

MINUTES OF THE
GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING
RIDGWAY OURAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 21,2023

MEMBERS PRESENT:	CAROLYN DRESLER	RICH NIEMEIER
	AUSTIN RAY	CAROLYN RAY
	VICKI WARNER HUGGINS	TOM HEFFERNAN
	KATHY HEFFERNAN	DAN KIGAR
	DIANE THOMPSON	REIN VAN WEST
	JAN VAN WEST	GENE ULRICH
	KATE KELLOGG	ANTHONY GEGAUFF
	JUDI CHAMBERLIN	DAVE JONES
	CHUCK HEYWOOD	NICK JACOBSON
	LINDA BROWNING	BIANCA DIAZ, WCA REP

GUEST SPEAKER: TANYA ISHIKAWA: UNCOMPAHGRE WATERSHED

Tanya Ishikawa, President of the Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership, was introduced. In her overview, she highlighted that 2023 is the 10-year anniversary of the organization. There are currently 10 board members and 4 part-time staff. UWP is currently working on its strategic plan for the next 5 and 10 years. UWP will hold five field trips this fall which are open to the public, two of which will be led by scientists. All ROCC members are encouraged to participate.

The business meeting was called to order by Rich Niemeier. He asked for approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held July 19, 2023. With a motion by Anthony Gegauff and a second by Rich Niemeier, the Minutes were approved as presented.

A discussion then took place on the necessity of a verbal Treasurer's Report at each meeting. A motion was made by Carolyn Dresler for the written report to be sent to the board members and committee chairs for review prior to each meeting with any questions presented to the Treasurer at the meeting. With a second by Rich Niemeier the motion was approved. The Treasurer's Report will not be posted on the ROCC website going forward.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

CLEAN ENERGY: Dave Jones reported that on October 8, the committee will be replacing the fluorescent lights at the Log Hill Fire House with LED lights. Volunteers are welcome.

ROCC TALKS: Kate Kellogg asked for a volunteer to work with her on locating speakers and locations for the talks. Jan Van West will now work with Kate as the Co-chair of the ROCC Talks Committee.

PUBLIC LANDS: Diane Thompson, as Chairperson, filed an extensive report on the ROCC website. As a follow up to her report, Diane asked the ROCC members to take action in the form of writing a letter to the Forest Service supporting Alternative D of their Preferred Alternatives for managing timber harvesting. With a motion by Tom Heffernan and a second by Dan Kigar, it was moved for Diane Thompson in collaboration with Tom Heffernan to send a letter to the Forest Service supporting the ROCC position.

Diane further requested that the Master Plan Ad Hoc Committee encourage the County to add a Public Lands category to the Ouray County Master Plan. It was agreed they would ask for this addition.

SOCIAL JUSTICE: Carolyn Dresler reported that the ROCC social justice committee is partnering with the Ouray County Health Department and Voyager to hold a Conversation on Mental Health Issues in the County. The event will be held on October 19 at the 4H Event Center.

MASTER PLAN AD HOC: Rein Van West reported on activities of the group. He first introduced his guest, Nick Jacobson, with the Colorado West Land Trust. Nick is a new staff member with the office located in Montrose. They are tasked with critical land protection on the western slope of Colorado.

Rein reported there were over 700 responses to the Master Plan Survey sent to Ouray County residents. The responses overwhelmingly supported maintaining the rural nature of the county, protecting views and keeping agricultural lands intact. ROCC continues to support the 1 structure per 35 acres in the valley zone. He reported they have also raised the issue of water availability in the

incorporated areas versus the unincorporated areas. The availability of one impacts the other and the committee feels this issue has not been addressed by the members of the Ouray County Master Plan. Additionally, ROCC is asking that the Master Plan address clean energy concerns and the maintaining of the Dark Sky Certification.

ROCC members are encouraged to write letters to the Planning Commission voicing their opinions. Carolyn asked Austin to include the Master Plan Ad Hoc Committee meetings on the ROCC alerts as well as notice of the Planning Commission meeting. Carolyn also asked if it would be helpful for ROCC to present its position in writing to the Planning Commission. Rein responded that ROCC should do this but at a later date.

Carolyn acknowledged all of the time and hard work the Master Plan group has put in and thanked them for their efforts.

There is no meeting on November 16. The next meeting will be the Annual Meeting to be held on December 8. The location to be determined.

Carolyn asked if the members wanted to go back to verbal committee reports at the meetings. There was no support for doing so, therefore, committee reports will continue to be posted in writing on the ROCC website with committee chairs reporting on action items at the meeting.

Rein Van West on behalf of Scott Williams, presented a proposed letter from ROCC to the Ouray County Board of County Commissioners regarding recently enacted State Law (CRS 42-4-106 (3)(d) allowing counties to designate roads for over the snow use and thus legalize recreational uses such as skiing and sledding. With a motion by Vicki Warner Huggins, and a second by Diane Thompson, it was approved for Scott Williams to draft a letter the BOC on behalf of ROCC supporting over the snow designations for Ouray County Roads. The letter will be sent under the signatures of Carolyn Dresler and Rick Niemeier as Co-Presidents of ROCC.

Election of officers for ROCC will take place at the annual meeting in December.

The meeting was adjourned.