



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,9th 2020, 1:00 p.m.**

Conference Call

### **Board members attending**

RFTA: Chair, Jason White  
Town of New Castle: Secretary, Bruce Leland  
City of Glenwood Springs: Vice-Chair, Ingrid Wussow  
CMC: Jarod Kochevar, Sean Nesbitt  
Town of Carbondale: Lani Kitching  
Garfield County: Treasurer, Tom Jankovsky  
Frank Coberly

### **Others attending**

CLEER: Erica Sparhawk, Stefan Johnson

### **Board members not present**

Town of Silt: Keith Richel  
City of Rifle: TBD  
Town of Parachute: Stuart McArthur  
Town of Carbondale: Ben Bohmfalk

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

Jason called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm

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

Bruce conducted roll call.

Jason invited changes to the agenda, there were none.

*Frank Coberly 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.

Bruce said that New Castle looked into the Rural Energy Savings Program that Maisa had shared and their treasurer determined that the amount of staff-time required would not make sense given the savings and loan potential. Erica commented that the Town of Carbondale came to a similar conclusion.

Ingrid said that because the City of Glenwood is doing broadband, the program might make more sense for them. Erica added that it also might be good for Glenwood since they are a municipal utility.

### **Consent Agenda:**

#### **Approval of May 14th, 2021 minutes**

#### **May & June Financials**

Tom asked for clarification about the amount in the credit reserve expenses. Erica responded by explaining that the rebates for the Solarize Garfield County program. Erica added that number will grow as more rebates are allocated and distributed out.

Erica said she would talk to Balanced Bookkeeping and update the line-item accordingly.

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

### **2020 Financial Review:**

Erica explained the process of the financial review and how she and Balanced Bookkeeping provided the information for the review. She shared that she felt it was a well-done review and it articulated some of the impacts due to the pandemic. This is the first time there have been Department of Energy funds sitting in the GCE account, so that needed to be explained and included in the financial review.

Tom said it sounded pretty straightforward on the financial side and if anyone wants to know the story on GCE they would just need to read the narrative. Tom added it appeared to be a good Financial Review.

Jason echoed Tom commenting he thought it was a good financial review.

Ingrid asked if Erica had a good experience using this firm McMahan and Associates for financial review. Erica added that it was a good process and they have done the GCE financial review for the previous 4 years but that they have new staff do it each time to ensure integrity.

*Tom Jankovsky moved to approve the 2020 Financial Review, and Ingrid Wussow seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.*

### **Program Updates:**

#### **Quarterly Report: Solarize Program and Rebate Update**

Erica reported that enrollments for Solarize ended on July 1<sup>st</sup>. At the May meeting, the Board had approved additional DOE funding to go towards additional solar rebates for an a total 45 rebates and this amount worked almost perfectly in meeting demand from customers who didn't have access to other rebates.

In total, there were 107 systems sold through the program. Erica reminded the Board that the initial goal was 40 systems sold, so the overall results are pretty remarkable. Erica added that they changed the quarterly report to highlight solar, but those Solar site-visits also led to many other home energy assessments for other energy efficiency projects.

Erica also shared that the team is working with many commercial businesses and have several walkthroughs scheduled, mostly in Glenwood.

Erica added that CLEER's campaign to promote cycling, "Bike There," got lots of press. There were events in every GCE Community and an Expo in Glenwood at the end of June.

Jason commented that the Quarterly Report looked great and shared he spent some time working with CLEER's Zuleika and commended her for her dedication working with all her communities during weekends. Jason added that the group found success being able to compensate locals in each community to help with organization of the various events.

Erica shared that the framework for the program was created this year with multiple events happening in each location. This should be easier to do in future years now that we have that framework and a number of passionate locals in each community to help with implementation.

### **Action Items:**

#### **DOLA Renewable Energy Planning Grant update (Erica)**

Erica reminded the Board that some of the key findings from the DOLA project had been shared at the May Board Meeting. Erica used a slide deck to walk the Board through this refresher and update on the DOLA Project.

Erica then walked through the Action Plan part of the study, which had also been included in the packet. She stated she would be sending out the Action Plan along with a feedback form for the board to review, but asked if there were any initial questions.

Tom commented that it would be great to update the county's older energy inventory maps with this new information. He also suggested there may need to be some code review with Sheryl Bower to determine any updates that might be needed for solar development. These included determining whether solar is Use by Right and reviewing development code.

Jason suggested that it could be helpful for each community to report on where they are all at in terms of updating their comprehensive plans to maximize the opportunity to include information and suggestions from the DOLA Report.

Erica also talked about the Energy Inventory that was included in the packet and how it informed the study but is also a stand-alone document.

Jason acknowledged that Transportation had not been included in the Regional Inventory, but there could be some upcoming opportunities to make progress on this sector, that is now the highest emitting in the State.

RFTA recently had a Planning Retreat at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Center in Carbondale, and RFTA's role in the regional climate picture was one of the topics discussed. Jason spoke on behalf of RFTA's participation as a member of GCE and added that the RFTA staff will be working on a regional Climate Action Plan. There is broad awareness that RFTA's existence is inherently "green" because it is helping reduce vehicle miles traveled in single occupancy vehicles, but RFTA is still going above and beyond to look at on-site solar for RFTA facilities and procuring battery electric buses. Jason suggested that it could make sense to add some Transportation Energy Inventory work to GCE's scope of work for 2022 and that RFTA would have some useful resources to help in this effort.

Erica added that the Action Plan is coming at a great time – she noted that she had just forwarded an email to the Board directly related to implementation because it is DOLA and CEO asking for input on clean energy funding for local governments.

DOLA will be doing a series of calls corresponding to each DOLA region, and it could be a great opportunity for GCE to listen, weigh in, and figure out how to try and give Garfield County the best chance of receiving some of those funds.

Tom asked Erica to represent GCE at one of these listening session and added that he would love some of the funding to end up in Garfield County for solar, electric vehicles, energy efficiency, and possibly other line-items.

Ingrid seconded the idea for Erica to attend the DOLA sessions on behalf of GCE.

Erica said she will ask about the deadline for submitting written comments.

*Bruce Leland moved for Jason & Ingrid to send written comments to DOLA for the Clean Energy Listening sessions. Lani Kitching seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

Erica added that they are trying to stay on top of all the funding opportunities that align with DOLA implementation and action steps.

Tom said it would be important to think about which GCE entities own land that would allow for implementation of DOLA funded projects.

### **Strategic Planning Session**

Erica shared usually there is a longer session annually in September for Strategic Planning. Erica asked the board how they felt about having an in-person session to work on strategic planning and adding Holy Cross as an affiliate board member. She also said it would be great to invite Stuart to attend the meeting and celebrate his time as the Chair of GCE.

Jason asked when and how budget has to be completed.

Erica responded that a draft budget review is due October 15<sup>th</sup>, so they normally have completed that in September. Erica added that in the past they have passed supplemental budgets for the existing calendar year in December.

Bruce shared he would like to be able to meet in-person at roundtables so everyone can see each other and make eye contact.

Erica suggested Morgridge Commons in Glenwood or the Community Center in New Castle as possible meeting locations.

Tom supported the idea of meeting in-person.

Lani offered that she recommended meeting in person with a light lunch since the format worked really well back in 2019 when the last one was hosted. As a tentative plan, the Board reached consensus on hosting the session on Friday, September 10<sup>th</sup> from 12-3pm, with the first hour reserved for lunch. The group agreed the session wouldn't be an entire strategic planning exercise from the ground up, but would build on conversation surrounding the Action Plan from the DOLA Grant.

### **Miscellaneous**

Sean shared that Colorado Parks and Wildlife had provided comments on the CMC Solar Project's impacts on deer and elk habitat. He added that CMC would be responsible for conserving acres elsewhere to offset development. This could be a big consideration for other projects and could amount to hundreds if not thousands of acres.

Sean added that CMC would be going before the Board of County Commissioners for final approval on the following Monday to begin construction of the solar project at CMC Spring Valley.

### **Affiliate Membership**

Erica explained that at May meeting, Board asked for a description of affiliate membership dues, benefits, responsibilities. She requested that that item be moved to a September discussion.

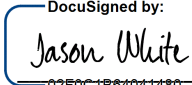
Jason suggested that once we have this framework, GCE can invite other affiliate members.

Tom requested that we discuss whether affiliate membership will be open to for-profit entities.

**Adjournment**

*Lani Kitching moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:32 p.m.; Tom Jankovsky 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 September 10, 2021.