

MINUTES OF THE
RIDGWAY OURAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MEMBERSHIP BUSINESS MEETING
HELD MARCH 16, 2023

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:	RICH NIEMEIER	CAROLYN DRESLER
AUSTIN RAY	AMES RISCH	ANTHONY GEGAUFF
VAL SZWARC	KATE KELLOGG	AL LOWANDE
DAN KIGAR	LINDA BROWNING	VICKI WARNER HUGGINS

MEMBERS PRESENT:	ROZE EVANS	DON SWARTZ
CAROLYN RAY	GENE ULRICH	KATHY HEFFERNAN
DIANE THOMPSON		REIN VAN WEST

GUESTS: EMILY HORNBACK- (ED) WESTERN COLORADO ALLIANCE
 TANYA ISHIKAWA-(ED) UNCOMPAGHRE WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP

Rich Niemeier called the meeting to order. He asked for approval of the January 19, 2023 Minutes. With a motion by Roze Evans and a second by Vicki Warner Huggins, the Minutes were approved as presented.

Anthony Gegauff gave the Treasurer's Report. He reported a balance of \$36,692.66 in the Live Oak Bank Savings account as of 3/10/23 and \$7,760.63 in other accounts resulting in total assets of \$44,453.29. Anthony also presented the budget for the period 12/1/2022 through 11/30/2023. Following a discussion among the members, he was asked to amend the budget as follows: Reduce membership dues to \$5,000 for the period and remove a \$1,200 expense for the clean energy committee as they are not requesting additional funds. Val Szwarc moved to approve the financials and the budget with the requested modifications. With a second by Al Lowande, the motion carried.

As decided at the January, 2023 meeting, all committee reports are to be filed on the ROCC website with only items requiring action by the membership to be brought before the meeting. Accordingly, the following items were addressed.

Carolyn Dresler gave an update on the Social Justice committee's meeting concerning supporting childcare in Ouray with Bright Futures. Bright Futures

focus was more on financial support from ROCC rather than hands-on guidance. Carolyn acknowledged that a grant from ROCC has been requested and is to be voted on. The Social Justice committee will explore other opportunities.

The Grants Committee presented four (4) grant requests for consideration. They are as follow:

Ridgway Community Garden	\$500.00
Voyager Youth Program	\$500.00
Bright Futures	\$1,000.00
Uncompaghre Watershed	\$500.00

The membership discussed each grant request. It became apparent that specific guidelines for approving grants were not in place and the Grants Committee consists of a single person, the chairman, Dave Jones. He has asked for volunteers to join him, but to date, no one has joined the Committee.

Val Szwarc suggested that guidelines be developed to avoid personal opinions and approval of repeat requests year after year. Val reminded the membership that currently grant requests over \$500 require the full membership to vote on with the Board able to approve requests under \$500. The guidelines would also outline ROCC focus on capital project rather than providing funds for operating expenses. Dave Jones will be asked to provide his thought on establishing criteria.

The Bright Futures request for \$1,000 was reviewed. Following a discussion, it was agreed that ROCC would support a payment of \$500.00 to Bright Futures. The grant request for the Voyager Youth Program was tabled until a formal grant request was received by ROCC. With a motion by Rein Van West and a second by Dan Kigar, the requests for Ridgway Community Garden and the Uncompaghre Watershed were approved as requested and \$500 for Bright Futures.

Members were directed to the County Planning Commission website for an update on the work being done on the Master Plan for Ouray County and the committee's activities.

Linda Browning gave an update on the plans for the annual ROCC dinner. It will be advertised as: ROCC'N BY THE RIVER AND 30 YEAR ANNIVERSARY. A speaker has yet to be identified for the selected topic of wildlife issues on the Western Slope.

Kate Kellogg will request nominations for Citizen of the Year award in April and provide candidates names for selection by ROCC at the May 18 meeting. Music to be provided by Doug and Heather, catering by Rib City in Montrose, and ticket sales via RSVP'IFY. The event will be held at the PaCoChuPuk Pavilion A in the Ridgway State Park on Friday, June 9.

Carolyn Dresler asked that the membership consider adding a youth member to the leadership group. All were in favor of doing so. For ROCC to have a youth recommended to participate, members must complete Positive Youth Development (PYD) Training. Ames and Carolyn have this training. Vicki and Scott have volunteered to get the training. Carolyn requested others members to get this training in order for ROCC to be able to recruit youth to participate.

Rich Niemeier introduced Emily Hornback, the Executive Director of the Western Colorado Alliance. Emily updated the membership of WCA's activities in gathering input from the public on issues supported by WCA. She then handed out a questionnaire to everyone to get their input on the relationship between WCA and ROCC. A healthy conversation took place on a number of concerns with the focus on what support ROCC receives from WCA.

Members wanted more specifics on WCA's support in exchange for ROCC's annual contribution of \$2,500.00. The end result was the need for ROCC to identify specific projects that a WCA community organizer would work on to support ROCC i.e. enlarge membership.

All agreed that ROCC and WCA work together to support both organizations.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.