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GARFIELD CLEAN ENERGY
Communities joining for a clean energy economy

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 8th, 1:00-3:00 p.m.
Morgridge Commons in Glenwood Springs, with some members attending virtually

Minutes taken by Christina Matzl, CLEER

Board members attending

CMC:	Sean Nesbitt, Ryan Shepherd (virtual)
City of Rifle:	Sean Strode
Town of Parachute:	Travis Elliot (virtual)
Garfield County:	Frank Coberly (virtual), Tom Jankovsky
Town of New Castle:	Secretary, Bruce Leland (virtual)
Town of Carbondale:	Ben Bohmfalk (virtual)
City of Glenwood Springs:	Vice Chair, Ingrid Wussow

Board members not present

Town of Silt:	Keith Richel
RFTA:	Chair, Jason White
Holy Cross:	
Garfield County Libraries:	

Affiliate members present
None

Others attending

CLEER:	Alice Laird, Christina Matzl, Zuleika Pevec, Lauren Suhrbier, Morgan Hill (virtual)

Call meeting to order:
Ingrid Wussow called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

Roll Call:
Bruce Leland conducted the roll call.

Board Member and Public Comment:

- Sean Nesbitt - CLEER is presenting to Facility Managers and describing the pilot program at Spring Valley in the fall. CMC working with Shamrock for new boilers, Ameresco presenting on differences between sustainability action and decarbonization plans, and implementing charging infrastructure updates across campuses.
- Ingrid Wussow - Glenwood Springs - Public Works gave a presentation for a potential 10kW array located on Lookout Mountain. The Energy and Climate Action Plan progress is being presented to the council on the 21st.
- Tom Jankovsky - the County approved the Caerus solar array for energy needs.
- Bruce Leland - reminded the Board about the New Castle CEC Earth Day event
- Travis Elliot - the Parachute Town Hall is undergoing an LED and control update. Council toured a nearby solar array which is working with the gas plant for a carbon capture project creating sodium bicarbonate.

Regular Business:

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Approval of February 9th meeting minutes and January 2024 financials

- Motion to approve minutes
    - *Sean Strode moved to approve the February minutes, seconded by Sean Nesbitt. All in favor. 1:14*
- January financials discussion. Tom mentioned the lack of revenue sources,. He said the balance is cutting it close, but he acknowledged that some revenue has yet to come in.
- Motion to approve financials
    - *Tom Jankovsky moved to approve the January financials, seconded by Sean Strode. All in favor. 1:16*

Action items

- Resolution 2024-2: Exemption from Audit for Fiscal Year 2023 (Morgan)
    - Morgan explained the audit exemption request form. A majority of Board members will need to sign a DocuSign form that Morgan will send via DocuSign. Note that in FY 2024, with grants and drawdown of the DOE funding, GCE may not be eligible for exemption. Tom said if we get another grant we may want to find a different way to report it. Options for a financial review instead of an audit are more affordable. If anyone is interested in seeing the financial review from FY 2023 Morgan can share.
    - Motion to approve Resolution 2024-2
        - *Sean Strode moved to approve the Resolution 2024-2, seconded by Sean Nesbitt. All in favor. 1:20*

Goal #1: Energy Savings

Residential and commercial energy savings

- ReEnergize 2024 program (Zuleika)
    - Zuleika reported that we are in the 3rd year of the program. In 2022 the program helped about 50 households and NWCCOG funded $3,500,000 to Garfield County WAP and CARE homes in 2022. NWCCOG numbers for 2023 are not available yet. NWCCOG now has a dedicated ReEnergize team based in New Castle and is starting on assessments months earlier than last year. We anticipate 60 homes in ReEnergize, depending on what level of earners apply.
    - CLEER is working with Eagle County to start their ReEnergize program.
    - We continue to get applications that qualify for CARE and WAP, fewer than in 2022. ReEnergize is currently designed to be a one-time program. It might be worth considering how to help previous participants with the next steps toward beneficial electrification and solar. We see a huge need over the next few years with next steps.
    - Tom asked about total funds and how the EECGB funds fit in for the program. Morgan noted the deadline is in April. We will receive the money, we just have to submit the application.
    - Tom asked how the GWS $50,000 figures in. It is used for GWS ReEnergize clients who cannot get CARE assistance due to the municipality designation.
    - To market the program, we have radio interviews, newspaper inserts/ads, flyers posted, flyers in the schools, and social media.
- Wapiti Commons net-zero certification (Morgan)
    - We can send out the link to an interview with Heidi McCullough.
    - Heidi secured several hundred thousand dollars in rebates for the project. The homes are net-zero, currently producing more than they are using with solar, and all-electric homes. The development supports Rifle residents who work in Rifle.
    - Sean Strode confirmed they did an outstanding job and the City is glad to have it. They are affordable housing and affordable living because of the efficiency and solar.

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- Heidi is also involved in the Habitat for Humanity Confluence project in GWS. We have found it is important to be involved in the design phase so that efficiencies can be accounted for at the beginning.

Advanced Energy Management update

- The AEM program is moving forward to streamline the bill collection process. Christina has been setting up delegate account access to free up the accountant's time. This should help reduce bill gaps and ease communications.

Energy Code adoption and implementation

- CEO Energy Code grant trainings (Morgan)
  - Heidi and Jeff Dickinson are leading a grant project to educate the Towns of Carbondale and New Castle, and the City of Glenwood Springs building professionals on the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC). They are supporting the implementation of compliance and trainings for contractors throughout the Garfield County community. Two trainings are scheduled. One is on March 20, the next in April and May. It will be a 6-part training with mixed in-person and online options. Resources are available to anyone regionally, not limited to communities adopting the code.

Statewide policy update (Alice)

- The PUC is reviewing Xcel Energy's Demand Side Management and Energy Efficiency policies and programs. CLEER has been approved to be an intervenor to raise the issue of rural equity in Xcel Energy programs.
  - Tom asked CLEER to send out the letter to all. Ingrid wants an action on this to present to Boards. Bruce, Tom, and Sean expressed interest in presenting to boards to support CLEER. Board members ask GCE to prepare a support letter template and background information to share with councils.
- The CEO is writing a grant application for federal funds to provide more rebates and is looking for letters of support from local governments.

<u>Goals #1, 4, and 5</u>

Solar program

- Garfield County Renewable Energy Progress Report and next steps (Lauren)
  - Lauren Suhrbier is CLEER's new Renewable Energy Program Lead. She has extensive experience with solar policy and development She was the first employee of the Clean Energy Collective and was the publisher for Mountain Parent.
    - Tom asked a policy question for solar capacity in relation to 2 large arrays going in on Mamm Creek. Lauren explained that policy is based on scale and there are ongoing conversations regarding land use and codes.
  - Lauren gave a presentation on the renewable grid percentages for Garfield County.
    - Key details are: The County benefits from 59.1% renewable grid energy. Garfield County is a leader in Western Colorado and there were lots of increases in renewables in 2023. 2021 showed a spike in residential solar due to the Solarize program. Both small and large arrays are important for the resiliency of the communities.
  - Lauren is working on site assessments, solar installation guides for locals, more involvement with COSSA for policy work, advocating for utility transparency, potentially working on fundraising plans for another solarize campaign. She is also working on solar plus storage action items, and focusing on how solar can be an economic boost for Garfield County.
  - Sean Strode mentioned the City of Rifle is starting to talk about implementing a solarize-type program for residents.

<u>Goal #3: Clean mobility</u>

- Community Access to E-bikes grant award (Zuleika)

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    - EbikeThere 2024
    - Last year we received 40 bikes. We are approved for funding for 50 bikes this year. Qualified applications must make under 80% AMI. (Note that a house of 4 making $79,000 or less qualifies at 80% AMI.) One bike model will be offered this year. The team is working with a variety of community partners to advertise. We are considering targeting specific populations. Ingrid suggested focusing on essential workers, teachers nurses, etc.
- EV Readiness Plan update
    - The final draft is nearly done. It will be sent out to stakeholders in the next week for review. CLEER will present the final in May or July to the Board.

Letters of support requests:

- PUC letters of support are needed
- Letters of support for CEO grant application are also needed
- CLEER met with GWS and reviewed the GWS congestion study for a CDOT grant. The goal is to create a transportation management organization. CLEER is bringing it to GCE for consideration of a pilot with GWS and interested partners expanding on the partnership between GWS and CLEER. GWS is hoping to reduce traffic congestion and air pollution. Note that it is a GWS problem, but with a regional solution. Sean Strode and CMC expressed interest in supporting this.
    - Support request:
        - A letter from GCE or individual communities. CLEER will follow up with a draft letter, and send it to the city managers. Due March 29th.

Last comments

Ingrid shared a regional collaboration meeting for municipal leadership from Debeque to Aspen.

<u>Adjournment</u>

Preview of May 10th Board retreat

- May 10th meeting will be longer with EV readiness presentation, strategic discussions, and planning for budget requests. We may have the meeting further west and tour a solar array. The meeting will potentially be 4 hours long and lunch will be served. Ingrid suggested 12-4 p.m. Sean Nesbitt votes for 11 a.m.-3 p.m. or 12 p.m.-3 p.m. Morgan will schedule and follow up.

Final Comment

The Geothermal open house will be April ~~17th from 5-7~~ 24th from 4-6 p.m (updated post-meeting). We are hoping to meet with coalition members and have experts talk earlier in the day. Partners will all receive an invitation in the next week and organizational staff can attend as well.

Sean Strode moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:32. Sean Nesbitt seconded the motion. 2:32

GARFIELD CLEAN ENERGY COLLABORATIVE

By: DocuSigned by: Jason White 02F0C1B64041480...
Jason White, Chairperson

ATTEST: DocuSigned by: Bruce Leland 0D8FB5708F7443D...
Bruce Leland, Secretary