solar Energy International has the program template and support materials so GCE doesn't have to build them for scratch.

### **Adjournment**

*Frank Coberly moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:24 p.m.; Bruce Leland seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.*

### GARFIELD CLEAN ENERGY COLLABORATIVE

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jason White, Chairperson

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Bruce Leland, Secretary

These minutes were reviewed and approved by a vote of the Garfield Clean Energy Board of Directors at its meeting held on March 12, 2021.