

**ROCC General Meeting Draft Minutes
Wednesday, March 16, 2016**

Welcome: Scott Williams for Jen Parker and Roze Evans

Approve minutes from January 21, 2016: Please read the minutes and be prepared to vote on approval at the meeting

Motion was made by Rich Niemeier to approve minutes. Donna Green seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Scott Williams

As of March 14, 2016 ROCC has \$23,625.57 in assets. For 2016 so far ROCC has total income of \$4,503.04, total expenses of \$1,523.31 and net income of \$2,979.73.

The Spaghetti dinner had net income of \$473.61. And we had 8 membership renewals and 6 new memberships at the dinner.

Scott reported that we now have liability insurance, which covers directors, officers, volunteers, ROCC Talks, the Spaghetti Dinner, and the Parking Lot Sale.

Motion was made by Dudley Case to approve the Treasurer's Report. Howard Greene seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Announcements:

The Ramp Up Ridgway meeting will be held tomorrow night in this room at 5:30 pm.

This year the Parking Lot Sale will be held at the 4-H Events Center due to the road construction in Ridgway.

The BLM will be holding a SBEADMR meeting in April at the 4-H Events Center.

The League of Women Voters of Montrose County will be holding a meeting about Coloradocare on March 23 at 5:30 pm at the Holiday Inn Express in Montrose.

The Public Lands Partnership will host a SBEADRM Meeting Wednesday, April 13th, 12 to 4 pm at the Montrose Fair grounds.

Western Colorado Congress Staff Report: Dave Reed / Rachel Zatterstrom

Dave Reed, Executive Director of WCC, and Rachel Zatterstrom, ROCC's WCC Organizer, gave us a WCC Staff Report. Dave said that oil and gas drilling will proceed on Battlement Mesa in the residential area but the drilling will be subject to many preconditions.

WCC is also involved in the state rule making process and many organizations have linked up to work on this and are calling themselves "LOGIC".

The first phase of the GMUG redo will be coming out next month. And the BLM's draft version of their Resource Management Plan has been sent to Washington, D.C. for approval. The approved plan should be coming out in May or June this year.

WCC's Annual Conference will be in Montrose this year on either September 10 or 17 at the Montrose Pavilion. It will be an all day affair with barbeque and music. Brenda is the planning coordinator for this event.

Rachel reported that WCC's lobbying trip to Denver was in early March and 9 WCC members went on the trip who represented three of WCC's organizations.

This year WCC is only lobbying against one bill, S.B. 83, which is a voter registration bill.

The rain barrel bill will be heard on March 24. Colorado is the only state that has a prohibition on the use of rain

barrels.

There has been trouble with the 2014 bill that was passed to allow undocumented immigrants to get Colorado driver's licenses. Due to funding restrictions these licenses can only be gotten in Grand Junction, Denver, and Fort Collins.

S.B. 58 amending the local food bill will be up for a vote this year.

Rachel is now living in Montrose and is working on getting a WCC office in Montrose.

Committee Reports

Adopt a Park - Nick Williams

The committee is seeking volunteers to help with the work that needs to be done to help maintain Hartwell Park. It might be nice if the committee members could serve beer at the Concerts in the Park this summer.

The Ramp Up Ridgway Project will start on March 23 and will finish up in spring of 2017.

Clean Energy - Dudley Case for Dave Jones

The committee has been meeting since mid-January and has met with Kim Wheels of EcoActionPartners, Jen Coates, Ridgway Town Administrator, and Paul Hora from SMPA.

The committee now has 17 members, including two members of the SMPA Board of Directors, Jack Sibold and Deb Cokes. And Wiley Freeman and Paul Hora from SMPA are also on the committee.

The committee is rotating the chair position every three months due to everyone having many other commitments.

The committee is looking at four areas on which to concentrate its efforts. One, energy conservation. Two, renewable energy sources. Three, prudent regulations and legislation. Four, education.

ROCC has \$7,500 that it received from an anonymous donor to spend. The committee is considering asking the ROCC membership to spend some or all of the money to help the Ridgway elementary school and/or high school to convert their lighting from CFLs to LEDs. The elementary school has about 1500 T8 CFLs and the high school has about 1270 T8 CFLs. It will cost the elementary school about \$25,000 for the conversion and it will cost the high school about \$21,200 for the conversion. These costs are before any rebates are applied.

Wendy, a member of the committee, spoke on the health problems associated with using CFLs in schools. She also mentioned that after schools have converted CFLs to LEDs the test scores of students have increased.

Community Support Committee - Scott Williams for Dave Jones

Scott requested that ROCC donate \$250 to UWP's River Fest and thus become a sponsor of River Fest. Howard Greene made a motion that ROCC sponsor River Fest in the amount of \$250 and Donna Green seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Energy - Al Lowande

Since Al was on vacation there was no Energy Committee report.

Land Use - Scott Williams

We need a volunteer to chair this committee!!!

The Western Region Wildfire Council has provided a model wildfire regulation to the Ouray County Planning

Commission and is offering financial assistance to accomplish wildfire mitigation projects on private property within Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray, and San Miguel counties.

The Ouray County Planning Commission has recommended that the BOCC hire a consultant for the Master Plan revision process.

The BOCC will be holding a public meeting on changing the High Alpine Zoning regulations in the County Land Use Code. It will be looking at the San Miguel and San Juan Counties' High Alpine regulations as guidelines.

Tim Currin's and Craig Jackman's Planning Commission terms are ending on April 1. So the BOCC will be conducting interviews of potential candidates for these positions. Currently the Planning Commission has seven members, four of whom are in the development community.

Local Foods - Robyn Cascade

The Food & Ag Justice Collaborative (FAJC) decided at their February meeting in Billings, Montana to initiate a campaign (to which 7 states signed on) related to opposing TPP.

The FAJC 10-state collaborative conference call focused on the theme of Public money for Private greed with respect to large scale ag business practices.

Membership - JoAnne Williams

No report.

Parking Lot Sale - Rich Niemeier

Rich has volunteered to be the chair of this committee.

This year the sale will be held at the 4-H Events Center due to the road construction in Ridgway.

The sale will be held on May 21st and the rain date will be June 4th. ROCC's Parking Lot Sale is part of the nationwide U.S. Hwy 50 parking lot sales on May 21st.

Public Lands - Scott Williams for Jim Stephenson

The BOCC passed a resolution expressing support for the expansion of the Sneffels Wilderness Area. The BOCC also raised concerns about fire mitigation in the wilderness areas. The BOCC added a condition to this resolution that states that the Sec. of Agriculture or the Sec. of the Interior retains the authority to control fire, insects and disease in the wilderness area. However, it appears that this language is already in the bill pending before Congress.

Any remaining objections to the SBEADMR environmental impact statement of the U. S. Forest Service must be filed by next week. Under the EIS some 120,000 acres will be treated because of the beetle infestation in the GMUG forest areas.

Recycling - Dudley Case for Dave Jones

Dave and Judi will be on vacation this summer so they need volunteers to take their place running the recycling/composting for the Concerts in the Park in July, River Fest on Saturday, June 25th, and possibly the County Rodeo on Labor Day in September.

Dudley passed around a volunteer sign-up sheet.

There will be a meeting in early April with John Clark to discuss ROCC's recycling and composting efforts for these events.

Dave has a compost grinder in his garage, which volunteers can use to grind up compost from these events. And the grinder can be used at their garage while they are out of town or it can be moved to one of the

volunteer's garage for use.

Dave and Judi also wished to express their thanks to the more than 20 volunteers that made ROCC recycling/composting efforts so successful last year at the Ridgway events.

ROCC Talks Committee and ROCC Communications Committee - Dudley Case for Roze Evans

The ROCC Communications Committee has finished the ROCC mailer, which will go out to the approximately 1,800 homes in the County. Dudley passed around some copies of the mailer to people to look at. All the ROCC Talks for this year are listed on the mailer. The next ROCC Talk will be on April 21 at which representatives from SMPA will talk about their renewable energy and energy efficiency programs, such as the Green Cents Program, Green Blocks Program and rebate programs.

The committee is also almost finished with the rewriting of the ROCC Brochure. And the new brochure should be finalized after Roze and AI return from their vacation.

Social Justice - Dick Engdahl

Dick met with Lynn Padgett, County Commissioner, and Patrick Rondinelli, City of Ouray Administrator, about affordable housing in the county and the County Housing Authority. Mr. Rondinelli told Dick that affordable housing was on the city's radar screen, but Dick expressed doubts that the city will do anything about this in the near future.

Kate Kellogg, a member of the committee, also talked to Father Knapp about affordable housing.

Dick thought it might be necessary to go to private organizations to secure seed money to get the affordable housing process started in Ouray County. And we also need a higher minimum wage law passed to help workers afford housing in Ouray County.

Some Federal grant money is available for affordable housing, too.

WCC Legislative Committee - Rein van West

House Bill 1030, which is the amended version of the OHV bill will pass. This bill gives counties authority to require drivers licenses and insurance for OHV operators by county or municipal resolution or ordinance.

WCC Report – Rich Niemeier

In mid-April we can start collecting signatures on a minimum wage bill with C.P.I. indexing.

WCC will hold a training session called "Training for Organizing" which will help groups like ROCC with various organizing efforts, such as doing petition gathering, and working with other organizations.

The Mesa County group of WCC has decided to function by committee rather than having a board of directors and officers.

WCC has a 34 page operating plan for 2016. Copies are available from you organizer upon request.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Collecting and using contact information - Robyn Cascade

WCC is working on getting contact information into a database to be accessible within 48 hours and then having an automatic email generated. This will take several months to implement and will involve purchasing two or three tablets with Google docs software. The idea is to scan items and then distribute information to WCC's member groups.

Upon Rachel's suggestion, all names and contacts collected by ROCC (tabling, ROCC Talks, spaghetti dinner, wilderness postcards, etc.) will be given as soon as possible to the WCC office who will enter them in the data base. These lists/names do not need to be given first to ROCC's secretary or membership coordinator. ROCC officers will obtain these names from WCC.

Get out the Vote - Robyn Cascade

WCC will be helping people to register to vote this year.

Mining Law Reform (Earthworks) - Pete Dronkers

Pete has an office in Ridgway, and his boss, Bruce Baizel, has an office in Durango.

Earthworks is working on administrative mining law reform and reform of the 1872 Mining Law.

Earthworks is not opposed to the Good Samaritan legislation, but legislation is needed that will generate money for mine cleanups. Especially since the Super Fund Program has run out of money. Such legislation might include a cleanup fee for each ton of mineral extracted. This would help pay for mining cleanups which will run into the millions of dollars. Pete said that just bulk heading an adit can cost \$1,000,000.

The basic problem is that mines are allowed to be built and operated in such a way that perpetual water treatment is required, and these permanent environmental and financial liabilities can extend literally thousands of years into the future.

Right now there is no law requiring the cleanup of mines after they close down.

One of Earthworks' goals is to have various organizations like ROCC and various governmental entities like Ouray County pass resolutions supporting mining law reform.

Earthworks also needs to work on strategies and strategic plans which will help implement mining law reform.

It was suggested that WCC's Uranium Committee could look into this mining reform effort.

Adjournment

Robyn Cascade made a motion to adjourn and Howard Greene seconded the motion. Motion passed.