

ROCC General Meeting Draft Minutes
Saturday, December 3, 2016
United Church of the San Juans

1. Announcements - Jen Parker

a. ROCC 2016 Accomplishments and Events - Roze Evans

See attached sheet pages 4 and 5.

b. ROCC Spaghetti Dinner

The Spaghetti Dinner will be held on either February 4 or 18 and we need a chairperson for the Spaghetti Dinner Committee. Chris Pike graciously volunteered to be chair of the committee.

c. Citizen of the Year nominations

Chris Pike asked that all nominations be sent to him on or before December 23.

2. Approval of Minutes from September 8 General Meeting

See attached meeting minutes pages 5 thru 10.

Minutes were approved.

3. Treasurer's Report - Scott Williams

See attached Treasurer's Report pages 10 thru 14.

Scott also reported that ROCC got a large donation from the Ice Park for helping with the Ice Park Festival parking.

Most likely the ROCC Parking Lot Sale will again be at the 4-H Events Center since the Ridgway road work will still be going on next spring.

4. Old Business

None

5. ROCC Committee Reports

a. Clean Energy - Rein VanWest

See attached committee report pages 16 and 17.

GRID Alternatives and San Miguel Power Association (SMPA), in partnership with the Colorado Energy Office, Energy Outreach Colorado, the Telluride Foundation, EcoAction Partners, and E3 Insight are converting the base of an old landfill into a base for a thriving 200 kW solar array to benefit participants of SMPA's "I.Q." (Income Qualified) assistance programs.

Volunteers were sought to assist in the community "panel-raising" to build the solar array on Friday and Saturday, December 2 and 3 from 8:30 to 4:30 each day and also on Thursday and Friday, December 8 and 9 from 8:30 to 4:30 each day. No experience is necessary and all are welcome to join. The SMPA I.Q. Solar Panel raising will be held at 1100 53 West Rd., Norwood, CO 81423. Rein will be volunteering on Thursday and Dave Jones and Judy Chamberlain will be volunteering on Friday. Gene Ulrich also volunteered to help with the construction.

The goal of this program is to reduce the energy cost burden in half for 30-40 local qualified families.

Rein handed out flyers for the 200-kilowatt I.Q. (Income Qualified) System being built in the Norwood area.

Dave Jones said that several thousand CFL bulbs have been replaced with LED bulbs in the Ridgway schools, and that the schools' electrical bills are decreasing. Next year the teachers will be surveyed to see how they like the new LED lighting.

b. Social Justice - Kate Kellogg

See attached committee report pages 15 and 16.

After much discussion on immigrant rights that was initiated by Al Lowande, John Hollrah made a motion for ROCC to go on record supporting the efforts of the Hispanic Affairs Project (HAP) with respect to immigrant rights. Sheelagh seconded the motion. Motion passed.

c. WCC Report - Al Lowande

See attached committee report pages 18 and 19.

The WCC Board has decided to have the WCC organizers spend less time on the issues of local food and the public lands and more time on social justice issues.

Jim Stephenson, Rein VanWest, Randy Parker and Ken Lipton all raised concerns about WCC deemphasizing the public lands issues. And Ken also raised the importance of water conservation on the western slope.

Randy Parker made a motion to direct ROCC's WCC Board Representative to tell

the WCC Board that ROCC does not support WCC's deemphasize of the public lands issues. Jim Stephenson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Al also reported that the WCC Board is asking for its membership for more leeway in making rapid executive decisions and responses. It was pointed out by Scott Williams that the ROCC Bylaws were amended this year to allow for the ROCC Executive Committee to make more rapid decisions and responses for its membership. After some discussion on this the ROCC membership agreed to support this WCC initiative.

Al also raised the issue of WCC's unsustainable budget deficits in recent years. WCC is looking to its membership to step up to the plate and make extra donations to help WCC eliminate its budget deficits. If every WCC members could donate an extra \$100 this would help tremendously in wiping out WCC's yearly deficits.

d. ROCC Talk Committee Report - Dudley Case

See attached committee report pages 17 and 18.

e. WCC Food and AG Committee Report - Robyn Cascade

See attached committee report pages 20 and 21.

6. New Business

a. ROCC Talk Ideas

The members at the dinner were asked for their ideas on subjects for the ROCC Talks next year. In response the members came up with the following ideas for ROCC Talks.

1. Nuclear energy pros and cons
2. San Juan Wildlife Corridors (Sara Coulter)
3. GMUG (Scott Armentrout)
4. Hispanic Affairs Project talking about immigrant issues
5. Regional Composting (Kris Holstrom)
6. Affordable Housing
7. North Dakota Pipeline (John Metcalf)
8. Colorado State Water Plan (Ken Lipton - Shavano Water Conservation District)

9. Ute Indian Reparations Issue (San Miguel County)

10. Food and Ag Justice Coalition

b. Nomination's Committee - John Hollrah

Slate of Candidates:

President - Don Swartz
Vice-President - Kate Kellogg
Secretary - Dudley Case
Treasurer - Scott Williams
WCC Representative - Al Lowande
WCC Alternate Representative - Dave Jones
ROCC Representative-at-large - Bob Green
ROCC Representative-at-large - Roze Evans
President Emeritus - Jen Parker

Ken Lipton made a motion to accept the slate of candidates. Rein VanWest seconded the motion. Motion passed.

7. Door Prizes - Jen Parker

Jen handed out a number of door prizes to people whose name was drawn out of a bag with all the names of the attendees.

Meeting was adjourned.

ROCC 2016 Accomplishments and Events by Roze Evans

1. **Social Justice / Affordable Housing Committee** - This was the number 1 issue identified during the goal setting session during the 2015 December Annual Meeting. This committee has had a very successful year. They organized two forums: a well-attended affordable housing forum that included members from all governmental entities and a candidate forum for the Ouray County Commissioner race. (see committee report)
2. **Clean Energy Committee** - During the December 2015 ROCC Annual Meeting clean energy was identified as 2016's number 2 goal. The Clean Energy Committee was created in January of 2016. It has become a very active and successful committee that gets things done. (see committee report)

3. **Keep OURay Alpine Campaign** - ROCC helped organize 100s of citizens in support of strong building regulations on patented mining claims in the high alpine zone. This successful campaign was supported by right, left, conservative, liberal, Democrats, Republicans.
4. ROCC gave \$5000 to the Ridgway Public Schools to purchase LED classroom lights. LED lights will save the district several thousand dollars a year in electric bills. Research shows that learning is better with LED lights.
5. Donated \$1000 to Top of the Pines to help with trails and signage.
6. Conducted a membership drive in November that has resulted in new memberships and renewal of lapsed memberships.
7. ROCC Talks - Organized 3 ROCC Talks
8. Organized and staffed Recycling in the Park - A successful month of recycling at the Ridgway Concert Series
9. ROCC Community Spaghetti Dinner (organized by Kate Kellogg)
10. ROCC Community Parking Lot Sale (organized by Rich Niemeier)

Minutes from Tuesday, September 8, 2016 General Meeting

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	<u>693</u>
Total parcels 5 acres or less	841

Parcels over 10 acres	235
Parcels over 15 acres	13
Parcels over 35 acres	<u>1</u>
Total Parcels	<u>1,090</u> 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.

2016 Treasurer's Report by Scott Williams

Scott reported that the net loss in 2016 resulted from receipt of a large donation in 2015, which was not use to provide grants for various organizations until 2016.

This results in a mismatch of income and expenses in 2016.

1/1/22/2016

ROCC Income / Expense - Year To Date
1/1/2016 through 11/22/2016

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Category	1/1/2016- 11/22/2016
INCOME	
Donations Income	6,000.00
Grant Income	1,000.00
Interest Inc	3.66
Membership Dues Income	2,914.40
ROCC Talk Income	380.00
Rummage Sale	936.00
Spaghetti Dinner Income	1,438.50
TOTAL INCOME	12,672.56
EXPENSES	
Uncategorized	0.00
Awards Expense	226.22
Dues Expense	100.00
Grants	11,420.00
Legal Fees	2,125.00
Liability Insurance	804.05
Miscellaneous	282.05
Postage	171.97
Printing	383.28
ROCC Talk Expense	150.00
Rummage Sale Expense	199.30
Spaghetti Dinner Expense	1,017.89
Special Event Expense	449.40
TOTAL EXPENSES	17,329.16
OVERALL TOTAL	-4,656.60

11/22/2016

Ridgway Ouray Community Council Net Worth - As of 11/22/2016

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Account	11/22/2016 Balance
ASSETS	
Cash and Bank Accounts	
Alpine Checking	10,172.59
Alpine Money Market	5,816.65
TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts	15,989.24
TOTAL ASSETS	15,989.24
LIABILITIES	
	0.00
OVERALL TOTAL	15,989.24

17 ROCC Budget	
Balance on Hand 11/22/2016	15,989
INCOME	
Donations	1,000
Interest	4
Membership Dues	3,000
ROCC Talk	500
Rummage Sale	1,000
Spaghetti Dinner	1,500
Total Income	7,004
EXPENSES	
Awards	225
Dues	125
Grants (General)	1,500
Insurance	925
Miscellaneous	300
Picnic	100
Postage	200
Printing	300
ROCC Talk	300
Rummage Sale	300
Spaghetti Dinner	1,200
Supplies	100
Special Event Expense	200
Travel	100
Total Expenses	5,875
Net Income	1,129
Projected Balance 12/31/2017	17,118

ROCC COMMITTEE REPORTS FOR 2016

ROCC Social Justice Committee Report by Kate Kellogg

September Public Forum on Affordable Housing

The committee spent nearly three months this past summer planning the “Housing Our Community” public forum held September 21. More than 60 people turned out at the Ridgway Community Center for the event. Panelists included the three county commissioners, Ridgway mayor, Ouray city administrator and all members of the Ouray County Housing Authority.

Shirley Diaz, executive director of the San Miguel Housing Authority and OCHA member, gave an overview of the current housing situation in Ouray County. She explained that the OCHA was formed about eight years ago as an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) comprised of representatives from the three jurisdictions – Ouray, Ridgway and Ouray County.

The Authority essentially died until early in 2016, when, partly under pressure from the SJC, it resumed meeting regularly. Diaz also provided data that shows at least 80-100 affordable housing units (either rental or deed-restricted ownership) are needed to house the county’s workforce.

Ridgway Mayor John Clark emphasized the need for affordable housing to keep Ouray County a diverse community. Both Patrick Rondinelli, Ouray City administrator, and Commissioner Don Batchelder cited city and county budget constraints as an obstacle to funding affordable housing projects. Commissioners Lynn Padgett and Ben Tisdale mentioned the need for public/private partnerships, grants, government loans, etc.

During public comments, many people testified about their own needs for affordable housing in the county or voiced their support for it. Just two individuals, Ouray landlords, made negative comments about problems with rental tenants.

Next Steps

The committee is encouraged that the city of Ouray and town of Ridgway have approved a new IGA for the Housing Authority. (The old IGA was subject to the Tabor Amendment that limited public funding.) Ouray contributed \$1500 and Ridgway has included a \$2000 line item in the 2017 budget for the Housing Authority. John Clark said Town Council will likely contribute those funds once there is a project or proposal that requires funding.

As of November 18, the county commissioners had not yet voted on approving or funding the IGA. Commissioner Don Batchelder has resisted funding the Housing Authority until it has a project.

Over the past year the committee has achieved the goal of giving affordable housing visibility in the community. The issue is getting more media coverage and the OCHA at least is becoming a viable entity. Comments at the forum indicated that much of the community is supportive of affordable housing efforts.

So at this point, the committee is rethinking strategies. The small amount of funding each jurisdiction is likely to contribute for 2017 won't even support a part-time administrator's salary on a contract basis. The committee is aware that every successful affordable housing authority has a paid professional who coordinates projects with developers and local planners. It is looking like that would require a tax ballot issue, state or federal grants, or private funding sources.

And without a project to administer, the OCHA might become just a bureaucracy that doesn't accomplish anything. That could create an "I told you so" scenario.

Instead of pushing for city, town and county funding right now, the committee will attempt to keep the issue in the public eye and generate still more interest while continuing to put pressure on elected officials and the Housing Authority members.

At the last committee meeting, each member agreed to contact people who provided phone numbers and e-mail addresses at the public forum. Those people will be asked if they are interested in helping move affordable housing forward or joining the SJC.

The plan is to bring together current committee members plus new people and create a campaign for 2017. The committee hopes to build on exposure from the forum and recent newspaper articles that have highlighted affordable housing needs throughout the region.

**ROCC Clean Energy
Committee by Rein
VanWest**

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.

ROCC Clean Energy continued... 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,
- 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.

NEEDED: More inquiring minds; come join us: next Clean Energy Committee meeting on Tuesday, December 13, 9am, SMPA office in Ridgway.

2016 ROCC TALK COMMITTEE REPORT by Dudley Case

April 21 ROCC TALK - SMPA Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Programs

Location: Ridgway Community Center

Attendees: 31:

Members - 22

Non-members - 5 (\$25)

Presenters - 4

New membership - 1 (\$35)

Family membership renewal - 1 (\$55)

June 22 ROCC TALK - Bee's Needs & How You Can Help

Location: Ridgway Community Center

Attendees: 15

Members - 13 members

Presenters - 2

August 18 ROCC TALK - A History of Mining and Four-Wheeling in Ouray County

Location: Wright Opera House

Attendees: 89

Members - 14

Non-members - 71 (\$355)

Presenters: - 4

WCC REPORT by Al Lowande

At the Nov. 20 Board meeting, it was decided to bring several issues to the community groups for discussion:

possible pivot toward more social justice issues: Given recent political developments at the national level, WCC staff and Board want member opinions on whether we should devote more resources to such concerns as affordable housing, immigrant rights, refugee policy, bullying and harassment of minorities, income inequality, political influence inequality (money in political campaigns), etc. WCC staff is passionate about these issues and Executive director Dave Reed believes there will be significant grant possibilities in these areas. Given that WCC has run deficit budgets this year and last, grant achievability needs to be considered in our choice of issues.

paring down our issue portfolio: WCC staff has expended considerable organizer time this year assisting local groups with their campaigns, which has been well received. For example, Rachel has helped us with affordable housing, clean energy and the alpine building regs campaigns. Together with regional and statewide campaigns, this has stretched staff past reasonable limits and is unsustainable. WCC needs to focus on fewer campaigns so we can do a better job on them without burning out and losing our incredibly talented (and underpaid) staff. Obviously, there is some tension between this need and the desire to work on social justice. Member opinions about priorities is welcome and needed.

need for flexibility and rapid response: WCC is fairly unique among non-profits because of our grass-roots governance. What we work on is driven by our members and local groups. However, this structure causes us to be much slower than most of our “staff-centric” allies in responding to emerging threats. Given the utter

unpredictability of the incoming administration, and their promise to rapidly do some pretty disturbing things, (which could also embolden some of our powerful adversaries at the state level to follow their cue), the Board feels that WCC may need to be more agile in responding to outrageous proposals and edicts. So, the Board is basically asking the membership to allow some leeway to make occasional rapid executive decisions and responses. While this may temporarily bypass the normal slow “percolation” process through committees and local groups, such actions would always be attuned to positions that our grass-roots process has already arrived at and, of course, would always honor our mission statement.

financial sustainability of WCC: A variety of factors has caused our income as an organization to drop in recent years. Although expenses have risen only slowly, the net result has been several years of unsustainable budget deficits. We are the go-to group and most effective voice on the Western Slope as guardians of the public interest against corporate and governmental abuses. The WCC staff are an amazing collection of highly educated, trained and articulate individuals. They are high among my personal heroes as their idealism causes them to work their tails off for OUR causes at salaries far below what their talents could command elsewhere.

Given how much of the recent campaign’s rhetoric is anathema to our values, we can ill afford to weaken, no less lose WCC as our collective source of “people power”. So, the WCC Board is asking every single member to “step up to the plate” financially. When you consider that the portion of your dues that goes to WCC would not cover a week’s worth of lattes, there is a terrible mismatch between the value of this powerful collective voice and what most members invest in the organization that provides it. Please consider “putting your money where your values are” and making a substantial contribution beyond your dues. I know when someone asks something like this of me, I am always left wondering things like “Just how much do they need?” or “How much do I value this organization and what they do?” While only you can answer the latter, I certainly hope it’s a lot more than a few fancy coffee’s worth. For guidance on the first question, it might be useful to know that if every single WCC member donates an extra \$50, it would roughly wipe out this year’s deficit, nothing more. Since even that amount won’t cover two weeks of that overpriced morning jolt, I hope that serves as the very low end of what you will consider. WCC needs us, but, more importantly, we need WCC, now more than ever.

If any of you ever have questions about WCC, contact me at evanslowande@gmail.com or call at 626 4194. Since I’m a horrendously slow typist, I prefer talking on the phone!

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**WCC Food and Ag Committee Report for ROCC annual meeting – December 3, 2016 by Robyn Cascade**

**Cottage Foods:**

WCC had a seat at the table during the Colorado Department of Health and Environment (CDPHE) rule-making for the new bill that allows fermented and pickled vegetables to be sold as cottage foods. Current focus is to participate in distribution of information regarding the new law to producers.

**Food and Ag Justice Coalition (FAJC)**

10-state FAJC continues to strategize around the campaign “Public Money for Public Good” which addresses our concern regarding taxpayer money being used to fund corporate agriculture and our desire for such public funds to support local, sustainable food systems.

**WCC FOOD AND AG CONTINUED** ... FAJC’s other campaign to put a stop to the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) has ended with Congress stating in mid-November that the trade deal will not be considered. Hurray! Back in September, Wink Davis, western slope farmer, WCC member and chair of WORC’s Food and Ag Committee, met with several members of Congress regarding this issue.

**Goals for 2017**

1. Distribute information regarding SB 58 (Cottage Foods Bill) -especially opportunities for producers.
2. Gather input and organize support for a sustainable livestock marker bill in anticipation of the 2018 Farm Bill advancing some of WCC’s Food and Ag Committee’s 2016 priority goals including:
  - Growing “good meat” ~ protecting soil health, minimizing impacts to climate change, reducing meat consumption
  - Partnering with allies on improving access to healthy food and removing barriers faced by young farmers
  - Protecting our seed supply
  - Local procurement policies

National allies state:

*The goal of this campaign is to advance federal policy in support of sustainable livestock through the creation, promotion and organizing around a marker bill that would lead to the inclusion of legislation in the 2018 Farm Bill. The primary aim of*

*the legislation will be to level the playing field for producers, improve livestock management practices, (especially better soil management for maximum carbon sequestration) and increase economic and market opportunities for independent sustainable livestock producers, as well as producers looking to transition to sustainable systems.*

*We envision the creation of new policies that would increase technical, marketing, financial, research, conservation and infrastructure support in order to expand small and mid-scale diversified crop and livestock production.*

*Establishing new policies, incentives, and programs in multiple titles of the farm bill can help producers improve conservation practices and access more lucrative, fair and sustainable markets that reward producers for better practices related to worker conditions, environmental health and animal welfare. An important focus will be on expanding opportunities for beginning and socially disadvantaged producers. Together this suite of policies could deliver numerous environmental, economic and animal welfare benefits.*