

ROCC General Meeting Minutes September 16, 2015

Welcome:

Roze Evans welcomed everyone to the meeting and then started the meeting by introducing Lynn Padgett as one of the guest speaker for the evening.

Presentation by Lynn Padgett on the Proposed OHV Bill from Ouray County's and the Alpine Loop Perspective.

OHV usage has increased 131 percent from 2000-2012 and now there are Ultra Terrain Vehicles (UTVs) which seat up to 6 people in a single vehicle that can be driven by a 10-year old.

Ouray County would like to see that all OHV operators have driver's licenses and liability Insurance in Ouray County. Ouray County would also like to retain local control of OHVs on country roads. Ouray County wants to preserve the current Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife (CPW) OHV annual user permit process which funds the CPW motorized trail grant program. Ouray County currently cannot have its CPW motorized trail grant applications for the Alpine Ranger Program (primarily a safety ambassador and secondarily an enforcement officer) scored by CPW because of the "conflict" issue. CPW and the State Attorney General's office has determined that by requiring a valid driver's license and liability insurance for OHV operation, Ouray, Hinsdale, San Miguel, and San Juan Counties have local ordinances that are "inconsistent" and "in conflict" with existing state rules and regulations. Specifically, Rule 504 of CPW regulations which allows 10-year olds supposedly under voice/sight supervision of a licensed driver to operate OHVs on any public road or trail open to OHVs. Ouray County would also like to qualify for the Colorado's Parks & Wildlife Division's OHV Programmatic Project Grants. The county would also like its OHV rules and the state's rules to be consistent and it would like identity plates on all OHVs. These plates would only cost \$2.90 to be created by the Department of Corrections and would be similar to motorcycle plates. There is a bicameral interim committee comprised of state Representatives and state Senators studying a range of OHV topics, including safety features like head/tail lamps, helmets and eye protection; visual identity plates and if they can be accomplished without triggering TABOR; titling and registration; 7th Judicial District inconsistencies that allow an OHV from certain other states where they are considered motor vehicles to be operated on all public roads in the 7th Judicial District - even if they are closed to OHVs and/or paved; operation of OHVs on paved roads; and operator credentials like valid driver's license and/or liability insurance.

Currently under state law, an OHV can be operated on any local (municipal or county) roads or trails open to OHV's through a local enabling ordinance or resolution. They can be operated on public lands roads or trails that are designated by the agency with jurisdiction over them. The local governments and public lands agencies can also currently allow OHVs to operate or not operate on paved roads.

Under State Park Rule #504 (CRS 33-14.5-108(1)) the minimum age for operating an OHV is 10.

The Colorado Parks Department and the State Attorney General's Office maintain that liability insurance and/or valid driver's licenses can not be required by local governments for OHV operators, as this is inconsistent and in conflict with state rules and regulations.

Currently OHVs cannot operate on county roads unless otherwise specified. Ouray County allows recreational OHVs to operate on all non-hard surfaced roads in Ouray County (all but about 20 miles of the 300-mile county road system). OHVs being used for agricultural purposes are exempt from County regulations and can operate (such as to access fields and irrigation systems) on pavement, with or without a valid driver's license and liability insurance.

Ouray County does not know if the interim committee will be introducing helpful legislation for the 2016 legislative session (Jan - April). Ouray County has proposed to Colorado Counties Inc. (CCI), the association that represents county governments, a legislative initiative to run a simple bill with language that will clarify to CPW and state rules and regulations that counties DO have the authority to require driver's licenses and liability insurance for non-agricultural use of OHV's on roads within their jurisdiction that are open to OHVs, and those counties that do this are NOT in conflict with the state or inconsistent with state regulations, and thus may not be penalized.

Lynn has drafted a paragraph to insert into the Colorado Parks Department Rules, which states that counties can require driver's licenses, liability insurance for operators of non-agricultural OHVs used on county roads.

This paragraph has been approved to be run as a CCI-led bill if the interim committee does not do this itself. The draft paragraph reads:

"Counties that require driver's license and liability insurance for NON-Ag use on county roads within their jurisdiction, ARE NOT in conflict or inconsistent with State Statutes or Rules/Regs."

Howard Greene introduced a motion that ROCC endorse the following wording:

Counties that require driver's license and liability insurance for NON-Ag use on county roads within their jurisdiction, ARE NOT in conflict or inconsistent with State Statutes or Rules/Regs.

as a CCI-led bill if the interim committee does not do this itself, and have ROCC ask WCC to also endorse this wording as a CCI-led bill if the interim committee does not do this itself. Rich Niemeier seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Approve minutes from:

Rein van West made a motion to approve the July meeting minutes and Al Lowande seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Scott Williams

ROCC has \$18,296.66 in the bank accounts. The year-to-date income is \$6,255.07 and the year-to-date expenses are \$2,161.93. This results in a year-to-date net income of \$4,093.14.

Announcements:

Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce Lodging Tax Information:

Gail Ingram briefly talked about Resolution #1603 which is coming up on the Ridgway Town Council agenda.

The proposal under Resolution #1603 is to increase the Ridgway lodging tax from \$2.00 to 3.5 percent of the lodging charge. It is believed that this tax increase will bring in approximately \$67,000 in additional revenue. The proposal is to allocate 70 percent of this tax to the promotion and marketing of Ridgway and the remaining 30 percent will be allocated to Ridgway improvements.

Opportunity to Get Involved:

ROCC needs a volunteer to help update the ROCC website.

It was suggested that someone in the Ridgway High School's technology class might be interested in taking this on as a school project.

ROCC Communications Committee:

The committee will hold its next meeting on October 5, from 5:30 to 7:00 pm.

ROCC Talk:

The next ROCC Talk will be held on Thursday, October 15 at the Sherbino Theater. Professor Doug Kenney of the University of Colorado Law School at Boulder will speak on "The Colorado River & Water Scarcity - Who Gets the Water". Professor Kenney is an expert in Western Water Policy.

It was felt that the publicity and outreach for this talk should be strong, such as posters, emails, newspaper articles, etc. We should reach out to both the Cattlemen's Association and the Ouray County Water Users Association.

ROCC Annual Meeting:

The annual meeting will be held on Thursday, November 12th.

WCC Committee Reports:

WCC Report:

During the August 22nd WCC Board Meeting in Grand Junction, organizer Matt King conducted a workshop on how white privilege makes cultural diversity a more challenging goal for our organization and what can be done about it. More training needs to be done w/the Board before bringing it to the community chapters.

A Board motion passed unanimously to ask the community chapters, including ROCC, to help fund WCC's Executive Director's position for a second year.

WCC's 35th Annual Meeting will be held this weekend on September 19th and 20th at Camp Kiwanis on the Grand Mesa. A living wage resolution will be considered at this meeting, which will help WCC's Legislative Committee take the appropriate action on this issue.

This month's Clarion has a recommended article on oil and gas drilling in Battlement Mesa. As many as 53 wells are being proposed to be drilled within the Battlement Mesa PUD. At the Battlement Concerned Citizens' community meeting on August 31, over 100 residents showed up to voice their support to oppose URSA's drilling on a number of key issues. Garfield County has been ground zero for drilling on the western slope and what happens there affects all other potential drilling here. This was truly a happening of community action. Stay tuned.

ROCC WCC Organizer - Rachel Zatterstrom

No report.

Food & Ag. Committee - Robyn Cascade

On October 13th there will be a rule making hearing in Montrose on the Cottage Foods Act. Contact Rachel Zatterstrom if you would like more information.

The committee's first meeting will be on October 25th.

Public Lands - Jim Stephenson

No report.

Uranium - Dudley Case

On Monday, July 27th, our committee ran one Eco-Flight out of the Montrose Air airport to the Paradox Valley/Dolores Canyon area to view the uranium mines and processing plants and mills in those areas.

The committee has set up a website to view the route of the flight on a map on the right side of the page and photos with narratives on the left side of the page.

The website is:

<http://rmwild.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=1a2b351b2ee245768486620267ab954b>

Almost the entire area we flew over is either part of the Proposed Dolores River Canyon National Conservation Area or the BLM Dolores River Canyon Wilderness Study Area.

Both our website and the brochure we are creating based on this flight will highlight the economic development potential of federally funded reclamation of inactive uranium mines.

We are trying to time the release of our brochure with the release of the Montrose BLM Office's Regional Management Plan this Fall.

Legislative Committee - Roze Evans

There will be a meeting with legislators before December 1st.

ROCC Committee Reports:

Adopt-a-Park – JoAnne & Nick Williams

No report.

Membership - JoAnne Williams

No report.

Recycling Committee - Judi Chamberlin & Dave Jones

Dave thanked everyone who helped with the recycling effort for the Concerts in the Park this summer. This recycling went very well.

Dave and Judi won't be in Ridgway next summer so they will need volunteers to help run the recycling for the Concerts in the Park next summer.

Social Justice - Al Lowande

The committee will tackle the issue of the lack of affordable housing in Ouray County.

Lynn Padgett suggested that ROCC should become a member of the Ouray County Housing Authority. And she also said that she is trying to get money budgeted for the Housing Authority.

Al asked that ROCC support the committee's work on this affordable housing issue.

Rein van West made a motion that ROCC formally support the Social Justice Committee's work on the affordable housing issue. Robyn Cascade seconded the motion. The motion passed.

ROCC Talks - Roze Evans

ROCC Talks were covered previously in the Announcements section of the agenda.

Community Support Committee - Dave Jones

Dave stated that the Ridgway Food Pantry has requested help collecting items for Christmas baskets that they hand out in December.

Energy - Al Lowande

The committee has been dormant over the last couple of months but will gear up for upcoming legislative session.

Land Use Committee - Needs a Chair Person

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Monthly Newsletter: Roze Evans

Some ROCC members have been complaining about getting too many emails so perhaps we should move to a short once-a-month announcement only type newsletter and then also put this on the ROCC website with a link for downloading.

Resolution About Money and Politics: Al Lowande

Al stated that he would like to take a ROCC resolution, about getting money out of politics, to the WCC Board so they can consider working on this issue.

Judi Chamberlin made a motion to this effect and Donna Green seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Spaghetti Dinner: Chris Pike

Chris said we should start looking for a Spaghetti Dinner speaker now. He would like to see someone of the stature of Richard Hansen speak on climate change.

Next Year's' ROCC Picnic: Chris Pike

Chris volunteered to chair a committee to work on next year's ROCC picnic. He suggested that the picnic might be held at a member's home rather than in Hartwell Park.

Open Bard: Robyn Cascade

Open Bard is looking for bar tenders and if ROCC members volunteer to bar tend the tips could come back to ROCC. Dave Jones and Judi Chamberlin volunteered to bar tend.

Digital Projector Donation:

Roze Evans announced that Austin and Carolyn Ray have purchased a digital projector and donated it to ROCC. Thank you Austin and Carolyn for this generous donation.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.