

ROCC Business Meeting Agenda

August 2, 2018

Ridgway High School Library, 7 p.m.

Announcements

Western Colorado Alliance (WCA) Annual Conference: August 25, Two Rivers Convention Center, Grand Junction. Register at <https://westerncoloradoalliance.org/annual-conference/>

Adoption of Minutes

Sharon Case made a motion to adopt the minutes and Tom Heffernan seconded the motion. Motion Passed.

Old Business

Urgent! Need 2019 Spaghetti Dinner Committee Chair(s)

Kate Kellogg passed around a volunteer sheet for the committee chair(s).

Treasurer's Report - Scott Williams

See attached report. Our net worth has gone up considerably due to a large increase in membership and some large donations. The \$9,000 grant was for the Ridgway bear-proof recycling bins.

7/30/2018		Net Worth - As of 7/30/2018	
		Account	7/30/2018 Balance
ASSETS			
Cash and Bank Accounts			
	Alpine Checking		30,198.56
	Alpine PayPal		1,000.18
	PayPal		940.78
TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts			32,139.52
TOTAL ASSETS			32,139.52
LIABILITIES			
			0.00
OVERALL TOTAL			32,139.52

7/30/2018

ROCC Income/Expense by Category
12/1/2017 through 7/30/2018

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Category	12/1/2017- 12/31/2017	1/1/2018- 7/30/2018	OVERALL TOTAL
INCOME			
Grant Income	0.00	9,000.00	9,000.00
Interest Inc	0.23	1.49	1.72
Member Donations Income	2,050.00	6,749.50	8,799.50
Membership Dues Income	4,315.00	2,312.00	6,627.00
Other Donations Income	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
ROCC Talk Income	0.00	535.00	535.00
Rummage Sale	0.00	685.00	685.00
Spaghetti Dinner Income	0.00	1,977.00	1,977.00
WCA Membership Dues Income	0.00	1,134.00	1,134.00
TOTAL INCOME	6,365.23	23,393.99	29,759.22
EXPENSES			
Uncategorized	0.00	0.00	0.00
Awards Expense	0.00	107.95	107.95
Bank Charge	59.85	25.73	85.58
Dues Expense	0.00	225.00	225.00
Grants	500.00	11,000.00	11,500.00
Leadership Training	0.00	500.00	500.00
Liability Insurance	0.00	534.17	534.17
Miscellaneous	0.00	30.00	30.00
Postage	0.00	75.80	75.80
ROCC Talk Expense	0.00	575.02	575.02
Rummage Sale Expense	95.00	66.00	161.00
Spaghetti Dinner Expense	33.09	1,283.13	1,316.22
WCA Share of Membership Income	0.00	2,567.80	2,567.80
TOTAL EXPENSES	687.94	16,990.60	17,678.54
OVERALL TOTAL	5,677.29	6,403.39	12,080.68

Don Swartz suggested that since we have such a high net worth now that we should find suitable recipients for donations. Please submit your ideas to Don.

Land Use Committee and Issues --

1. Perimeter Trail Staircase Removal - Bob Risch

Bob presented an overview of situation. ROCC needs to determine our position and actions.

Twenty-five thousand people signed in to use the Perimeter Trail last year and the estimate is that only about one-third of the hikers sign in on the trail-use sheets. The Perimeter Trail when finished would be six miles in length.

The Ouray Trails Group (OTG) raised \$35,000 to design and build the staircase to the Box Canyon Sign. Chris Haaland designed the staircase, Jeff Skaloda built the staircase and both of them only charged OTG for the materials not their labor. The previous Forest Ranger approved all the plans and engineering for the staircase. It would be relatively simple to attach the owner's mining parcel with the staircase to an existing mining claim owned by the City of Ouray. The City Council is very supportive of keeping the staircase in place. However, the City Administrator may not be supportive of this solution to the problem.

Part of the staircase does encroach on private land but the land owner is amenable to settling the encroachment problem with the OTG and the City of Ouray. However, the owner is out of the country in Asia and won't be back until the end of August. The OTG is asking the Forest Service and the City for time to negotiate with the landowner and City to resolve this problem.

The temporary Forest Ranger, who is leaving her position in two months, is unwilling to give an extension to the OTG and City to settle this problem. She sent a letter to the OTG stating that she wants the staircase removed by September 1.

The OTG wants to purchase the property and convey it to the City. The City would have no insurance liability since under state law hikers could not sue the property owner for injuries since no fee is charged for use of the Perimeter Trail.

Without this settlement, hikers would have to hike Pinecrest Road rather than a trail.

Scott Williams made a motion that ROCC write a letter of support for extending the time to settle this problem to November 2018 and to send the letter to Scott Armentrout (Forest Service Supervisor) at his office in Delta and to Sabrina Flores (Ouray District Ranger) at her office in Montrose. Don Swartz offered an amendment to the motion to use some of ROCC funds to help the OTG settle this problem. Kathy Heffernan seconded the motion. Motion with amendment passed.

The next City Council meeting on this issue will be Monday, August 20th. ROCC members are encouraged to attend in force.

2. County Road 5 Plowing Controversy – Dudley Case, Joe Ryan and Anne Hilleman

Dudley Case presented overview of the issue. ROCC needs to develop a strategy for ROCC support of recreational access before the 9:00 am August 15 BOCC meeting. Joe and Anne answered members questions.

In attendance were Joe Ryan and Anne Hilleman, they are leaders of the opposition to any further snowing plowing of CR 5 by private property owners. Joe owns and runs San Juan Hut System and Anne owns and runs LEADS, a nonprofit that helps veterans, children and others to get outdoors for adventures.

Currently a property owner named Mr. Morrison has entered into a winter maintenance agreement with the county to plow .9 miles of CR 5 past the intersection of CR 5 and 5a.

Two property owners, Mr. Holloway and Mr. Morrison, want to extend the snow plowing of CR5 by property owners approximately 3.1 miles to the boundary with the Forest Service land.

According to Kate Boehnke's letter Colorado law prohibits cross country-skiing on plowed roads, but apparently does not prohibit snowshoeing or cross-country skiing on unplowed roads. So, if CR 5 is plowed for 4 miles beyond the intersection of CR 5 and 5a this could prevent winter recreationalists from using this road for recreation and for access to the Forest Service trails.

Ouray County Resolution 2016-019 clearly states that the county will not plow any new roads or road segments which were not already being plowed by the county or segments for which a winter maintenance agreement already exists prior to the winter of 2015-16.

This resolution also calls for the preservation of access to public lands for recreation to the maximum degree practical and states nothing in this resolution or policy shall prevent any member of the public from accessing public lands during the winter months. Access to public lands for recreational purposes shall be preserved to the maximum extent practicable. But the resolution also states that the right of a property owner to access his/her property is recognized and will be protected as a use of right.

Joe and Anne said that the property owners far under estimated the \$45,000 cost of widening CR 5 to allow use in the winter by both property owner vehicles and winter recreationalists. They hired a road contractor to estimate the costs of widening CR 5 and he estimated that it could cost over a million dollars to widen the road for four miles. This expense would then come out of county monies.

Scott Williams made a motion that ROCC support no snow plowing of CR 5 past the .9 of a mile already being allowed to be plowed by private property owners pursuant to the county's winter maintenance agreement with Mr. Morrison, that the county establish a snowcat track for private access and support a grant application of LEADS for funds for recreational improvements on CRs 5, 7 and 9. Kate Kellogg seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Joe and Anne will be holding an informational session on August 9th at 6:00 pm at the 4-H Events Center.

The BOCC will take up this issue on August 15th at 9:00 am at the Land Use Dept. meeting room on Mall Road. ROCC members are encouraged to attend in force.

3. Yurts in Alpine Area -- Dave Jones and Al Lowande (in absentia) proposed that ROCC pressure the BOCC to enforce High Alpine regulations regarding yurts – Dudley Case

Dudley Case presented an overview of the issue.

On May 21, 2018 Mark Castrodale sent the BOCC a draft ordinance concerning regulations for non-commercial camping. Section 6 s) allows “camping structures” to be built without a building permit if the decks and platforms are 29-inches or less off the ground. Camping structures include yurts. Section 6 t) allows such structures for 5 consecutive years. The Land Use Dept. would probably allow extensions of this 5-year period.

Also, this draft resolution allows such “camping structures” on parcels of three acres or more. So potentially hundreds of yurts, etc. could be built without building permits. This guts the High Alpine Regulation that was enacted last year by bypassing the 35 acre minimum lot size for a residential building.

If the ordinance had used the term “camping buildings” instead of “camping structures” then under Section 13 of the Land Use Code all buildings would need a building permit. And this issue would never have arisen.

Apparently the Land Use Dept. is allowing yurts to be built in the High Alpine Zone without building permits right now.

ROCC members need to show up at a BOCC general meeting in August and ask that this issue be discussed by the BOCC at one of their meetings.

Scott Williams made a motion that ROCC should hire an attorney to write a letter to the BOCC about this issue. Sharon Case seconded the motion. Motion passed.

4. Need volunteers for Committee Chair and committee members

Kate passed around a sign-up sheet for people interested in being on the Land Use Committee. Six people signed the sheet.

Committee Reports

Dark Sky – Val Szwarc

The next Star Party will be on September 29th at the Ridgway State Park.

See Dark Sky report below



RIDGWAY DARK SKY COMMITTEE STATUS REPORT TO ROCC

AUGUST 2, 2018

Val Szwarc
Co- Chair RDSC

Report Topics

- Ridgway Dark Sky Committee (RDSC)
Accomplishments
- Challenges
- Path Forward

RDSC Accomplishments – May to July

- Formal Dark Sky Community nomination initiated with IDA
- Received IDA comments to draft Lighting Ordinance update
 - Completed addressing most
 - Will ask IDA for clarification concerning a few
- Sky Quality Measurements Continuing
 - Two SQM instruments purchased
 - Measurement sites finalized for baseline measurements

RDSC Accomplishments - continued

- First public outreach event held as joint event with Black Canyon Astronomical Society (BCAS) and Ridgway State Park – June 2
 - Multimedia presentations followed by star gazing thru professional telescopes from BCAS and RDSC
- Ouray County Commissioners signed support letter
- Submitted Dark Sky preservation topic for SMPA News Letter
 - Targeting Sept(TBR)
- Exploring possible second Star Party in early Fall

Challenges

- Ridgway Planning Dept put review of lighting ordinance on hold till late Fall?
 - Strategizing options to move forward
- Some IDA comments have not been addressed in model communities with IDA certification



Path Forward

- Take the Master Plan Survey with two key comments
 - Support for Dark Night Sky preservation
 - Support for IDA certification
- Finalize Ridgway Lighting Ordinance
- Support Letters from key organizations
- Continue public outreach/education
- Sky Brightness Measurement Program continues to establish baseline night sky brightness

ROCC Talk Committee Report -- Kate Kellogg

Ken Logan, of Colorado Parks and Wildlife, presented "Living with Mountain Lions on the Western Slope" at the Sherbino Theater on June 20 . It drew about 90 people. The Q and A lasted about 30 minutes and Ken stayed awhile after the presentation to answer still more questions.

The August 23 ROCC Talk will be a re-screening of "Happening: A Clean Energy Revolution," which was shown at the Wright Opera House in April. The committee decided to show it again at the request of a number of people who missed the April screening. We need some volunteers to help set up around 6:30 p.m. and others to help clean up afterward.

The final 2018 ROCC Talk is tentative and may be a presentation on mountaineering by Ellen Lapham. She is Emeritus Director of the American Alpine Club and expert climber and conservationist. She has indicated interest in giving a ROCC Talk but is not available until September at the earliest. Depending on her availability, this ROCC Talk would likely be in November, possibly September. The exact date and venue are to be determined.

Clean Energy - Dave Jones

No report.

Public Lands - Jim Stephenson

No report.

Social Justice - Kathy and Tom Heffernan

See attached report below.

Report of ROCC Social Justice Committee
for ROCC General Meeting August 2, 2018

We only met once since the last general meeting.

Affordable housing is still at the forefront of our agenda. Tom Heffernan co-chair of the social justice committee is on the Town Council and has been appointed to the Ouray County Housing Advisory Committee. He has taken the place of Robb Austin.

In our last report we mentioned amending Tabor and bringing back the transfer fee to be used for affordable housing. There are two options to explore --Legislative referred measure or Citizen initiated measure.

If would be good if ROCC members would contact Don Coram and Barbara McLachlin telling them that you are in favor of amending Tabor to allow a transfer tax in Colorado. It might also be good to contact Don Batchelder with the same information.

Kathy and Tom Heffernan,
Co-chairs of SJ Committee

Grants - Dave Jones

No report.

Membership - Austin Ray

ROCC has 157 memberships, which works out to 248 individual members (approximately 5 percent of Ouray County's total permanent residents).

At the ROCC Membership Party, which was just held on July 24th, we got nine new members. That is almost everyone who attended the party as guests.

New Business

ROCC leadership of Ridgway Town Clean Up program and Highway Cleanup – Tom Heffernan

Hwy 550 Cleanup -

Tom said Sunday afternoon's work best starting around 1:00 pm. He will place flag every ½ mile along both sides of the highway.

We will need a minimum of eight volunteers and good notification to ROCC members by Dudley using a ROCC Announcement.

The cleanup will be either in September or October and a rain date will also be determined.

Ridgway Town Clean Up -

Tom will propose to the town council that a full day town clean-up program be set up for next year both in the Spring and Fall, and perhaps followed by a town picnic.

ROCC Picnic – Austin Ray

Austin suggested that the Hwy 550 cleanup be followed by a ROCC pot luck picnic. Dudley Case suggested that music might be supplied by ROCC members.

ROCC members would be encouraged to bring a friend.

Austin and Carolyn said they would be interested in coordinating the picnic.

Next Meeting

October 18th, Thursday, Ridgway High School Library, 7:00 pm and refreshments at 6:45 pm

Adjournment

Kathy Heffernan made a motion to adjourn and Dudley Case seconded the motion.