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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
Garfield County Libraries

Board Meeting Minutes: Friday, September 13th, 2024, 1:00-3:00 p.m.
Morgridge Commons, with some members attending virtually

Minutes taken by Christina Matzl, CLEER

Board members attending

CMC:	Ryan Shepherd (virtual)
RFTA:	Chair, Jason White
City of Rifle:	Sean Strode
Town of Parachute:	Chris Jackson (virtual)
Town of New Castle:	Brandy Copeland
Town of Carbondale:	Jessica Robison (virtual)
City of Glenwood Springs:	Erin Zalinsky

Board members not present

Town of Silt:	Keith Richel
Garfield County:	Treasurer, Tom Jankovsky

Affiliate members present
None

Others attending

CLEER:	Alice Laird, Morgan Hill, Christina Matzl, Zuleika Pevec (virtual), Dallas Blaney (guest speaker from the Governor's office)

Call meeting to order:
Jason White called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm

Roll Call:
Morgan Hill conducted the roll call.

Board Member and Public Comment:
- The GCE column was published in the paper this week. The column was about the work being done through AEM and the importance of efficiency in commercial buildings.
- The C-SITE grant was not awarded.
- Introductions were made for the new Town of New Castle alternate representative Brandy Copeland.

Regular Business:
Approval of July 12th minutes and June and July Financials
- Motion to approve:
  - *Sean Strode moved to approve the financials and minutes, seconded by Brandy Copeland. All in favor. 1:12*

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Action items

- Financial review update:
  - Morgan Hill shared that the financial review is currently in process with McMahan and Associates and we will have an update in the next meeting.

Goal #1: Energy savings in the built environment

ReEnergize progress and case studies

- Zuleika Pevec introduced the ReEnergize program and explained that it is GCE's low-moderate income energy efficiency program. ReEnergize pays 100% up to the qualified rebate total. Zuleika highlighted three households who went through the program and are experiencing benefits from the work. Annual savings for all three households is an estimated $4,000 per year.
- The homes received work including:
  - floor/attic insulation, LEDs, faucet aerators, air sealing, CO detectors, duct insulation, and mini-split heat pumps
  - In the case of the mini-split, the homeowner paid a portion out of pocket as well
- Jason asked a question about the contractors used. Generally, NWCCOG is used, but some projects have used other local contractors.
- Funding from ReEnergize comes from the County's Energy Impact fund. We are looking at the total that will be available for next year.

Accessing Direct Pay presentation

- Dallas Blaney, Energy and Climate Federal funds Officer with the Governor's Office of Federal Funds and Strategic Initiatives presented on the federal Direct Pay program. His office provides grant-writing support, technical assistance, and has some matching funds available for local governments interested in accessing IIJA and IRA funds.
- Direct Pay is a government-created option for tax-exempt organizations to access federal funds in a "cash for credit" program. Organizations get credit for eligible projects and can then take the credit to the IRS for cash back, similar to a rebate.
- Eligible projects include EV chargers, EV fleet vehicles, solar arrays, geothermal, and microgrids.
- The organization must own the property.
- There is no cap to the funding available within the percent allotted and the funds can be combined with other funding sources (grants, rebates, etc) to cover up to 100% of the project.
- The funding is available until 2032

Water efficiency programs

- Zuleika provided an update on the turf replacement and water efficiency programs already happening around the County. There is funding from the Colorado Water Conservation Board. The grant requires a 50% match, but it can be in-kind or volunteer.
- CLEER staff want to gauge Board interest in a 2025 pilot program
  - Jason asked for a memo to be provided in the next meeting
  - Sean conveyed that a major concern in Rifle is the cost of water, but he is concerned about staff capacity

Other residential and commercial energy programming

- Zuleika discussed the upcoming WinterWise campaign. This is a coordinated campaign to discount the cost of home energy assessments. CLEER is trying to bring the cost of assessments down to $50 and reach 100 homes. HCE and GWS have both created added benefits and funding. We are seeking additional sponsorships from other community partners.

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- CLEER's goal is to get homeowners to perform projects identified in the audits through energy coaching in order to produce energy savings.

Advanced energy management update

- Christina Matzl reached out to all facilities to coordinate the July 4th shutdown event. There were some savings achieved. Totals are included in the Q2 report.

Goal #3 Clean mobility

CDOT OIM Transportation Management Organization grant awarded

- This grant is functioning as seed funding for a transportation management organization in the area. These are often used in urban areas to manage traffic. We will have more news as the project begins to move forward.

Charging and Fueling Infrastructure grant submitted

- The CFI grant was recently submitted. The grant application included five sites in Garfield County. GCE paid $5,000 for a grant writer. and has been informally asking partners to contribute funds to cover the cost.

eBikeThere presentation

- Morgan reviewed the 2024 eBikeThere program. GCE provided 50 bikes to GarCo residents who were 80% AMI income-qualified. They each paid $150 for the bikes and had to attend training. We targeted school districts, libraries, and WIC recipients.

Goal #5 Economic development and jobs

State policy and funding for rural energy programs

- Alice shared information on sustainable funding and state legislation discussions. Senator Bennet is working on a bill to address this issue. If GCE ever wanted to provide a letter of support it could be helpful.

August 22nd forum recap and potential next steps

- Alice discussed work being done to share information with the Colorado Energy Office to support gas transition communities, not just coal. We are reviewing places like Minnesota that have developed other options.
- Jason brought up seeing the value in economic diversification as was discussed in the Forum by former Governor Ritter and Wade Buchanan from the Office of Just Transition. Jason asked to know how GCE can help develop the conversation. Noting also that data and analysis are important, it was discussed how we can track data to plan more efficiently.

GCE general topics

- Q2 report: Board members are encouraged to review.

2025 Draft Budget

- Morgan explained that the GCE budget is being drafted with the initial draft in the meeting packet. We are aiming to have the mostly final budget by the November meeting. It was noted that last year we had a special meeting in December to vote on the final. Based on the group discussion, this will also be the plan moving forward this year.
- Discussion details to note:
  - Additional feedback on the preliminary numbers in the expense category was requested
  - There is a placeholder for water conservation
  - State e-bike funding may not exist, so looking for thoughts on how to grow that program in the future
  - Consideration to consolidate renewables line items for easier tracking
  - CLEER would like to do a GHG emissions update next year
  - The finance committee will be meeting to review as well

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Adjournment

Sean Strode motioned to adjourn the meeting at 3:02. Erin Zalinksy seconded the motion [3:02]

GARFIELD CLEAN ENERGY COLLABORATIVE

By: Signed by: Jason White 02F0C1B64041480... _____
Jason White, Chairperson

ATTEST: DocuSigned by: Bruce Leland 0D8FB5768F7443D... _____
Bruce Leland, Secretary