ROCC General Meeting Draft Minutes

Thursday, January 19, 2017

Ridgway Community Center

1. Announcements - Kate Kellogg

a. Adopt-a-Street - Tom Heffernan

Tom talked about the Adopt-a-Street program that he presented to the Ridgway Town Council this week. Jen Coates is supporting this program and the Ridgway Assistant Planner, Lauren, will be working on this program. Her number is 626- 5308, Ext. 221. The program will seek volunteers to clean up trash on the streets in Ridgway that they adopt. Cleanups would be once in the Spring and once in the Fall. Tom indicated that this program has worked very well up in Montrose.

b. Women's Walk - Kathy Heffernan

A women's walk will take place in Telluride at 10:00 am. Those interested should meet at the courthouse in Telluride.

c. Peace in the Park

This event will take place on Friday, January 20 at 5:30 pm at the gazebo in Hartwell Park in Ridgway. Each participant is asked to bring a candle to light.

d. Million Women March

This event will take place on Saturday, January 21 at 12:30 pm in Grand Junction at the old R-5 school located at Seventh Street and Grand Avenue. This march will begin at 1:00 pm. Those wishing to car pool to Grand Junction should meet at Ridgway Railroad Museum parking lot at 9:30 am. Everyone is welcome to march, not just women.

e. CalmUnity A Day of Local Solidarity - Robyn Cascade

Stand together to unify our community, to affect change from a grassroots level, and to support equality & opportunity for all on Saturday, January 21. The Solidarity Walk will take place from 3:00 to 4:00 pm starting at the gazebo at the soccer field in Ridgway. Silence in Solidarity will take place at the Kiva Conference Center at the Chipeta Resort from 5:00 to 6:00 pm. followed by a CalmUnity Potluck dinner from 6:00 to 9:00 pm. During the dinner there will be music and poetry.

f. ROCC Social Justice Committee Meeting

The committee will meet on Sunday, January 22 at 1:30 pm at the United Church of the San Juans in Ridgway.

g. Great Old Broads - Robyn Cascade

The Northern San Juan Chapter of the Great Old Broads for Wilderness will host a presentation on Predator Reduction Mule Deer Study with Colorado Parks and Wildlife's Mammal Research Leader, Chuck Anderson on Tuesday, February 7 at 6:30pm in the Ridgway Community Center.

2. Approval of Minutes from December 3 Annual Meeting

Rein VanWest made a motion to approve the minutes. Donna Green seconded the motion. Motion passed.

3. Treasurer's Report - Scott Williams

Scott was out of town so there was no report.

4. Old Business

None

5. ROCC and WCC Committee Reports

a. ROCC Clean Energy Committee- Rein VanWest

Al Lowande mentioned that Brad Wallis is building a new energy efficient home in Ridgway that people should go see.

Robyn Cascade also mentioned that EcoAction Partners is offering Green Business Certification. Information about this can be found on EcoAction's website: http://www.ecoactionpartners.org

See Rein's report below:

ROCC Clean Energy Committee

WHAT Are We: We’re a group of active, pragmatic idealists who would like to move the needle of renewable energy forward in various ways in Ouray County.

WHO Are We: We’re a diverse group of ROCC members, members of the SMPA Board of Directors, employees of San Miguel Power Association, interested citizens, and allied with EcoAction Partners.

WHEN Are We: Our working group has been meeting generally on the 3rd Tuesday of every month.

WHERE Are We: We have been meeting in the homes of various members and now at the SMPA office.

VISION: To make Ouray County as energy efficient as possible and to make it 100% renewable energy sourced.

HOW Are We: CEC has been studiously educating itself with the complex and fascinating world of electricity: what it is, what generates it, how we get it, how to keep it cheap, who the players are, what are its market challenges, what are its regulations, how can we apply programs and policies already out there in achieving our vision.

IN The Cage:

* Green Blocks,
* Green Lights (LEDs)

* Home Energy Audits – Any home up to 3,000 sq. ft. can ask for an essentially free energy audit – SMPA and Black Hills Energy will each pay up to $150 each.
* Renters paying energy bills may qualify for SMPA’s Income Qualified (IQ) program (the 200 KWh solar project should be on line by the end of February) which would provide an automatic energy audit and free weatherization.
* Program should be promoted to ROCC members and realtors might also be interested.
* Swapping out older lighting in Ridgway Schools w/ LEDs,
* Exploring ways to maximize the new solar system installation on the roof of the expanded Ridgway Fire House to share with Town Hall

* Learning the details of a state enabled program, ‘Commercial – Property Accessed Clean Energy’ to understand what would make it viable in Ouray County.
* C-PACE has been existent for some time so most ‘bugs’ have been resolved
* Although schools are considered ‘government’, they can qualify for C-PACE under what is called a ‘special improvement district’.
* While Green Biz certified commercial properties may also participate in C-PACE proposals, trying to co-market them together is not feasible – different ‘animals’ altogether. Green Business certified in OC are: Alternative Power Enterprises, RIGS, and Alpine Bank.
* An inventory of the commercial properties that might be candidates for C-PACE (attachment with the December agenda) found about 180, including agricultural properties. There appear to be enough to plan a future presentation to the BOCC for it to consider passing a resolution opting in the program.

NEEDED: More inquiring minds; come join us: next Clean Energy Committee meeting on Tuesday, February 7, 9am, SMPA office in Ridgway.

b. ROCC Talks Committee - Kate Kellogg

April 20  **Protecting Our Public Lands in the New Political Landscape –** Sen. Michael Bennett, if possible, or someone from his office with expertise on public lands. Organizer: Kate Kellogg with assistance from Jen Parker and Bob Green. Venue: Ridgway Community Center?

May 19 (Friday) **Retired CO Supreme Court Justice Greg Hobbs** on water issues, his water poems and whatever else he wants to talk about. Organizer: Don Swartz Venue: Wright Opera House

July 19 (Wednesday) **Composting and Sustainable Gardening** with Kris Holstrom, project manager for EcoPartners of San Miguel County. Also some leaders of the Ridgway Community Garden (Chris Lance?) to discuss plans for the new garden. Organizer: Jan Van West (with Kate) Venue: Ridgway Community Center

September 21 **Citizens Preserving Habitat and Colorado Natural Areas Program** –Panel with Raquel Wertsbaugh, CNAP coordinator, Joe Lewandowski, Dept. of Parks and Wildlife Information Specialist and Kelly Crane, Ouray’s District DPW officer. Organizers: Dudley Case and Jan. Venue: Wright Opera House

November 9 **Film, *Dolores: River of Sorrows***, with filmmaker Cody Perry of Rig to Flip Productions. Organizer: Kate Venue: Sherbino Theater

\*All are on Thursdays unless otherwise noted.

c. ROCC Board Meeting with WCC Board Executive Director and Board President - Dave Jones

See Dave's report below:

Dave pointed out that most of WCC income comes in during the last six months of the year, which means that WCC has to dip in savings to cover expenses for these first six months.

WCC needs to get ROCC's input and support for the community outreach and assessments project, mentioned below, since this project involves ROCC members' time and effort.

Also, while WCC Board decided to deemphasize the public lands' effort this year, WCC remains flexible on public lands' effort, since Donald Trump's election may require WCC to reemphasize this effort. And this may be an opportunity for WCC to partner with hunters, fishers, and mountain bikers to protect public lands.

Meeting with ROCC board members,   
 WCC CEO and WCC Board Chair 01-18-2017

Purpose:

* Overview of WCC finances, 2008-2016
* WCC CEO presentation on 2017 goals & projected finances
* Discuss WCC priorities and their rationale

Express ROCC concerns with projected deficits and perceived lack of emphasis on Public Lands protection

WCC Financial Summary, 2008-2016:

* 2008-2016, 4 yrs with profits & 5 yrs with losses 🡪 +$30K
* Deficits 3 of the past 4 years 🡪 ($31K)  
   ***However***
* WCC has been placing $12K into a savings account each year
  + Actually the WCC budget has overall been balanced the last 4 years
  + Accounting for savings deposits, assets have grown
    - $71K 1/1/2010 🡪 $303K 1/1/2017
  + Annual expenditures have also grown
    - $250K in 2010 🡪 $444K in 2016

And for 2017…:

* WCC projects:
  + $496K in expenditures
  + $60,900 $49,000 budget deficit
  + No 2017 additions to savings
* New costs:
  + Hiring a grants writer (Amy McBride, contracted for 20 hours/wk)
  + Hiring a Development Coordinator to increase gifts & grants
  + Spending $20K to do the first phase ($55K total) of a community outreach and assessment, identifying issues and concerns

WCC Issues and Priorities:

* Current WCC staff is spread thin – many issues
* WCC CEO and board chair understand that ROCC members place a high priority on public land protection
* All agree election results may require WCC to reprioritize public lands issues

In summary, ROCC board members:

* After a deeper look, feel better about WCC finances in past years
* Continue to have concerns about the projected WCC deficit in 2017
* Are delighted to see the hiring of Amy McBride to increase grants
  + Grant funding has been essentially stagnant since 2014
* Are unsure if hiring a new full-time Development Coordinator is wise
  + Agree additional funding is needed – but we will need outcomes…
* Understand the need to reach out to and assess our communities but remain somewhat skeptical concerning prioritization & cost of this task

d. WCC Public Lands Committee - Jim Stevenson

The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests Management Plan (GMUG) will be starting in March after the Forest Service finishes the Rio Grand National Forest Management Plan. The last revision of this plan was in 1989. The plan will emphasize transportation, infrastructure, recreation, designations.

WCC apparently has some funding to put towards reviewing and commenting on this plan.

It might be a good idea to get Scott Armentrout or the Wilderness Society to do a ROCC Talk on GMUG.

6. New Business

a. Need Membership Committee Chair and committee members

Don Swartz passed around a volunteer signup sheet.

The committee would be responsible for contacting members whose membership has lapsed, contacting new members, and conducting membership drives, such as the Alpine Wild membership drive that Jen Parker and Roze Evans spearheaded last Fall to increase membership. At a result of their membership drive ROCC got 18 new members. Roze will put their membership letter on the website.

It was also suggested that the Membership Committee have a booth at ROCC's Parking Lot Sate in May.

b. Recommendation to form a ROCC Public Lands Committee

A motion was made by Chris Pike that ROCC form a ROCC Public Lands Committee. Dick Gingery seconded the motion. Motion Passed.

Don Swartz passed around a volunteer signup sheet for this committee.

It was suggested that this committee could work with other groups, such as Trout Unlimited, on protecting public lands.

c. WCC Legislative Committee - Roze Evans

Don Swartz passed around a signup sheet for people who wanted to be notified of legislative action being taken in Denver.

Currently Emily Hornbach is the organizer for WCC's Legislative Committee.

d. Need Chair for ROCC's Parking Lot Sale Committee

Jen Parker and Rich Niemeyer volunteered to be co-chairs of the committee.

The parking lot sale will be in the third week of May.

e. Spaghetti Dinner Committee - Chris Pike

Roland McCook will be the keynote speaker and there will be Native American drummers and flute players.

An appropriation by the ROCC members is necessary for Spaghetti Dinner costs since these costs will exceed $500. It is estimated that the cost of the posters and newspaper advertising will be about $564; that the presenters' travel costs will be $300; that the presenters' lodging costs will be $304, and that the rental cost for the Ouray Community Center will be $265. All totaled these costs will amount to $1,433.

Rein VanWest made a motion to approve allocating funds to cover these costs. Jim Stephenson seconded the motion. After much discussion on the need to advertise in the Watch and Plaindealer newspapers, the motion passed.

At 8:40 pm Rein VanWest made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Jen Parker seconded the motion. Motion passed.