

ROCC BUSINESS MEETING  
MINUTES – MARCH 21, 2019

Kate Kellogg, co-president of ROCC, called the meeting to order. There were no new announcements to make.

The “Outstanding Citizen Award” is presented annually to someone who has improved the quality of life in our county. In this case it was four outstanding citizens who began the process in 2017 to ban single use plastic bags and straws in the town of Ridgway. Their names are: Indigo Krois, Maizy Gordon, Eleni Wallin and Autumn Sagal. Recently the Town of Ridgway’s town council passed a law to ban single use plastic bags thanks to these four girls who never gave up. The girls are planning to go to Denver to the state legislature to present their ideas and propose that the state ban single use plastics also. Kate presented each girl a framed award certificate from ROCC and displayed the plaque that resides at the Ridgway Community Center and has their organizational name engraved on it. Congratulations to these fine citizens. Thank you’s went to the parents as well who gave a lot of time helping and driving the girls around.

The community garden is alive and well thanks to the hard work of many people and donations. Agnieszka Przeszlowska gave an update on the community garden. This spring they will be breaking ground. The fencing is done. They are working on curbing, the parking area, irrigation system, bike path and a picnic table. There will be 25 beds ready to plant by May. Agnieszka updated us on dreams for Stage 2. They have applied for more outside grants but requested a grant from ROCC for \$1000 to continue their work in developing the garden.

Adoption of Minutes of January 17, 2019. A motion was made to adopt the minutes by Rein Van West and seconded by Rich Niemeier. Motion was passed.

2019 Parking lot sale: The Ouray French Class is taking over the parking lot sale this year. They will do all the work of advertising, vendors, marking spaces, organizing parking and will get all the proceeds from the event. They will use the money well. Robyn Cascade mentioned that it would be a good opportunity to recruit young people and their parents to ROCC. ROCC members agreed that would be a good idea. Scott Williams told the group that he built ramps they can use so folks can get their vehicles into the area for the sale. The sale will be Saturday, May 18 at the space behind the Library.

Treasurer’s Report: Scott Williams gave the treasurer’s report. He stated that there was \$40,701.24 in the bank. Our income was \$12,530.03, expenses were \$3042.28 with a net revenue of \$9487.75. He received over \$5000 in dues, 40% of that goes to WCA which has not been paid yet. That comes to about \$2300. This will be reconciled with Austin Ray. See the Treasurer’s full report for details.

Committee Reports:

Grant Committee: Since Dave Jones was not present Scott Williams presented three grants that ROCC received. The first was a \$500 grant for the Voyager Youth Program. They will use the money as scholarships to help needy families. This was approved by the committee. The second grant was for \$500. UWP asked for this money to help sponsor the River Fest Music event. This was also granted. The third grant was requested by the Community Gardens. This was for \$1000 to help with the continuing development of the gardens. Since the grant was over \$500 the members needed to vote on it. A motion was made by Tom Heffernan to give them \$1000 for the garden. A second was made by Robyn Cascade. The motion carried and was approved.

Land Use: Scott Williams talked about preserving the CR5 recreations access. BOCC didn’t approve what the owners wanted, so the owners filed suit, the suit has been amended twice. San Juan Huts wants to intervene in the lawsuit. Scott talked about options for ROCC. What we want is a win/win situation for everyone. Scott told us to continue to let the BOCC know what we want. Show up at the first part of their meetings. See report for more details.

Clean Energy: Rein Van West talked about these programs:

- Solar in Schools Program/Ridgway School District
- Truth or Dare Program/Ridgway Elementary School
- One Penny/kWh increase option for green energy
- Commercial – Property assessed Clean Energy
- Tri-State News

Robyn Cascade asked of the marijuana tax is used for school facilities? Rein will look into that. See Rein's report for more details on these programs.

Rein mentioned that there was 28 million acres of Boreal forest in Canada and that many of the trees are cut for tissue paper like toilet paper. He encouraged people to boycott these companies that are using that forest for their bathroom tissue. Companies have been graded using A,B, C, D, F. The good "A" companies include 7<sup>th</sup> Energy, Earth 1<sup>st</sup>, Green Forest 365 Bath Tissue and some Trader Joe's tissues. You can find out more from Rein.

Rein also talked about the Ridgway Master Plan and would like them to consider changes in the master plan statement with this new verbage:

"Encourage the use of carbon-free and renewable energy systems within the Town and support the goal of carbon neutrality for Colorado. Support the inspiration and innovation of those who live, work, and visit Ridgway to create a low-carbon economy and lifestyle that improves the health, shared prosperity and long-term security of our unique mountain community."

A motion was made by Scott Williams to have ROCC support this new verbage and ask the Town to consider it. A second was made by Kate Kellogg. The motion was passed.

Dark Skies: Val Szwarc updated us on the process of getting the Town of Ridgway to change their lighting regulations, etc. He thanked Tom Heffernan and those on the Town Council for pushing for this. The town acted to prioritize their lighting ordinance. The town needs to act fast or lose their "grandfathered" status on some issues. Val told us there is a documentary called "Save the Dark" being show at the Sherbino Theatre on April 6. He told us we can google "Saving the Dark" and see the trailer on it. He also told us that on May 25 at Ridgway State Park there will be a Summer Star Party. See Val's report for more details.

ROCC talks: Kate Kellogg reminded us that April 6 at the Sherbino the documentary "Save the Dark" will be shown. Then in May, Kelvin Kent would like to present a program on climbing in the Himalayas and Mt. Everest. In the fall, Tom Heffernan would like to show a program called "Company Town" from the Link network. It's an environmental documentary.

Membership Committee: Austin Ray said the so far, 2019 was not as good a year as 2018, but that could still change. In 2018 we had 247 individuals and in 2019, we have 198 individuals.

Public Lands: Robyn Cascade talked about the San Juan Wilderness bill which is incorporated into the CORE Act. She showed us maps of the areas involved. Then she talked about the administrative process of the GMUG forests. This GMUG is a huge process for the forest plan. Proposed additions to GMUG are: Baldy – addition to the Uncompahgre Wilderness, Bear Creek – addition to the Uncompahgre Wilderness, White Horse – addition to the Mt. Sneffels Wilderness, Hayden Mountain Wilderness and Abram Mountain Special Interest Area. Robyn had maps showing all these areas. If you would like to take action go to: [www.gmugrevision.com](http://www.gmugrevision.com) Also contact Representative Tipton and Senator Gardner to let them know you'd like them to get on board and support the CORE ACT.

New Business: Tom Heffernan informed the group about the Ridgway Town Cleanup on May 4. Rein Van West mentioned that ROCC and WCA were also working on oil and gas bills and have done some very good work.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Scott Williams and seconded by Rich Niemeier. Motion passed.  
Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Kathy Heffernan, acting secretary