



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, September 8, 1 p.m.**

Morgridge Commons, with some members attending virtually

Minutes taken by Christina Matzl, CLEER

**Board members attending**

CMC: Sean Nesbitt  
RFTA: Chair, Jason White  
City of Rifle: Sean Strode  
Town of Carbondale: Ben Bohmfalk  
City of Glenwood Springs: Vice Chair, Ingrid Wussow (virtual)

**Board members not present**

Town of Silt: Keith Richel  
Garfield County: Treasurer, Tom Jankovsky  
Town of New Castle: Secretary, Bruce Leland  
Town of Parachute: Travis Elliot

**Affiliate members present**

Holy Cross: Jenna Weatherred

**Others attending**

CLEER: Morgan Hill, Christina Matzl

**Call meeting to order:**

Jason White called the meeting to order at 1:11 pm  
Ingrid joined at 2:17, making a quorum

**Roll Call:**

Jason conducted the roll call.

**Board Member and Public comment:**

- None

**Consent Agenda:**

**Approval of July 15th, 2023 minutes**

*Sean moved to approve the minutes, Ben seconded the motion. All in favor. (Consent approved at 2:17 after Ingrid arrived to make a quorum)*

**July and August Financials**

*No motion to approve the July and August financials*

- Jason White initiated a discussion about the GCE budget status.
  - The August invoice was larger than usual due to the beginning of the ReEnergize rebates being paid out for work completed. There are a few lines that are over what

would seem normal, but will review with the financial committee moving funds from underused line items to cover. CLEER has no concerns about the overall budget.

- Morgan provided an update on the Financial Review process. All paperwork has been submitted to the State for the Audit Exemption Request, but the State has not notified her about the exempt status yet.

### **Action items**

#### **Goal #1: Energy Savings**

##### **Growing Residential Energy Savings funding (Morgan Hill)**

- Update on Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG)
  - Garfield County's grant total through the funding formula is \$77,080.
  - Morgan assisted in submitting the pre-award information sheet with Bentley Henderson, Garfield County's Deputy County Manager, and will be helping to complete the energy efficiency strategy application. The plan is that the funds will be used for expanding the rebate program. Morgan noted that this is different from the EECBG application submitted by Energy Smart CO, which GCE signed a letter of support for. That grant will be funds for a multi-county energy efficiency project organized by Energy Smart.
- Energizing Rural Communities Prize
  - This prize, which we learned was awarded to CLEER during the previous board meeting, will be used to research and develop dedicated funding for GCE and other organizations like GCE. CLEER partnered with Energy Smart CO and SWEEP. This award will focus on policy and state-level funding that can be a sustainable funding source for rebates.

##### **Advanced Energy Management (AEM) (Christina Matzl)**

- Labor Day Energy Savings event
  - Christina shared the results of the Labor Day energy savings event. Top energy savers over the holiday weekend were:
    - Garfield County Glenwood Administration building
    - Third Street Center
    - Garfield County Rifle Administration building
    - CMC District Office
    - CMC's Calaway building
  - Savings were a cumulative 621 kWh when compared to last year. The GarCO health and human services building, Carbondale Town Hall, and Glenwood City Hall buildings all used more energy when compared to last year. CLEER is preparing a report to send to the facility managers to share the results as well. A few buildings that were not specifically asked to participate due to various reasons did reduce their use over the holiday as well. These buildings included the RFTA buildings, the Sheriff's Office, Parachute Town Hall, Carbondale wastewater treatment, and Glenwood Red Mountain water treatment. The extra buildings saved 2818 kWh over last year, equating to nearly \$400 saved across all the buildings that saved energy.
  - Note that Rifle buildings are under verification and were not included in the analysis.

##### **ReEnergize (Christina Matzl)**

- Review and program update
  - Christina reviewed the updated numbers for allocation of funds across the County. Sean Strode asked about the differences in area median income (AMI) percentages.

Christina explained that the 150% AMI maximum income for a family of four is \$148,000 annually. She explained that the numbers look like we have over-allocated funds, but that is in response to many projects not needing to use the whole amount the household qualified for. This may result in us being able to move homes out of the waitlist and serve more households.

### **Energy Code outreach and updates (Morgan Hill)**

- September 14th IECC training
  - GCE partnered with Hope Medina from Shums Coda and Xcel Energy in Rifle on Thursday, September 14th. The training has 35 registrations, which is more than was originally anticipated. It will involve a 2-hour training session and a 2-hour on-site visit and training to the Wapiti Commons, which is so far the only building being built to the 2021 code and planned to be net zero. Ben commented that the new teacher housing being built by the RFSD is planned to the 2021 code as well, so would be a good candidate for a later training as well.
- Staff are applying for the Colorado Energy Office's Energy Code Adoption and Enforcement grant on behalf of GCE.

### **Fall marketing campaign (Morgan Hill)**

- Home energy efficiency workshops planned in Rifle, GWS, Carbondale
  - Fall energy efficiency campaign for GCE. We have received funding from Holy Cross, Glenwood Springs Electric, Xcel Energy, and Alpine Bank. Funds total \$19,000 for time and materials to run the campaign. We will be running two home energy efficiency workshops at the Glenwood and Rifle branch libraries. The focus will be on contacting the energy coaches and scheduling home energy assessments. For outreach, we will be using eblasts, radio interviews, posters, and newspaper coverage. There will be a commercial efficiency component to the campaign but will be using different channels, including the chambers.
  - Jason asked about Carbondale's Home Energy Score program. This is a part of the separate contract CLEER has with Carbondale and is a pilot program to incentivize and reach homeowners as a part of Cabondale's Path to Net Zero.

### **Goal #3: Clean mobility**

#### **Clean Mobility Summit (Morgan Hill)**

- Three Rivers Clean Mobility Summit - Sept 21st at Glenwood Springs Rec Center
  - This summit is in partnership with Eagle and Pitkin counties. Will Toor is presenting. There is a morning session on electrification and an afternoon session on mode share/multi-modal transportation/transit. The summit will be celebrating regional accomplishments. Ben Bomfalk is speaking on a panel in the afternoon session.

#### **Electrification (Morgan Hill)**

- EV Readiness Plan Status
  - This plan is a part of our partnership with Partners in Energy and Xcel Energy. The second EV readiness Plan workshop will be held on October 31st.
  - There are four strategic areas for EVs and these workshops:
    - code and policy
    - fleets
    - infrastructure
    - access
- DERA program update
  - Diesel Emissions and Reduction Act is a program CLEER works on with the Colorado

Energy Office. CLEER manages the off-road vehicle portion of the state program. The program has already had positive effects in Garfield County. It helped Holy Cross to replace a diesel bucket truck with a hybrid version. The team has been in contact with Trinity Recycling among other local businesses considering equipment replacement. We are seeing some trouble in uptake due to the requirement of the program to scrap the old vehicle. This is required to actually remove the vehicle's emissions.

### **Goal #5: Economic development, jobs, and economic transitions**

- **July 28 Roundtable update (Morgan Hill)**
  - Alice is engaged with CMC on the potential for workforce curriculum. She has been in conversations with Jenna F. from Sen. Hickenlooper's office, Aspen City staff, and CORE staff. These conversations are in an effort to get a better understanding of where other areas are at with this goal.
  - Alice is also in talks with Kevin Hillmer-Pegram, CMC Sustainability Studies Professor, about the potential for a green workforce certificate at CMC.
  - Alice is talking with State representatives about funds primarily for coal workers and communities and looking at focusing those on oil and gas workers as well.

### **2024 Budget and strategic planning**

#### **Draft budget update**

#### **Member funding requests**

- Discussion about budget requests or annual meeting presentations, Ben encouraged all partners to request a presentation even if not necessary for approval. The presentations that are not necessary for funding could be after budget season as well.

#### **Open discussion on 2024 priorities and strategies**

Seeking input from GCE members on "what should GCE be focusing on next year?"

- Residential energy savings:
  - Home auditors and the funding disparity between Garfield County projects and those in the surrounding counties. Garfield County jobs are paid less, so auditors do not perform as many here. Zuleika wants to look at a \$50 rebate from GCE for HEAs in Garfield County to offset this disparity and not affect the Garfield County residents who also don't make as much as residents from other counties. Another option includes CLEER becoming a certified contractor with Xcel and performing assessments at a lower cost as well.
  - Residential contractor certification. Interest in incentives to verify a contractor's ability to perform projects like heat pumps so that residents could know a contractor's qualifications in advance. To further support GarCo workforce and residents versus Pitkin County, where they know they can get paid more. Sean commented about on-the-job training potential as a response to workforce issues and as an alternative to lengthy schooling. Ingrid proposed joining with Habitat in support of Goal 5.
- Commercial energy savings:
  - State benchmarking requirements and the needs of Garfield County businesses in coming into compliance. Garfield County is behind, only 13 buildings out of 40 are in compliance. CLEER could help with this as a part of the GCE scope of work.
  - Commercial energy savings: solar production on large buildings like Lowes/Meadows, and the Rifle Walmart.

- Membership and funding:

- Consider approaching Habitat about GCE affiliate membership. There was a discussion to plan to collaborate with Ingrid and meet with Gail Schwartz.
- Update to the funding formula for the sustainability of budget season and alleviating some of CLEER's time. Suggesting to create a formula that all partners can agree on for annual increase and predictability. Sean Strode expressed that there is variability in political leaders and because of this, for Rifle, he cannot guarantee consistency. Jason noted the difference in RFTA setup vs. municipal structure. A lot of support is based on community perception.
- Jason proposed looking for a more dedicated funding like a "state pot", similar to the structure of a clean energy district, considering State level support for organizational sustainability.
- Ben asked about the Solar Plus Storage study and how it was being utilized. He proposed that it become more of a priority. He would also like to revisit and expand the e-bike program.

Jason brought up that RFTA is looking into a pilot study with CMC regarding an EcoPass pilot for College employees and students in Garfield County. He is considering how GCE can support or expand on the program.

**Adjournment**

*Jason adjourned the meeting at 3:05. No motion because Sean Strode had to leave early and there was no longer a quorum.*

GARFIELD CLEAN ENERGY COLLABORATIVE

By:   
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Jason White, Chairperson

ATTEST:   
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Bruce Leland, Secretary