



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, May 13, 1:02 to 3:08 p.m.

Garfield County Administration Building, 108 8th St., Glenwood Springs

Board members present:

Garfield County: Ed Green

Garfield Library District: Janine Rose

Parachute: Judi Hayward

Rifle: Keith Lambert

Silt: Meredith Robinson; Bobby Hays, alternate

New Castle: Greg Russi

Glenwood Springs: Shelley Kaup; David Sturges, alternate

Carbondale: Michael Hassig

RFTA: Ed Cortez

Others attending:

Guest presenter: Ann Livingston, Boulder County

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

Bob Prendergast, finance officer; Matt Anderson, contracts administrator; Carolyn

Dahlgren, assistant county attorney

Rifle: Mike Braaten, energy coordinator

Silt: Betsy Suerth, town administrator

Carbondale: Tom Baker, town manager

Governor's Energy Office: Joani Matranga

CLEER: Alice Laird, Heather McGregor, Lauren Martindale

Media: John Colson, Post Independent

General public: Steve Coley; Dan Richardson, SGM; Kim Goossens and Dave Shiney, Colorado

Solar; Ken Olson, Sol Energy; Scott Ely, Sunsense; Josh Smith, CORE; Thomas

Minerick, Xcel Energy

Next meeting

Wednesday, June 10, 2009, 1-3 p.m.,

Garfield County Human Services Building, 195 W. 14th St., Rifle

Action and discussion

Approval of minutes from April 8, 2009, meeting: Moved by Shelley Kaup, seconded by Ed Cortez, no discussion, motion passed unanimously.

Public comments: none

Board member comments: none

Presentation and discussion of HB 1350, energy efficiency and renewable energy financing:

- Handout provided, *page 4*

New information from Ann Livingston, Boulder County sustainability coordinator:

- Opt-in financing mechanism meant to drive reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and re-employ Boulder County's skilled workforce. Will use borrowers' utility bills and GIS mapping to track energy savings.
- First round of residential loans approved for 400 borrowers for \$6.6 million. Present estimate for interest rates is 6.69% for open rate and 5.35% for income-qualified.
- Boulder County expects to receive a bond rating May 13; bonds go on sale May 19 - 20; first bond sale of this type in the country; Boulder County invested \$400,000 to get a higher bond rating.
- Anticipated program management cost is \$100,000 to \$110,000 per year. Bulk of advance work done in 2008 could be re-used by other local governments in Colorado.

Carolyn Dahlgren, assistant county attorney, reporting on Garfield County's answers to questions from April 8 Advisory Board meeting:

- Discussed hourly rates with bond counsel; analyzed workload impacts to county staff.
- Bond market may not receive this idea favorably.
- BOCC message is "let Boulder finish being the guinea pig," and "slow down, think about this again next year." This was a unanimous vote of the commissioners.
- In meantime, conduct a demand study to gauge community interest and to serve as an educational effort for the finance district concept.

Motion to recommend the county determine the cost of a demand study and learn the results of Boulder County's bond sale and report back on June 10 by Keith Lambert, seconded by Greg Russi, motion passed unanimously.

Garfield County EEC Block Grant application: Jim Rada and Alice Laird

- Handout provided of proposed strategy, *page 5*
- General approach is to feed block grant funding into existing G-NECI programs.
- Governor's Energy Office is writing a budget to expand existing programs and make new offerings.
- Colorado Dept. of Labor is directing some of its funds toward workforce training.
- Jim and Alice will make a presentation of proposed uses to the BOCC on May 18.

General consensus of Advisory Board to concur with this approach.

Performance contracting and Energy Star Partner: Alice Laird and Joani Matranga

- Memo provided in meeting packet.
- GEO's performance contracting program is very flexible.

- All G-NECI partners should sign a non-binding MOU with the Governor's Energy Office; then G-NECI will form a committee of partners to write and issue an RFP, seeking a single energy service company to serve G-NECI partners with audits and, if desired, performance contracts.
- Can a portion of DOLA grant be used to buy down the cost of audits or upgrades? Yes.
- Tom Minerick of Xcel Energy said the utility will pay its natural gas customers up to half the cost of the energy audit, plus an amount for actual energy savings achieved from the resulting upgrades.
- G-NECI board members expressed interest in moving forward.

Renewable energy demonstration project funds: Alice Laird

- Memo provided in meeting packet.
- Two-option proposal is to (1) allow G-NECI partners with definite plans for RE installations to directly access their share of DOLA funds and (2) use competitive bidding to seek a firm to size up optimal installations for remaining partners, followed by one or more RFPs for system installation.
- Should partners wait to do their building energy audits first? No need to wait — projects can move forward on a parallel track.

Motion to accept two-option proposal by Judi Hayward, seconded by Meredith Robinson, motion passed unanimously.

Finance report from Garfield County: Bob Prendergast

- Cockpit charts provided in meeting packet will show revenues and spending in all six program areas and for the G-NECI project as a whole.
- Board members expressed appreciation for financial reporting presented in chart and table formats encompassing all the grant programs and many revenue sources.

Program update: Heather McGregor

- Handout provided summarizing accomplishments since April 8 meeting, *pages 6-7.*

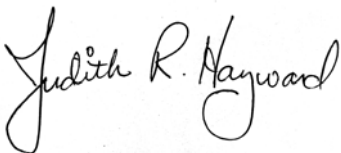
Next meeting agenda:

- Information from Garfield County on costs of a demand study for clean energy financing.
- Progress on Greening Government actions by G-NECI partners.
- Final review of Garfield County's EEC Block Grant proposal prior to June 15 deadline.

The meeting adjourned at 3:08 p.m.

These minutes were reviewed and approved by a vote of the Garfield New Energy Communities Initiative Advisory Board on June 10, 2009.

Signed by:



Judith R. Hayward, Advisory Board Secretary

G-NECI update: HB 1350 Clean Energy Financing | May 13, 2009

Questions for Garfield County from April 8 meeting

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.

Late bill attempt in 2009 Legislature, HB 09-1350

State Rep. Joe Miklosi, D-Denver, introduced a late bill on April 17 in an effort to establish a statewide opt-in clean energy finance district, using the same payback mechanisms as the 2008 bill (repayment added to property tax assessment, payment spread out over 15-20 years, assessment stays with property even if it sells).

The bill established an appointed board of directors and exempted itself from TABOR. It called for a \$250 million total bond issue for the whole state (Garfield County share by pop. would be \$3.1 million), with an individual loan limit of \$25,000. It did not preclude local governments from pursuing a more robust loan program.

An amended version passed out of the House Local Government Committee on April 23, but the bill died when hit the House floor for a second reading vote.

Timeline & new info

May - June: Formation of a local improvement district by BOCC

Cost: staff time to prepare resolution and documents for LID formation using Boulder template; publication of public notices. *Since LID would be an opt-in district, a mailing to property owners is not required.*

June – July: Participating local governments pass resolution (use Boulder County template)

Cost: G-NECI staff time to schedule time on agendas, prepare advance materials, present resolution to governing boards, collect approved resolutions. Local government elected officials and staff time to review resolution and discuss proposal.

June- July: Hire bond counsel to develop bond proposal

Cost: difficult to estimate, but likely less than \$15,000 given Boulder County's advance work. *These fees could be covered through G-NECI clean energy financing budget line item if 1350 is a priority for G-NECI partners.*

July 24: Notify County Clerk of referred measure

Aug. 25: Deadline for enacting IGA with County Clerk regarding election costs

Cost: would depend on how many other entities are also placing a question on the ballot. Likely questions include school board elections (D-16, Re-2, Re-1), CMC trustee elections. *The existing G-NECI budget does not have enough funding to cover this expense.*

Sept. 4: Certify ballot content

September – October: Campaign period

Cost: none to local governments. Independent organization must run and finance campaign.

Sept. 18: Deadline for Blue Book pro and con statements

Nov. 3: Election Day

G-NECI Update: U.S. DOE Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant | May 13, 2009

U.S. Department of Energy criteria

- Jobs created and/or retained
- Energy savings per dollar invested
- Renewable energy capacity installed
- Greenhouse gas emissions reduced
- Funds leveraged

Goals of proposed Block Grant project based on G-NECI and BOCC feedback to date:

- Build on existing programs within G-NECI and leverage additional funding.
- Increase availability of information, audits, technical assistance and financing to help households and businesses throughout Garfield County save money on energy.

Related existing G-NECI commitments and opportunities:

- Develop business plan for a one-stop-shop audit, retrofit, finance and incentives program for households and small businesses.
- Develop a clean energy loan fund utilizing Manaus Funding pledge of \$250,000.
- Possibility of a \$100,000 USDA grant in 2010 for small business audits.

Leveraging resources from utilities, lenders and the Governor's Energy Office

- Discussions under way with GEO, utilities and lenders to determine most important existing gaps that could be filled with the block grant funds to serve households and businesses.
- GEO is planning additional rebates for 2010 and working to increase access to information, services and financing on a state level.
- Garfield program is an effective delivery system, but needs to enhance and work in coordination with utility, GEO and lender resources.

Proposed projects for Block Grant application (total of \$227,500 available for Garfield County)

- Startup funding for a one-stop-shop audit, retrofit, financing, incentives program for households and businesses.
- Rebates on energy audits to level gas utility offers & serve propane and all-electric customers.
- Rebates on energy efficiency improvements.
- Combine with the Manaus loan funding pledge and work with banks to develop financing for low-interest loans, working in partnership with state programs.
- Focused solar hot water heating installation program to fill gaps in incentives.

How project will satisfy DOE criteria and address root purpose of program:

- Helps households and businesses save money on energy, frees up resources for other purchases and needs, this money circulates in the economy.
- Creates increased demand for energy services and products through providing financing or incentives; increases opportunities for contractors and vendors.

Submission deadlines

- June 8: Develop Local Government Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy OR adopt State Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy (G-NECI program qualifies)
- June 15: Recommended deadline to submit EECBG application to Department of Energy
- June 25: Last day to submit EECBG application to Department of Energy

Residential

Glenwood solar rebates: Of 8 recipients, 2 have submitted final paperwork, and the remaining 6 systems are installed. All final paperwork must be turned in by May 26. Rebate payments will go out in May and June. This program will yield 30 kilowatts of installed capacity.

Insulate Colorado: Garfield 100% Rebate Home Energy Audit and Insulation contest held April 20-May 1. Contest was used to publicize availability of existing rebates through utilities and generate visibility and interest for insulation. Used GEO funds to make a \$5,500 ad buy in newspapers and radio. Contest drew 190 applicants. Drawing held May 6 — 12 winners selected. Drawing event recorded by Rifle Cable Channel 10, will be aired on Saturday, May 16, at 7:02, 9:02 and 11:02 a.m. and at 6:02, 8:02 and 10:02 p.m. Winners have until June 19 to have home energy audits completed and until Aug. 14 to complete insulation work. Follow-up contacts with non-winners will encourage use of standard rebates starting immediately. Contractor training session held April 10 yielded 15 certified insulation contractors serving Garfield County.

Website: Initial graphic design for “Garfield Clean Energy” logo and website home page complete by contractor, Alice Sjoberg Graphic Design. Work underway to develop graphic design for inside web pages. Once beta team approves package of designs, contractor will develop website coding to create functional website.

Energy Star New Homes: Program presence or presentation at events. Diagnostic equipment rebate program for HERS Raters or BPI Building Analysts to be offered by the end of May. Scholarships for new HERS raters. Working with M2MHBA to produce on-demand educational videos through GEO grant. Offering three ENERGY STAR trainings over the summer with Habitat for Humanity and the City of Rifle. Producing energy and cost models for HERS scores using the Habitat Project in Rifle, in partnership with builder Sally Brands of Rifle and Frostbusters & Coolth. Updating and expanding web content on all building department websites and print permit packets. Working with Glenwood Springs, Garfield County and Rifle to adopt IECC 2009 and investigate beyond-code, mandatory measures, such as blower door testing and mechanical system efficiencies. Ongoing media buys.

Commercial

USDA Energy Grants: Handled advance logistics and publicity for April 13 & 14 workshops; 30 small business and ranch owners attended application workshops. (75 attended first informational meeting)

Energy tracking pilot project: Local bank partner on board for Carbondale energy center pilot project, 2 years of data loaded, will participate in program roll out and encourage community involvement.

Greening Government

Pilot energy tracking/energy management program: 2 years of energy/utility data for Roaring Fork School District and Town of Carbondale has been entered into energy tracking software and beta Energy Center website created to monitor and manage energy usage. School shut-down procedures being developed to maximize energy savings over the summer. Trainings for using energy tracking system

being scheduled, and Energy Center site to go live in June. Private partners being developed to create a community-wide pilot approach to increasing energy efficiency.

Performance contracting: based on Glenwood Springs approach with issuing an RFP for performance contracting and discussions with partner representatives, G-NECI staff would like to schedule time on local government agendas to encourage each partner entity to enter into an MOU with the Governor's Energy Office to receive their assistance for performance contracting for energy efficiency improvements in existing buildings.

Renewable energy demonstration projects:

Wrote and won a \$10,000 grant for solar hot/PV water project on affordable senior housing. G-NECI staff ready to develop RFP for a firm to develop site specifications for county-wide renewable energy projects and additional financing methods.

Energy Efficient Transportation and Community Design

Active transportation: G-NECI staff wrote and won a \$5,000 grant from CDOT to supplement transportation outreach efforts on clean energy transportation for use this summer. Work underway with CDOT and other partners to develop a county-wide Bike to Work Week, working with local staff throughout Garfield County and highlighting the energy savings of active transportation.

Model codes workshop: Workshop with Sonoran Institute scheduled for June 19, with main speaker Reid Ewing, author of *Growing Cooler*. Model codes encouraging energy efficient community design.

Clean energy vehicles: Work underway on white paper outlining steps the region can take to encourage clean energy vehicles, and funding sources, including creating the infrastructure for plug-in hybrids and neighborhood electric vehicles.

Clean Energy Financing

Finance district: Primary focus on exploration of 1350, and determining whether this is the G-NECI Advisory Board's preferred next step.

Loan fund: Initial conversations on development of revolving clean energy financing loan fund with Denver partners, local lenders and GEO.