



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 | Holy Cross Energy

Board Meeting Minutes: Friday, October 14th, 2022, 1:00 p.m.

Board members attending

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

Board members not present

Town of Parachute: Travis Elliot
City of Rifle: Sean Strode
Town of Silt: Keith Richel

Affiliate members present

Holy Cross Energy Jenna Wetherred

Others attending

CLEER: Alice Laird, Heidi McCullough, Zuleika Pevec, Christina Matzl
Xcel Energy Brad McCloud
Partners in Energy Lynn Jemison via Zoom

Call meeting to order:

Jason White called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Roll Call and Approval of agenda:

Jason White conducted the roll call.

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

Jason asked for a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Ingrid Wusso made a motion, seconded by Frank Coberly, and the motion passed unanimously.

Board Member and Public comment:

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

Consent Agenda:

Ingrid Wussow made a motion to approve the July 2022 minutes, seconded by Frank Coberly and the motion passed unanimously.

Garfield Clean Energy Financial Review document

Alice relayed that Financial Review is completed every year by McMahon and Associates, and the document was shared with the GCE Finance Committee in advance of the meeting for their review. The Board votes on "accepting" the document rather than approving it, and then it is stored on the GCE website.

Ingrid Wusso made a motion to accept the 2021 Financial review, seconded by Ben Bohmfalk; the motion passed unanimously.

Presentation on Garfield Clean Energy plan update, discussion of GCE Goals and Strategies

Brad McCloud, Xcel Energy Area Manager, provided background on Xcel Energy Partners in Energy. Alice relayed that GCE worked with the Partners in Energy (PIE) Program in 2017 to create a countywide energy action plan that has been guiding GCE work. GCE is one of the first PIE projects to do a plan update, and is also one of the few participants that take a regional approach.

Christina Matzl provided background on how the community energy planning team had been recruited through newspaper articles, PSA's, eblasts, and outreach to chambers of commerce, Colorado Mountain College and local networks. About 40 people participated in three energy planning workshops. An additional online data session was also held to go over data questions. Christina shared that the draft energy plan goals and strategies were summarized in a newspaper insert with a link to a survey and there were 55 responses to the online survey.

Lynn Jemison with Xcel Energy Partners in Energy presented data on energy use and trends in Garfield County and measurable results so far in Garfield County on energy use, renewable energy, and growth in electric vehicles. (Slides from the meeting attached to these minutes for the record.) Lynn and Christina presented on the goals and strategies.

Alice Laird shared that the vision and mission statements were approved at the previous GCE Board meeting, and that the planning team was looking for feedback on the goals and strategies.

Jason White suggested that the goals be approved and shared the concept that GCE partner jurisdictions might each focus on one goal that is especially important to that entity, and for example, RFTA could focus on the mobility goal.

Ingrid Wussow stated enthusiastic support for the goals and suggested that all jurisdictions could adopt these goals for their communities as well.

Ben Bohmfalk stated that he was strongly supportive of the goals and found them really useful, and suggested that GCE board meetings be guided by the goals. He stated it would be useful to have topics on each agenda that relate directly to the status of the goals and work/ programs that help reach the goals. Ben stated that he supports the idea of each jurisdiction adopting the goals and will work for Carbondale adoption. Ben asked if GCE board members could all share what they think of the goals and whether the GCE board was comfortable taking action at the meeting to approve the goals and strategies.

Ingrid agreed that every agenda for GCE meetings include topics directly related to the goals, and provide ongoing tracking around the goals.

Jenna Wetherred share that Goal #1(Energy Savings) is very ambitious and knows that would be a stretch goal for HCE but that is ok as long as the board understands the goal is hard to reach. She also expressed that it seemed like the goals seem to be letting the gas industry and gas providers "off the hook" in light of what the electricity providers are doing to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. She also shared that it would be good to add ways that goal #5 can have quantifiable targets and measures of progress.

Bruce Leland shared that he is strongly supportive of the goals. He expressed appreciation for the citizens that were involved in the effort and asked that staff relay to planning group participants that the GCE board says thank you for all their work.

Ben Bohmfalk made a motion to approve the GCE energy plan goals, focus areas, and strategies. Frank Coberly seconded the motion with a comment that he has grandchildren and feels that it is essential we take action, and that these goals provide a great framework for GCE to stand for positive change. Jerrod Kochevar also stated strong support, and that the goals are in line with CMC overall goals.

The motion passed unanimously.

Alice shared that the planning team will turn the goals and strategies into the overall plan document and bring the full plan back for approval. Brendle Group and the team will take several strategy areas and analyze what level of investment and funding is needed to reach the goal on an annual basis. The goal is to turn the plan into annual work plans that have corresponding levels of funding and to seek outside additional funding to help reach the goals.

Program Updates:

CLEER staffer Zuleika Pevec reported on the GCE ReEnergize program, which was made possible with the \$150,000 grant from Garfield County. Working in partnership with Northwest Colorado Council of Governments, ReEnergize has directly helped over 50 households. The Garfield funding has leveraged at least \$100,000 in additional funding from the Glenwood Springs Electric Low-to Moderate Income rebate funds, plus the

statewide CARE and federal Weatherization Assistance Programs. (Handout shared at meeting attached to the minutes.)

CLEER staffer Heidi McCullough reported on ongoing technical assistance provided for the commercial energy sector and highlighted ongoing assistance provided to Habitat for Humanity Affordable Housing projects. GCE is helping affordable housing projects in Rifle, Glenwood Springs, and potentially a Carbondale project. Heidi also reported on ongoing building energy efficiency and electrification projects in GCE member communities.

CLEER staffer Christina Matzl reported on the transition from Building Energy Navigator to EnergyCap. Christina shared the project has involved transferring data from 44 utility accounts at over 228 sites and moving them to the new platform, as well as filling in numerous data gaps that had built up over the last several years. The project is in its final stages but has been challenging. Christina shared that dashboards are being set up for each GCE partner, and she has begun reaching out to set up trainings on the new system.

Discussion of Draft 2023 Budget

Alice Laird distributed a handout of the draft 2023 budget that was included in the packet. She relayed that the finance committee advised on proposed 2023 GCE funding amounts for GCE partners, and that funding requests and GCE update memos were delivered to GCE partners in August, and presentations to those boards that wanted in-person presentations were being made.

Ingrid Wussow shared that the finance committee had looked at GCE funding trends and that during COVID various GCE member contributions had actually decreased below amounts included when GCE first started over ten years ago. She pointed out that to ensure GCE continues to deliver strong programs and implement the updated goals, GCE members should increase what they are contributing, and also plan on a small increase every year to keep the budget and funding up to date.

Frank Coberly shared that Commissioner Tom Jakovsky had requested an increase from Garfield County be included in the 2023 budget. Ingrid Wussow relayed that the City of Glenwood Springs had included an increase for GCE in their first budget reading. Ben Bohmfalk shared that implementing the updated GCE goals requires additional investment and that Carbondale is including an increase in their 2023 budget.

Alice shared that ideally the GCE goals and strategies will be analyzed for what level of investment is required to meet the goal and each annual budget will work to make annual progress.

Ingrid asked GCE board members to confirm the amounts they are including in their 2023 budget for the final budget approval at the next GCE meeting.

Adjournment

Ben Bohmfalk moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:48 p.m.; Ingrid Wussow seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

statewide CARE and federal Weatherization Assistance Programs. (Handout shared at meeting attached to the minutes.)

CLEER staffer Heidi McCullough reported on ongoing technical assistance provided for the commercial energy sector and highlighted ongoing assistance provided to Habitat for Humanity Affordable Housing projects. GCE is helping affordable housing projects in Rifle, Glenwood Springs, and potentially a Carbondale project. Heidi also reported on ongoing building energy efficiency and electrification projects in GCE member communities.

CLEER staffer Christina Matzl reported on the transition from Building Energy Navigator to EnergyCap. Christina shared the project has involved transferring data from 44 utility accounts at over 228 sites and moving them to the new platform, as well as filling in numerous data gaps that had built up over the last several years. The project is in its final stages but has been challenging. Christina shared that dashboards are being set up for each GCE partner, and she has begun reaching out to set up trainings on the new system.

Discussion of Draft 2023 Budget

Alice Laird distributed a handout of the draft 2023 budget that was included in the packet. She relayed that the finance committee advised on proposed 2023 GCE funding amounts for GCE partners, and that funding requests and GCE update memos were delivered to GCE partners in August, and presentations to those boards that wanted in-person presentations were being made.

Ingrid Wussow shared that the finance committee had looked at GCE funding trends and that during COVID various GCE member contributions had actually decreased below amounts included when GCE first started over ten years ago. She pointed out that to ensure GCE continues to deliver strong programs and implement the updated goals, GCE members should increase what they are contributing, and also plan on a small increase every year to keep the budget and funding up to date.

Frank Coberly shared that Commissioner Tom Jakovsky had requested an increase from Garfield County be included in the 2023 budget. Ingrid Wussow relayed that the City of Glenwood Springs had included an increase for GCE in their first budget reading. Ben Bohmfalk shared that implementing the updated GCE goals requires additional investment and that Carbondale is including an increase in their 2023 budget.

Alice shared that ideally the GCE goals and strategies will be analyzed for what level of investment is required to meet the goal and each annual budget will work to make annual progress.

Ingrid asked GCE board members to confirm the amounts they are including in their 2023 budget for the final budget approval at the next GCE meeting.

Adjournment

Ben Bohmfalk moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:48 p.m.; Ingrid Wussow seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.