ROCC General Meeting Draft Minutes

Tuesday, September 8, 2016

1. Approval of Minutes

Rein vanWest made a motion to approve the minutes and Al Lowande seconded the

motion. Motion passed.

2. Treasurer’s Report - Scott Williams

Roze Evans reported for Scott that Expenses totaled $1,416.26 and New Worth was

$19,229.58.

3. Announcements - Roze Evans

a. BOCC Planning Commission Hearing on the High Alpine Building

Regulations - September 13, 6:00 pm, Ouray Community Center

b. The 36th WCC Annual Meeting will take place on Saturday, September 17 at 9:00 am at the Montrose Pavilion. WCC members will be voting on five policy resolutions which are: Establishment of an Annual Platform, Extension of Annual Business Meeting Voting, Updated Air Quality Resolution; Updated Climate Change Resolution; and Support for Amendment 69.

The election of the WCC President and Treasurer will also take place.

The keynote speaker will be Jessie Ulibari.

The cost to attend the annual conference is $25 per person which includes lunch catered by the Camp Robber Restaurant and a dance at 6:30 pm.

4. ROCC Talk - October 20, 7:00pm, Ridgway Town Hall

Telling Stories from the Inside Out with Kyle Rasmussen, BlueShoe Media

that follows the speaker and two others along the refugee route from

Lebanon to Germany titled, Alwadi.

5. Committee Reports:

a. ROCC Composting/Recycling Committee

ROCC’s Composting Committee swung back into action after a successful ‘Music in the Park’ recycling effort in July. This occasion was a ‘trial balloon’ community potluck with composting volunteers Sharon and Dudley Case, and our mayor, John Clark. During the dinner, Mayor Clark made the surprising and

welcome announcement to the hundred or so gathered community members that Ridgway had been selected as the winner of the Creative Arts District competition. Mayor Clark has been a key player in ROCC’s recycling efforts when and where they take place to help coordinate logistics and compostable materials. Dudley and Sharon reported the potluck generated very little trash and recyclables – almost everything was compostable – a clear success! The committee is organizing a ‘debriefing’ of its summer work with an eye to establishing 3 recycling stations during next summer’s ‘Music in the Park’, and, with Mayor Clark’s help, to actively engage in collaborative ‘mining’ with surrounding communities for a nearby composting facility. Again, thank you Sharon and Dudley (and Mayor Clark!) for your inspiring volunteer efforts!

b. ROCC Clean Energy Committee

ROCC’s CEC met in June and July and took a holiday in August. During this time,

its major accomplishment has been the replacement of the ubiquitous florescent

lighting in both the elementary and secondary schools w/LED lighting. This has

provided the Ridgway school system w/improved and less expensive lighting and

improved the educational environment for its students. This was accomplished by many volunteers and school staff under the direction of ROCC member Wendy Fenner and Superintendent Steve Smith. Did I mention that none of this would have been possible w/o the generous $5K donation by another ROCC member? Please see Kate Kellogg’s excellent article in the current issue of WCC’’s publication, the Clarion.

The CEC is grappling with the complicated nature of promoting more renewable

energy in our county vs. the entrenched fossil fuel interests while recognizing the

practical considerations of certain limited capacities. Understanding that education (i.e. Star appliances, Green Blocks) and conservation (i.e. weatherization, TOTS – turn off the switch!) remain CEC bedrocks, CEC is currently scanning its accumulated storehouse of information for other low- hanging fruit projects that would promote its mission.

CEC has a non-discriminatory policy for welcoming any and all interested members….newcomers will not be disappointed!

c. Social Justice Committee/Affordable Housing Committee

The committee continues with its plans to host a forum on affordable housing on

Wednesday, September 21 at the Ridgway Community Center. The County

Commissioners and the mayors of Ridgway and Ouray have been invited to speak.

All town councilmen and planning commissioners have been invited and will be

available for questions. Shirley Diaz, Executive Director of the San Miguel County Housing Authority, is the featured speaker and will share her extensive experience and knowledge about affordable housing. We hope for a large turn out from the public, who will have plenty of opportunity to make comments and ask questions. We hope this will help move our county toward the goal of providing affordable housing for those who work in our communities and would like to live here. The committee feels that our efforts so far have substantially moved the conversation about this topic in a positive direction. The town of Ridgway in particular is deeply engaged in discussions to make affordable housing more realistic. Please come to the forum on September 21 and support our community’s effort to address this issue. Refreshments at 6:30 and forum starts at 7:00pm.

d. Western Colorado Congress' Report

I would recommend reading WCC’s current edition of its excellently written

publication, the Clarion. There are many articles of interest involving our members on Colorado’s Western Slope, yes, but the headliner is WCC’s Annual Meeting in Montrose on Saturday, September 17. There you will be treated to country-style democracy in voting on resolutions establishing policies to authorize our organization’s engagement. To wit:

WCC steps up as the Western Slope’s voice for social and environmental justice:

This year, there will be five resolutions to be discussed and voted on at the Annual Meeting. They are outlined in the Clarion: 1) Should WCC establish an annual organizational platform? 2) Should WCC members not present at the Annual Meeting be given a process by which they can vote on officers and resolutions? 3) Updating WCC’s position on Air Quality. 4) Updating WCC’s position on Climate Change. And, 5) Should WCC endorse Amendment 69, a single-payer health care system?

Please consider attending WCC’s 36th Annual Meeting – it’ll be tasty, impactful,

educational, musical, and more!

e. ROCC/WCC Legislative Committee

The WCC legislative committee has not remained idle nor content to rest on its

laurels after another successful legislative session wrapped up in May. At the meeting in Delta in June with WCC’s Executive Director, Dave Reed, and WCC’s legislative liaison, Sol Malick, the committee reflected on the following:

Purpose

• To Think Critically about the purpose and effectiveness of our legislative

program

• To Think Critically about how this work builds our power/organizational

capacity

• To Evaluate how we prioritize the bills we engage on

Outcomes

• Better understanding of the purpose/ role of this committee and our

relationship to campaign teams

• Shared goals of how we can be even more effective at building our power and advancing our campaign work

• Shared understanding of how we prioritize bills and strategically deploy our resources

Following this ‘jewel’ of a meeting, WCC’s ever-ready and focused organizer,

Rachel Zatterstrom, held a committee conference call in July to discuss legislative

committee opportunities for engagement in the all-important fall election cycle. One of these includes educational candidate forums such as the one ROCC is doing.

A follow up meeting to crystallize and connect the outcomes of June and July’s meetings will be held in Montrose, Sunday, September 18. ROCC members are welcome to attend. Please email your interest to Rachel Zatterstrom at:

rachel@wccongress.org.

5. High Alpine Zone Regulations - What is ROCC's position?

Parcels under 5 acres 148

Parcels over 5 acres 693

Total parcels 5 acres or less 841

Parcels over 10 acres 235

Parcels over 15 acres 13

Parcels over 35 acres 1

Total Parcels 1,090 all legally non-conforming lots

The Leadership Committee hired Paul Kosnik of the Eggleston Kosnik Law Firm to write a letter to the BOCC concerning the High Alpine Zone Regulations and to represent ROCC at the BOCC public hearing.

Roze Evans asked the question: Does ROCC want to have a position on the High Alpine Regulations? The majority of the members said yes.

The Leadership Committee presented three draft recommendations concerning changes it wanted to see to the High Alpine Zone Regulations. The first recommendation concerned the parcel size to be allowed in this zone. The second recommendation concerned the size of a residence allowed in this zone. And the third recommendation concerned the definition of tundra.

After much discussion the ROCC members reworded the parcel size recommendation to read as follows:

**Recommendation #1:** The parcel size should comply with the Alpine Zone’s present zoning requirement of a minimum of 35 acres per dwelling.

John Hollrah made a motion to accept this wording as recommendation #1.

Ulli Sir Jesse seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

After much more discussion the ROCC members reworded the size of a residence recommendation to read as follows:

**Recommendation #2:** As stated above we strongly oppose allowing building on sites smaller than 35 acres. However, if the BOCC chooses to allow higher density than this, we consider it especially critical to incentivize consolidation of parcels in the following way, which is based on parcel size:

5 acres up to and including 15 acres - Maximum dwelling size 500 square feet

More than 15 acres but less than 20 acres - Maximum dwelling size 2000

square feet

20 acres and larger - Maximum dwelling size 2500 square feet

John Hollrah made a motion to accept this wording as Recommendation #2. Olaf Rasmussen seconded the motion. Motion passed.

After much further discussion the ROCC members reworded the definition of tundra recommendation to read as follows:

**Recommendation #3**: Tundra. Alpine tundra ecosystems are typically found above tree line and are characterized generally by the absence of extensive tree coverage. Several distinct plant communities are found in the alpine tundra ecosystem, including low shrubs, cushion plants, small forbs and lush meadows of sedges and grasses. Willow thickets, krumholtz and other vegetation under 20 feet in height do not qualify as extensive tree coverage.

John Hollrah made a motion to accept this wording as Recommendation #3.

Chris Pike seconded the motion. Motion passed.

6. Action Items:

a. Should ROCC rent a small part of the UWP office to store ROCC equipment, brochures, banner, etc.?

Dudley Case reported that the UWP Board of Directors offered to donate a 3 foot x 4 foot space in their office for ROCC's usage to store various ROCC owned equipment, supplies, banners, signs, safety vests, etc.

Dudley was directed by the membership to write an acceptance and thank you letter to the UWP Board for their generous offer.

b. Should ROCC be a signatory to the letter from Matt Reed, Public Lands Director, High Country Conservation Advocates to Scott Armentrout, Forest Supervisor, GMUG National Forest?

Bob Green made a motion that ROCC should be a signatory to this letter. Ulli Sir Jesse seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Meeting was adjourned.