



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

Garfield New Energy Communities Initiative Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 10, 1:08 to 2:58 p.m.

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

Board members present:

Garfield Library District: Amelia Shelley

Rifle: Keith Lambert

Silt: Meredith Robinson

New Castle: Greg Russi

Glenwood Springs: David Sturges

Carbondale: Michael Hassig

RFTA: Ed Cortez, Tari Williams

Board members not present:

Garfield County

Town of Parachute

Others attending:

Special guests: Governor's Energy Office staff: Jennifer Hampton, public outreach manager;

Brittany Purdum, communications associate; Stacey Proctor, community network coordinator

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

Rifle: Mike Braaten, government affairs and energy coordinator; Nathan Lindquist, planner

Silt: Betsy Suerth, town administrator

CLEER: Alice Laird, Heather McGregor, staff

General public: Steve Haines, Sunsense; Eric Wahl, Dave Shiney, Kim Goossens-Randell,

Colorado Solar

Next meeting

Wednesday, July 8, 2009, 1-3 p.m.,

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

Action and discussion

Approval of minutes from May 13, 2009, meeting: Moved by David Sturges, seconded by Meredith Robinson, no discussion, motion passed unanimously.

Conversation with Governor's Energy Office staff

Jennifer Hampton, public outreach manager; Brittany Purdum, communications associate; Stacey Proctor, community network coordinator

- Jennifer Hampton briefed the board on GEO's plan to update its outreach program as part of the larger program expansions funded by the federal stimulus bill. The goal is to tailor information from GEO on what people need, rather than organizing the information based on the agency's programs. "We want to be consumer-centric rather than program-centric," Hampton said. Plans include a more robust website, a call center, and marketing that points people toward those information resources. GEO plans to work closely with community organizations such as G-NECI to complement, rather than duplicate services. The website could be up and running by end of the year.
- Brittany Purdum and Stacey Proctor are working with community partners across the state to provide \$80 million in federal stimulus funding for home weatherization work for low-income residents. In Garfield County, these services are provided by Northwest Council of Governments.
- Board members asked if GEO would continue its solar rebates program. Hampton said the agency will continue the program, but revise it to achieve parity in rebates across the state.

Presentation: Mike Braaten, City of Rifle

- Rifle City Council has let a contract for \$36,012 to purchase LED modules for 21 streetlights to be installed on Third Street in downtown Rifle. The G-NECI budget includes \$30,000 for this project. The Rifle Downtown Development Authority will pay the remainder. The lights are on back order with the manufacturer; delivery is expected in two months. The lights are expected to use 40 percent of the electricity of the lights in place now, and will have downcast reflectors to avoid light pollution and glare.
- Arguments presented by the city of Rifle have resulted in a favorable recommendation to lift the present 2-megawatt size limit on renewable energy installations by customers of investor-owned utilities. A state administrative law judge has recommended that customers of investor-owned utilities, such as Xcel Energy, should be allowed to install renewable energy facilities that can generate up to 120 percent of their annual electric needs. If the PUC upholds the judge's recommendation, Rifle could expand the solar array at its new wastewater treatment plant to supply the plant's full electrical needs.

Comment: Greg Russi on microhydro

- Greg Russi and Joani Matranga have met with staff from Sens. Michael Bennet and Mark Udall and U.S. Rep. John Salazar to discuss federal permitting for micro-hydro energy installations. At present, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has a lengthy and costly process in place for all hydroelectric permits. Conversations are now under way with officials at the Colo. Dept. of Natural Resources to see if the agency could take on a delegation of that permitting authority from FERC for micro-hydro facilities.

Performance Contracting MOUs: Alice Laird and Betsy Suerth

- Parachute has signed, Glenwood Springs has signed for Community Center, Carbondale and New Castle have it scheduled for later this month, Silt is definitely interested. It's important to GEO that all G-NECI partners sign the MOU.
- Betsy recommended forming a committee of participating partners to select an energy services company. This can be done any of three ways: through a full RFP process, by selecting three companies and conducting interviews, or by selecting one company from the state's list of approved ESCo's. Committee should develop a vetting process.
- Would be beneficial to have Garfield County as a partner since it has so many buildings, but want to avoid county's RFP process.
- Process is flexible, with two tiers of action. Start with the audit, then choose how to finance improvements.
- Suggested committee members: Betsy Suerth for Town of Silt, Tom Baker or Michael Hassig for Town of Carbondale, reps from City of Rifle, Town of New Castle and RFTA. Betsy will set up the first meeting.

G-NECI program update: attached

In addition, these updates were shared:

- New Castle had a pre-RFP meeting for its solar PV project that drew six prospective bidders. The town is asking bidders to leverage its G-NECI renewable energy funding with a power purchase agreement.
- Amelia Shelley is using LEED architect Jeff Dickinson of the CLEER team to do energy modeling for new library. A contentious issue of LEED certification is preferred parking for energy efficient vehicles. The library board is visiting a new straw bale library recently built in Naturita at \$160 a square foot.
- The pilot Energy Star online tracking in Carbondale is moving forward. CMC and Alpine Bank are partnering on the project. It's a great tool for tracking energy use and affecting change, but is proving to be a real learning process. Hope to roll out Carbondale pilot in July. Once we get the kinks worked out, we can determine which community willing to be next guinea pig.

Garfield County update: Jim Rada and Bob Prendergast

- The deadline to submit the Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant request to the U.S. Dept. of Energy is June 25.
- The G-NECI bank account has a \$252,000 balance, with \$103,000 receivable from Glenwood Springs. Cockpit charts are included in meeting packet.

GEO clean energy financing efforts: Alice Laird

- Governor's Energy Office is exploring a statewide program, which may eliminate the need for a local program. Laird advised waiting to see what GEO proposes.
- Garfield County did not present information on a demand study. The G-NECI Advisory Board will have to evaluate whether that is a worthwhile expenditure.
- Is the state looking at something like soil conservation or water conservation districts?
- Greg Russi suggested asking state Rep. Kathleen Curry to carry a bill allowing multi-county financing districts.

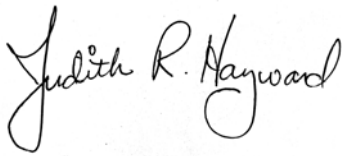
Next meeting agenda:

- G-NECI program updates and presentations
- Information on Boulder County bond sale results
- Results of renewable energy evaluation bidding process
- Progress by Performance Contracting Committee
- Summary of submitted EEC Block Grant proposal

The meeting adjourned at 2:58 p.m.

These minutes were reviewed and approved by a vote of the Garfield New Energy Communities Initiative Advisory Board on July 8, 2009.

Signed by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judith R. Hayward". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial 'J'.

Judith R. Hayward, Advisory Board Secretary

Attachments

Garfield NECI Upcoming Events (program update)
GEO Facility Owner's MOU
GEO Strategic Goals and Objectives for ARRA