



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, March, 11th 2022, 1:00 p.m. (Virtual)

Board members attending

RFTA: Chair, Jason White
City of Glenwood Springs: Vice Chair, Ingrid Wussow
Town of New Castle: Secretary, Bruce Leland
CMC: Sean Nesbitt and Jarrod Kochevar (Alternate)
Garfield County: Tom Jankovsky and Frank Coberly (Alternate)
Town of Carbondale: Ben Bohmfalk

Others attending

CLEER: Alice Laird, Maisa Metcalf, Stefan Johnson, Zach Benevento-Zahner, and Erica Sparhawk

Board members not present

City of Rifle: TBD
Town of Silt: Keith Richel
Town of Parachute: Mark King

Affiliate members not present

Holy Cross Energy: Jenna Weatherred

Call meeting to order:

Jason White called the meeting to order at 1:01 pm.

Roll Call and Approval of agenda:

Bruce Leland conducted roll call.

Jason White invited changes to the agenda; there were none.

Ben Bohmfalk moved to approve the meeting agenda, Ingrid Wussow seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Board Member and Public comment:

Jason White invited comments from the Board and Public.

Ingrid thanked Erica & Maisa for giving an excellent, comprehensive presentation to the Garfield County Board of County Commissioners on GCE's plans for the rest of the year.

Consent Agenda:

January 14th, 2022 minutes

January & February Financials

Erica said GCE was close to receiving all the paid-off loans in the revolving loan fund. However, she added that it would be wise to repurpose the remainder of the funding, totaling \$117,000. The last time a request for repurposing the revolving loan funds was made, the Department of Energy (DOE) took around six months to approve the request.

Tom said it would be good to get this request underway, given the long lead time required.

Jason conducted a virtual thumbs up for the CLEER team to proceed on requesting repurposing the funds.

Bruce Leland moved to approve the Consent Agenda, Ingrid Wussow seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Financial Review:

Tom wanted to assure there would still be a Financial Review, even with the exemption from an audit.

Erica confirmed that there will still be a financial review.

Tom moved to approve Resolution No.2: Exemption from Audit for Fiscal Year 2021, Ingrid Wussow seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Program Action Items & Updates:

ReEnergize Program Update

Maisa told the Board that the ReEnergize Program had gotten a great start. The CLEER team launched the program with in-person meetings at library branches across Garfield County. So far, the team has received 54 applications, and lots of local media outlets have published stories about the program.

Jason thanked Maisa for including all media stories on ReEnergize in the packet.

Ben said many municipalities could learn from and follow CLEER's successful outreach strategies.

Ingrid said the demographics being served by the ReEnergize program align well with GCE's strategic priorities.

Charge Ahead grant update

Stefan reminded GCE Members that the next grant window for funding for EV Charging stations will open sometime in May or June and that he would be happy to work with any GCE members or businesses in Garfield County to apply.

Jason asked if the grant amount of \$9,000 per dual-port Level II charging station was the same as it had been previously. Stefan responded, yes, the incentive amount remains the same.

Navigator replacement options update

Erica gave a presentation on transitioning GCE Building data software. Tracking energy data has been central to GCE's work over the years. Unfortunately, the Building Energy Navigator tool has become clunky and outdated since it was developed without software updates. The team and Mike Ogburn spent lots of time researching companies that would update the software while still offering all of the features of the Navigator platform.

After evaluating many options, the team has identified EnergyCAP as the best partner to update our Building Energy tracking.

Ben asked how the tool and dashboard generate actionable insights to help GCE partners reduce energy bills and how often the existing Navigator tool generates those insights.

Erica said the CLEER team hasn't had the bandwidth to review all GCE Navigator data weekly and it is extremely time-consuming. One great feature of EnergyCAP is that it creates automated alerts when there are data irregularities, significantly reducing staff time necessary to catch possible issues and increasing the usefulness to staff and GCE members.

Sean said that Erica meets with the CMC facilities team twice a year to deep dive into the data to identify significant issues. In addition, CMC's facility manager uses it regularly for monitoring and troubleshooting purposes.

Erica went over the costs associated with the new system.

Tom asked where the estimated savings would come from.

Erica said switching to EnergyCAP's software would improve the existing system and create more alerts to possible savings opportunities thanks to the automated alerts from data irregularities.

Jason said this new program would be super helpful from an RFTA perspective because it would reduce staff time on bill gap issues.

Ben asked if the other organizations outside of GCE, such as the School District, would be eligible to be included in the offerings from EnergyCAP.

Erica said it would be a good idea to approach the School Districts, Fire Districts, and Library District about their interest in joining in with GCE members to use EnergyCAP's platform.

Bruce asked for New Castle's Department of Public Works to participate in the demo of the EnergyCAP platform. Frank and Jason also requested to be included in the demo.

Tom Jankovsky moved to approve a supplemental budget increase to use the \$35,000 from Repurposed DOE funding to move forward on Energy Navigator transition with NET and EnergyCAP, Ben Bohmfalk seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Rural Energy Pilot Program

Zach presented on the Rural Energy Pilot Program, a USDA grant to fund renewable energy projects in rural regions. The maximum grant award is \$2 million. The CLEER team believes GCE could be an excellent fit for the grant opportunity. 80% of the grant funding can implement and deploy community-wide clean energy, while 20% can go towards planning & capacity building. There is a 20% match requirement. The Letter of Intent is due April 19th, and if selected to move forward, the entire application would be due on July 18th.

Jason asked who the grant's fiscal agent would be and if non-profits are eligible to apply.

Alice said that GCE is a government entity, and therefore it would be best to have GCE as the lead applicant.

Tom asked about possible sources for matching funds.

Zach said the team is researching possibilities that include state funding, other federal grants, and in-kind contributions.

Sean asked how the resulting community-scale solar garden could serve LMI households.

Tom asked who would technically own the resulting solar garden and said it would be a significant change in direction for GCE to become an asset-owning and managing entity.

Jason said that the Solar + Storage Plan that this USDA grant would be building off of was a tri-county effort, so it's worth asking if and how Pitkin and Eagle would be involved.

Alice said that while there are many current unknowns about the USDA grant opportunity, it seems like an excellent opportunity to explore.

Ingrid and Tom said they were supportive of a Letter of Intent. However, they noted the CLEER team would need to get more specific on the ask and asked that all GCE Board Members be in the loop regarding the process and to be able to review the Letter of Intent before submission.

Bruce moved to approve CLEER staff proceeding with Letter of Intent for USDA grant while keeping GCE Board Members looped in on the concepts and sharing the LOI before submission, Ben seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Xcel Energy Partners in Energy Plan Update

Maissa said Xcel and Brendle Group have agreed to work with the CLEER team to update the 2017 Garfield County Clean Energy Plan.

Upcoming Events

Maissa suggested having the next GCE Board meeting after touring the new solar array at CMC on May 13th.

All GCE Board Members thought it was a great idea and agreed to move forward with the concept, with coordinated carpooling to reduce transportation energy.

Future Agenda Items:

Maissa said that several board members had previously mentioned that it would be beneficial to have strategic planning start earlier in the year, so the CLEER team is proposing to start strategic planning in May.

Alice said it would be great to have a strategic planning session that asks the big questions about where GCE is headed and is separate from and before the budget discussion. GCE's budget has stayed roughly the same for almost a decade while the programs and external world have changed so much, so having a strategic planning session that can guide the budget discussion would be welcome.

Jason said he remembered Alice raising the issues of capacity, resources, and affordable housing for CLEER staff at the 2021 Strategic Planning sessions, so it would be great to talk more about those issues.

Ben said he loved the idea of planning early, meeting in-person and being inspired at a GCE member project site, and the ability to zoom out and think about the big picture.

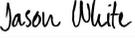
Glenwood Maintenance Facility

Jason said that he might be seeking a GCE Letter of Support for a grant proposal that RFTA is working on jointly with CDOT to turn the Glenwood Maintenance Facility into a Regional Transit Center. Jason said he would share the Letter of Support when it is ready, likely before May's GCE Board Meeting.

Adjournment

Ingrid Wussow moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:41 p.m.; Ben Bohmfalk seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

GARFIELD CLEAN ENERGY COLLABORATIVE

By: DocuSigned by:

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Jason White, Chairperson

ATTEST: DocuSigned by:

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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 May 13th, 2022.