

## ROCC GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 15, 2015

### **WELCOME NEW WCC DIRECTOR – Dave Reed**

Rein van West, President of Western Colorado Congress, introduced Dave Reed the new Executive Director of WCC. WCC has been without an executive director for the past four years so Dave's hiring is a big step forward in WCC's strategic planning.

Dave has been development and communications director for the Wilderness Workshop since 2003. Before that he was staff editor/writer for the Rocky Mountain Institute, and has also authored five editions of The Rough Guide to Nepal. Dave also serves on the board of Clean Energy Economy and as the chapter co-leader of Citizen's Climate Lobby.

### **PRESENTATION – SAN JUAN CORRIDORS COALITION** by Sara Coulter

The San Juan Corridors Coalition is dedicated to preserving wildlife habitat and corridors in the northwest San Juan Mountains. And it is seeking new leaders for the coalition. Sara has been president of the coalition for about 10 years and would like to step down from her leadership position and infuse the coalition with new blood.

The coalition has worked with the Division of Wildlife, Ouray and Montrose Counties, Black Canyon Land Trust, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Southern Rockies Ecosystem Project, the Uncompahgre Project, and many other organizations. SJCC actually started out as a subcommittee of ROCC and then became an independent organization as it expanded its horizons into other counties.

The coalition has concentrated its efforts on public education, habitat preservation, and road mitigation, especially winter range habitat which is critical for the survival and well-being of our wildlife.

SJCC has a website which Sara encourages you to visit for find out more information about the organization, <http://www.sanjuancorridors.org>

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Spaghetti Dinner will be held on Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at the Ouray Community Center starting at 6:30 pm. After dinner music will be by Heather & Douglas.

Jen Parker mentioned that the set up crew need volunteers and Howard Green, Rein van West, Randy Parker, Gene G, and Chris Lance graciously volunteered to help out. Three other Nordic Council volunteers will be coming to help out as well.

Dudley Case said that a couple of volunteers are also needed for check-in and Kate Kellogg and Suze Gingery were gracious enough to volunteer.

Kate Kellogg will be doing public relations for the dinner, and Dave Reed will be introducing himself at the dinner.

There will be no ½ price membership discounts at the dinner this year.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

##### **ADOPT-A-PARK – Nick Williams**

The committee will be conducting a survey of the parks in Ridgway and doing a needs assessment for each park.

Eleven ROCC members volunteered to help the Ice Park Festival with traffic control and in exchange the festival organizers donated \$1,000 to ROCC.

The committee does need volunteers so if you have some spare time to help the committee out, please call Nick.

##### **COMMUNITY SUPPORT – Dave Jones**

No report.

##### **ENERGY – Al Lowande**

The blue ribbon coalition (task force) is taking comments until February on adequate oil & gas drilling setbacks and local control. Please email them at [ogtaskforce@state.co.us](mailto:ogtaskforce@state.co.us)

See the fall issue of the Clarion for Frank's article on this.

##### **LAND USE – Don Rogers**

No report.

##### **LOCAL FOODS – Robyn Cascade**

On January 10<sup>th</sup> there was the third annual Western Colorado Food & Farm Forum. The 2015 Cottage Food Act was discussed. Right now the only foods in the act are pickles, pickled vegetables, tortillas, and fruit empanadas. The big issue here is the pH of the foods.

WCC has established a Regional Food and Ag Team that Robyn will be on. And WORC has a Growing 16% Campaign. The 16% are the small and medium sized meatpackers, processors and feeders, independent livestock producers, and the retailers and restaurants who market and sell their meat. Expanding the 16% is a strategy to exert pressure on the meatpacking industry to be more open to

consumer demand for innovation, product diversity and quality, as well as market transparency and competitiveness.

**MEMBERSHIP** – Jo Anne Williams

Membership is holding steady at 75 percent renewal rate.

**PUBLIC LANDS** – Jim Stephenson

There are a number of land protection acts on the President's desk waiting to be signed including the Hermosa Creek Wilderness Act, which will create about 37,000 new acres of wilderness. Unfortunately, there are a number of bad tradeoffs in the bill to various coal, copper and timber companies.

The San Juan Wilderness Act is somewhat in limbo at this time, but the good news is that all the proposed wilderness lands in it are still being managed as wilderness and in a couple of years or less, a new management plan will be formulated and we need to be ready to work to be sure that the protection continues.

The Great Old Broads organization is now collaborating with ROCC on the wilderness campaign.

WCC is looking at the BLM's Montrose Office's Regional Management Plan, which may come out sometime this year.

**RECYCLING** – Judi Chamberlin

No report.

**ROCC TALKS** – Roze Evans

For the first time ROCC will be charging non-members \$5.00 for each ROCC Talk. There will be no charge for members.

Two of the ROCC Talks this year will be at the Sherbino Theater and one talk will be in Ouray at a place to be determined.

Each talk at the Sherbino will cost ROCC about \$100. Therefore, we would like to get some sponsors from our membership for the two talks at the Sherbino and the one talk in Ouray. Gene Ulrich and John Holtrah offered to sponsor the Elder Care talk at the Sherbino. Howard Greene and Rein van West offered to sponsor the Mining talk at the Sherbino. And Bob and Donna Green and Jim Stephenson and Susan Dougherty offered to sponsor the Wilderness talk in Ouray. Thank you to all these members for their generous offers of sponsorship.

The Ridgway Community Center is now charging ROCC \$5 per hour for meetings there.

There will be no ½ price membership discounts at the ROCC talks this year.

## **SOCIAL JUSTICE – Jen Parker**

This week the committee held its first meeting and decided to concentrate on health and dental care, as well as, food and housing for the poor and low income residents of Ouray County.

## **URANIUM – Dudley Case**

No report.

## **WCC LEGISLATIVE – Roze Evans**

The committee meets on Tuesdays at Noon by means of telephone conferencing with WCC's legislative expert.

Green Weekly Updates on legislation in Colorado are now available by means of links on the ROCC website or by emailing Dudley Case to get on the emailing list for these updates.

New Colorado House and Senate bills that we would be interested in are:

SB-15-046. Under Colorado's renewable energy standard, by the year 2020, cooperative electric associations and municipally owned electric utilities will be required to obtain at least 10% and, in the case of a large cooperative serving 100,000 or more customers, 20% of the electricity they sell at retail from renewable sources. Renewable sources include retail distributed generation, defined as a renewable energy resource located on the site of the customer's facilities and interconnected on the customer's side of the meter. Rooftop solar panels are the most common form of retail distributed generation.

SB-15-044. Under current law, the public utilities commission is required to establish electric resource standards. These standards must set the minimum percentage of electricity that retail electric service providers in Colorado must generate or cause to be generated from recycled energy and renewable energy resources. The bill reduces the minimum percentage of renewable energy required of investor-owned utilities from 20% to 15% for the years 2015 through 2019 and from 30% to 15% for the years 2020 and thereafter. The bill also reduces the minimum amounts for cooperative electric associations from 20% to 15% for the years 2020 and thereafter.

The bill allows these utilities to count each kilowatt-hour of electricity obtained through retail distributed generation as 3 kilowatt-hours for purposes of meeting the 2020 standard. In addition, the bill allows cooperative electric associations to use purchases from

community solar gardens to meet the retail distributed generation component of the renewable energy standard.

**SB-15-023.** Currently, off-highway vehicles may cross streets, roads or highways if the driver complies with certain snowmobile statutory standards. The bill imports the snowmobile standards into the off-highway vehicle statutes. The bill also clarifies that a driver may cross a state highway if the driver complies with these standards.

**HB-15-1054.** The bill authorizes a person to drive an off-highway vehicle on a county roadway if the person has a driver's license and obeys the rules of the road. Off-highway vehicles are subject to the law against careless driving and a speed limit of 40 miles per hour unless local authorities raise it.

The bill also authorizes a person to register an off-highway vehicle with the department of revenue, which issues license plates to registered vehicles. If a person registers an off-highway vehicle, the person may drive on county roads, as approved by the board of county commissioners.

#### **WCC REPORT – Rein van West**

This year WCC will be creating and implementing a new five-year strategic plan, and WORC is also doing a five-year strategic plan.

WCC's Board retreat this month will be focused on how to create a new strategic plan, but not on the actual content of the plan. And WCC is looking for input from all five community groups that make up WCC.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

##### **TIME BANK OF THE ROCKIES-Robyn Cascade**

ROCC has joined Time Bank so any ROCC members who join Time Bank can receive credit for volunteer hours. Dudley Case has begun posting requests for volunteers for such events as the Spaghetti Dinner.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

We need a volunteer to be the organizer for the May Parking Lot Sale. Eve Becker-Doyle has stepped down from that position. Roze Evans suggested that there is a woman named Annabelle, who has worked with Second Chance's Wine & Whiskers, who may be interested in this position, even though she is not currently a ROCC member.

The meeting was adjourned at about 8:50 pm.