



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

## **Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, February 10, 2010, 1:06 to 2:58 p.m.

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

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### **Board members present:**

Garfield County: Lisa Dawson (substitute)

Parachute: Judi Hayward

Rifle: Keith Lambert

Silt: Bobby Hays

New Castle: Greg Russi

Glenwood Springs: Shelley Kaup, David Sturges

Carbondale: Michael Hassig

RFTA: Ed Cortez

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

Garfield Library District

### **Others attending:**

Garfield County: Jim Rada, environmental health manager; Bob Prendergast, senior financial analyst;

Rifle: Mike Braaten, government affairs and energy coordinator

Glenwood Springs: Jeff Hecksel, city manager

CLEER: Alice Laird, Heather McGregor

CLEER professional team: Jeff Dickinson, Mike Ogburn

Public: Dave Argo

### **Next meeting**

Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2010, 1-3 p.m.,

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

**Approval of minutes** from Jan. 15, 2010, meeting: Moved by Ed Cortez, seconded by Shelley Kaup, no discussion, motion passed unanimously.

**Public comments:** none

**Board member comments:** none

## **Presentation**

Paul Spencer of the Clean Energy Collective presented a summary of his clean energy project. Spencer plans to build a 1.8 megawatt solar array on county-owned land at the Garfield County Airport in Rifle.

In a cooperative agreement with Holy Cross Energy, shares in the array would be available for purchase to Holy Cross customers anywhere in its service territory. Customers would receive virtual net metering based on actual monthly power generation at the retail power rate, and would be eligible for the Holy Cross solar rebate and for the federal investment tax credit. Spencer expects to divide the project among 350 to 900 Holy Cross customers.

A maintenance escrow fund would draw 2 percent of the generation revenues to cover the costs of routine maintenance and system upgrades over time.

After a brief discussion, Greg Russi made the following motion, which was seconded by Keith Lambert:

The Garfield NECI Advisory Board has met with Paul Spencer, heard his presentation and had its questions answered. The board sees significant community benefits, and recommends to the Garfield BOCC that they take every action to cooperate with and promote Clean Energy Collective project near the Garfield County Airport.

The motion passed unanimously, and board members expressed interest in the model being applied countywide for customers of Xcel Energy and Glenwood Electric.

## **Action items**

### **Technical Energy Audit financial guarantees**

The Town of Silt requested the ability to use NECI funding in the Greening Government program area for a financial guarantee on its technical energy audit. Technical audits costs should be rolled into the overall performance contract. The town would draw on the funds to pay for the audit only if it chose to not move forward with performance contracting. For the Town of Silt, the guarantee amount would be \$6,000. Jeff Dickinson noted that a financial guarantee to cover all the participants in performance contracting would amount to about \$50,000, and said there is about \$225,000 in that line item in the NECI budget.

Bobby Hays moved to provide a financial guarantee for the Town of Silt; Keith Lambert offered to second the motion if it would be amended to include all NECI members. Hays agreed to the proposed amendment; Lambert seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

### **Energy management allocation for Garfield Re-2 School District**

The Garfield RE-2 District participated in early discussions for the NECI grant application in 2008, but dropped out at the time because it had already pursued performance contracting for its

buildings. Now, faced with extreme budget cuts from the state, the district is seeking a higher level of effort for energy savings and has begun working with New Energy Technology. NET is a CLEER subcontractor that has already achieved thousands of dollars in energy savings for the Roaring Fork School District.

Alice Laird requested that the GNECI advisory board allocate \$15,000 to help pay for the upfront costs involved in creating an energy management system for Garfield RE-2. Alice Laird said the funding would be taken from the Greening Government program area, local government energy audits line items.

Judy Hayward said she would like to see GNECI also involve the Parachute school district. Laird said that the GNECI team reached out to the Parachute superintendent during the grant writing period to involve the school district and the Parachute school district has subsequently been involved in the Safe Routes program and a grant submitted to CDOT. The Parachute district has reportedly already achieved energy savings through their performance contracting effort already underway before GNECI. Laird said GNECI team members would follow up to reach out to the district to see if they would like to be involved in energy tracking/management programs.

Keith Lambert moved to approve the allocation of \$15,000 for the Garfield Re-2 School District, Shelley Kaup seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

## **Project updates and reports**

### **Fleets workshop**

Mike Ogburn presented a brief summary of the “Vehicle Fleets in the Clean Energy Economy” workshop held Feb. 5 in Glenwood Springs. Ogburn said the event’s emphasis was on data tracking, smart energy management, petroleum reduction and fuel diversity. He noted that EnCana made a great presentation on compressed natural gas vehicles and fueling stations. He reported that Garfield County has committed to purchased six bi-fuel vehicles in 2010 and six more in 2011. Bi-fuel vehicles run primarily on CNG, but have an auxiliary gasoline tank for longer trips. Ogburn said that next steps will be to approach each GNECI partner to see if they are interested in passing an efficient fleets policy.

### **Clean energy finance district**

Alice Laird presented a handout lining out steps for this program in February, March and April. *(See attached memo- please note, due to a GEO-scheduled workshop, overall dates have changed.)*

### **Performance Contracting**

Jeff Dickinson reported that Ennovate Corp., the selected energy service company, is working with New Energy Technology, a firm that is part of the CLEER professional team, to gather utility and building data from the participating Garfield NECI partners. He noted a “huge amount of cooperation” from the local governments. This data will allow the Initiative to document

present energy use as the baseline for future energy savings. Technical Energy Audit contracts are being drawn up with each partner participating in this effort, and either have been scheduled or close to being scheduled on board agendas.

### **Renewable energy installations**

Jeff Dickinson reported that Xcel Energy's renewable energy credits are falling, and he is trying to move forward as quickly as possible on projects to qualify for the highest REC possible. He said G-NECI needs to ensure quality for installations using GNECI funds, and may utilize third-party inspectors to make sure systems are installed and metered correctly for optimal results and energy tracking. The Garfield County and Library District projects are looking at Power Purchase Agreements to build larger projects. An RFP is on the street for Parachute's installations, and the Library District RFQ is expected to be issued later this month. The Garfield County RFQ should be ready for release in March. *(See attached memo.)*

### **Development of audit-retrofit-energy management program for homes and businesses**

Alice Laird briefly explained that CLEER is developing this program and consulting with utilities to make sure the ideas complement existing and future utility programs. The program is tentatively being called the "Garfield Clean Energy Challenge." Greg Russi noted that the Town of New Castle plans its own small stimulus program by waiving building permit fees in May.

### **Next steps on longer-term structure**

Alice Laird presented a quick sketch of questions for moving forward on the long-term structure to carry on clean energy work in Garfield County after the DOLA grant funding is spent. She then asked the board if this project should be done by a separate committee, particularly since so many board members volunteered to serve on the committee. After some discussion, the board agreed to try holding a monthly committee meeting from noon to 1 p.m. on the regular Advisory Board meeting date.

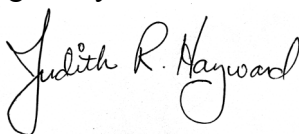
### **Budget and financial report**

**Bob Prendergast** provided an updated monthly report on the project spending and revenues as of Dec. 31. He noted that because of staff vacancies at DOLA, reimbursement payments for Garfield County will now take three weeks to turn around instead of two weeks.

### **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 March 10, 2010.

Signed by:



Judith R. Hayward, Advisory Board Secretary