

Committee Reports from the 3/25/2021 Meeting

Clean Energy Committee

The only CEC Update is that we are participating in an Earth Day event (22 April, 11:30-12:00) at the Ridgway Secondary School. All are invited. There will be a ribbon cutting of 2 new EV chargers for students/kids in the RSS parking lot - and SMPA will donate their converted EV bug to the RSS.

The CEC is recruiting EV drivers and coordinating the EV parade immediately prior and EV owners will remain from 12-1 for general discussion and car Q&A....

P.S. If you happen to know anyone on Log Hill with an EV (aside from Jane Nash and Dickson Pratt), I would appreciate your sending me their name and contact info!

Dark Sky Committee

Background:

- RACC updated Ridgway Chamber of Commerce site to include Dark Sky promotion (after bringing attention to the issue to Ridgway Town Council Feb 2021 meeting)
- TOP BOD planning to submit IDA application in midsummer for certification as Dark SkyPark under leadership of Dark Sky Committee
- Planning Meeting held with Town Manager, SMPA, and ROCC DS Committee agreeing to tasks and schedule to prepare and submit first IDA report due end of Sept. (This is a requirement to maintain Ridgway Dark Sky certification)
- Jointly developed proposal presented to Susan Lacy and RSS principal that would help RSS improve exterior lighting and bring into ordinance compliance

Issues:

- Ridgway Area Schools (RSS) has delayed action on their non-compliant exterior lighting issue – low priority according to RSS and significant budget shortfall.

Possible Action Options:

- Give RSS more time to resolve other issues such as COVID mitigation efforts
- Remind RSS leadership of issue in April?
- Take issue to School Board?

- In near future may be asking ROCC Executive Committee additional DS committee budget allocation or grant request on the behalf of RSS to provide for Hi Priority RSS lighting retrofits (2-3 building lights/fixtures that are non-compliant – expect to be less than \$1000)

Land Use Committee

February 4 Special Meeting:

- Selected chair, vice-chair, regular meeting date
- Monitoring assignments – County (Scott, Al, et al.), Ridgway (Jennifer Cram), Ouray (Wayne and Carol Pandorf)
- Discussed potential County land use issues for proactive involvement
- Assigned committee members to separately reach out to BOCC members re: their priorities

February 18 Special Meeting:

- Monitoring:
 - County: BOCC meeting following week to set work session calendar for 2021, including land use-related items
 - Ridgway: Town support of McCulloch parcel sale – Jennifer submitted personal comment
- Reports on contacts with BOCC members
 - Highest priority:
 - Covid response
 - Overuse and abuse of High Alpine areas, especially Ironton and Blue Lakes
 - Master Plan update
 - Wildfire mitigation
 - Future:
 - Long-term Camping Ordinance;
 - Code changes to avoid future CR 5-type issues
- Action item: Letter to BOCC in advance of meeting re: ROCC recommendations for work session priorities (copy attached)

February 23 BOCC Workshop re: 2021 Priorities:

- Covid response highest
- Others:
 - Forest Service updates re: Blue Lakes, Ironton, increased high alpine use – held 3/16 more scheduled in future
 - Planning Commission interviews/appointments – April 6 (tentative)
 - Community Wildfire Plan update – April
 - Planning Commission/BOCC joint meeting – April/May after new members appointed
 - Land Use Code Enforcement – May
 - Recreational Master Plan – June/July
 - Master Plan update – September (tentative)

- Over-the-snow travel and Special Use Permit review – TBD

Bottom line: A full plate for 2021. Will monitor and participate as needed.

Public Lands Committee

TOPIC: OVERUSE AND ABUSE OF BLUE LAKES

BACKGROUND:

1. Huge increase of hiking and overcrowded camping at Blue Lakes resulting in trash, human waste & TP left at the Blue Lakes area, including the trails.
2. Lack of land stewardship and knowledge of proper etiquette in alpine area
3. Committee members have communicated with and gathered support from:
 - A. Forest Service - Dana Gardunio and Julie Jackson
 - B. Ridgway Town Council
 - C. Ouray Town Council
 - D. BOCC
 - E. ROCC Land Use Committee
 - F. Lynn Padgett - BOCC
 - G. Jake Neice - BOCC
 - H. David Taft
 - I. Joe Ryan - San Juan Hut System
 - J. Markus van Meter - Advertiser for Ouray Town Council
 - K. Abraham Proffitt - Western State Graduate student doing research for Forest Service
 - L. Karen Risch - Publisher for OTG Hiking Guide
 - M. Steve Boyle - OTG

POSSIBLE ACTIONS

"SAVE THE BLUES" CAMPAIGN

1. Coordinate with Forest Service:
 - a. Hiker info booths with volunteers at the trailhead: give out "Leave no Trace" pamphlets and do a Forest Service survey .
 - b. On April 6 we finalize our role with the Forest Service when we'll advocate:
 1. Encourage designated -not dispersed camping - a permit system
 2. Limit camping and hiking to 2 open areas about 1/2 mile north of the trailhead
 3. Fence the current camping area just a short distance north of the trail head and put up "No Camping" signs where appropriate
 4. If camping is allowed, it be limited to the timbered area that you encounter before reaching the lake

5. No camping by the lake
 6. WAG bags or Biffy Bags and trash barrels
 7. More rangers to monitor campers
 8. More signs to educate people on the Dos and Don'ts
2. Partner with Ridgway and Ouray Town Councils to educate the public on land stewardship:
 - a. encourage businesses/motels to hand out flyers at cash register;
 - b. placards on tables in restaurants
 - c. Websites prominently give info on pack out your trash and human waste disposal
 - d. WAG bags or Biffy Bags
3. BOCC
 - a. Advertise land stewardship concepts
 - b. Declare public health emergency at Blue Lakes because of the potential pollution of the drinking water at Log Hill
 - c. Expand camping areas, preferably at lower elevations
4. County Roads - monitor and prohibit people from illegally parking and camping by the side of the road
5. Better enforcement of our county rules
 6. Contribute monetarily to the solution
 7. Refer to ROCC's March 2 letter to Dana Gardunio for more details

Social Justice Committee

Topic: Affordable Housing

- Telluride Foundation – 6 weeks to small a window to get anything done

Issues: Land

- Town needs to buy land, perhaps get a grant
- Land Trust – Andrea Sokolowski – she only had 1 – 2 lots
- Discussed various parcels of land

Possible Actions

- Get on Agenda of the Town Council, March 10
- Investigate & Identify who owns land

Topic: Vaccination needs

- Issue: Are there people who cannot get to the vaccination spot, or unable to make an appointment.

Possible Actions:

- Vicki spoke to the Ouray County Food Bank folks to see if they could identify folks with needs.

Next meeting March 29 at 4pm in the alley of Crumbs, outdoors.

Your ROCC Board Members & Committee Chairs

You can contact us by emailing: ROCCnet.org@gmail.com

2021 ROCC Board		2021 Committee Chairs	
Co-President	Kate Kellogg	Social Justice	Kathy Heffernan
Co-President	Vicki Warner Huggins	Clean Energy	Rein van West
Treasurer	Scott Williams		Dave Jones
Recording Sec	Linda Browning	Dark Skies	Val Szwarc
Communications	Austin Ray		Dave Jones
WCA Rep	Al Lowande	Land Use	Scott Williams
	Diane Thompson	Public Lands	Diane Thompson
President Emeritus	Don Swartz	Membership	Rein van West
Members At Large	Rein van West	Grants	Dave Jones
	Tom Heffernan	ROCC Talks	Kate Kellogg
	Anthony Gegauff		

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