



Town of Parachute | City of Rifle | Town of Silt | Town of New Castle | City of Glenwood Springs | Town of Carbondale  
Garfield County | Garfield County Public Library District | Roaring Fork Transportation Authority  
Colorado Department of Local Affairs | Governor's Energy Office

## **Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, April 8, 1:00 to 3:20 p.m.

Garfield County Human Services Building, 195 W. 14<sup>th</sup> St., Rifle

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### **Board members present:**

Garfield County: Ed Green

Garfield Library District: Amelia Shelley

Rifle: Keith Lambert, Jay Miller

Silt: Betsy Suerth (representing the town)

New Castle: Greg Russi

Glenwood Springs: Shelley Kaup, David Sturges

Carbondale: Michael Hassig

RFTA: Ed Cortez, Tari Williams

### **Board members not present:**

Parachute

### **Others attending:**

Special guests: U.S. Sen. Mark Udall and staffer Gaspar Perricone

Garfield County: Jim Rada, environmental health manager; Lisa Dawson, finance director;  
Bob Prendergast, finance officer

Rifle: Mike Braaten, energy coordinator

CLEER: Alice Laird, Heather McGregor, staff

Media: Dennis Webb, Daily Sentinel; David Frey, Aspen Daily News

General public: Steve Coley; Katharine Rushton, Sol Energy; Scott Ely, Sunsense; Leslie Robinson; Heather Tharp; Ralph Fruetel; Frank Smith, Western Colorado Congress; Lisa Bracken, Randy Fricke, Grand Valley Citizens Alliance; Monica Piergrossi, Colorado Conservation Voters.

### **Next meeting**

Wednesday, May 13, 2009, 1-3 p.m.,

Garfield County Administration Building, 108 8<sup>th</sup> St., Glenwood Springs

## **Action and discussion**

**Special guest:** U.S. Sen. Mark Udall visited Rifle on April 8 to tour Rifle's solar array and meet with city officials to learn about the Energy Innovation Center. The board welcomed Sen. Udall, who made a few comments about clean energy and the federal stimulus package. He then took questions from Advisory Board members and from the audience.

**Approval of minutes** from March 11, 2009, meeting: Moved by Amelia Shelley, seconded by Ed Cortez, no discussion, motion passed unanimously.

### **Board member comments:**

- Greg Russi reported that the New Castle Council passed its IGA the previous evening. The town is ready to talk with the Advisory Board about its proposed solar PV project.
- Other board members reported passing IGAs for the Library District Board, Town of Silt, RFTA and City of Rifle.

**Public comments:** Monica Piergrossi of Colorado Conservation Voters introduced herself and noted that she will be working on the proposed federal cap-and-trade legislation. She offered to keep the G-NECI Advisory Board updated on that effort.

### **House Bill 08-1350 presentation**

Heather McGregor and Alice Laird presented a written report and a PowerPoint on HB 08-1350, legislation that allows local governments to create a local improvement district for an Opt-In Clean Energy Financing Fund. The pilot project now underway in Boulder County provided details about how such a program could operate.

Board members discussed the concept and agreed to forward a four-point recommendation to the Garfield BOCC. Moved by Michael Hassig, seconded by Shelley Kaup, motion passed unanimously.

1. Ask staff to look into the legal questions related to creating a local improvement district and holding an election.
2. Ask the BOCC to seek a professional opinion on the county's present bonding capacity.
3. Ask staff to develop a cost estimate of what it will take to develop this proposal, and determine how much of these costs could be reimbursed by the DOLA grant.
4. If timing and other conditions make it appropriate, the Advisory Board also recommended that the BOCC move forward to create a local improvement district for the purposes of creating an opt-in clean energy financing fund for energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements.

Board members also asked Heather and Alice to present the PowerPoint to the commissioners. Ed Green suggested that the presentation be scheduled for the April 13 BOCC meeting. Several board members agreed to attend that meeting.

**American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding for Garfield County: Jim Rada**

The federal government has designated \$227,000 for Garfield County under the Colorado Energy Efficiency and Block Grant program. Joani Matranga of the Governor's Energy Office discussed this with the Garfield BOCC on April 6, and the commissioners in turn asked the G-NECI Advisory Board to advise them about the county's plan for spending the funds. An application and plan will be due to the U.S. Department of Energy in June, and funding decisions will be announced in late November for 2010 spending.

Board members discussed the funding opportunity, and many identified residential energy efficiency, perhaps in the form of widespread home energy audits and insulation measures, as a top priority. Jim and Alice said they planned to meet soon with Joani, and will invite Advisory Board members once a meeting date is set. They will report back to the Advisory Board at the May meeting.

**Garfield County report: Jim Rada**

- All eight of the IGAs between Garfield County and the other G-NECI partner entities have been finalized. The last few are being recorded, and Bob Prendergast will be sending out invoices for partner entities to send in their local cash match.
- A bank account has been set up for G-NECI, and cash is flowing to CLEER.
- The RFP for long-term management of the G-NECI programs will be posted by April 10. Proposals will be due in mid-May, and the selection committee will make its decision in time to award the contract at the end of May.

**Program updates: Alice Laird**

- A written report was handed out at the meeting.

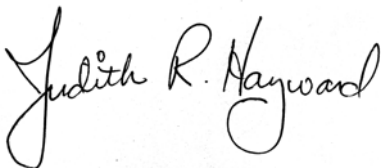
**Next meeting agenda:**

- Approval of the G-NECI budget
  - Discussion of dividing DOLA funding for renewable energy projects: New Castle
- Report on Garfield plan for ARRA Community Block Grant funding
- Further action on HB 1350 Opt-In Clean Energy Finance Fund
  - Ann Livingston, Boulder County sustainability coordinator, will attend

**The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.**

These minutes were reviewed and approved by a vote of the Garfield New Energy Communities Initiative Advisory Board on May 13, 2009.

Signed by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judith R. Hayward". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Judith R. Hayward, Advisory Board Secretary