

MINUTES OF THE
ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
RIDGWAY OURAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
DECEMBER 8, 2023

BOARD MEMBERS

PRESENT:	RICH NIEMEIER	CAROLYN DRESLER
	AUSTIN RAY	DAN KIGAR
	KATE KELLOGG	SCOTT WILLIAMS
	AL LOWANDE	VAL SZWARC
	ANTHONY GEGAUFF	LINDA BROWNING
	VICKI WARNER HUGGINS	

In addition to the above board members, 26 members were in attendance. The meeting was held at the United Church of the San Juans with a potluck and social hour preceding the formal business meeting.

Rich Niemeier called the meeting to order by introducing Rob Bleiberg, Executive Director and Nick Jacobson, Conservation Specialist of the Colorado West Land Trust. Rob Bleiberg spoke first giving an overview of the organizations stated objectives as follows:

1. Land Conservation
2. Easement Stewardship
3. Restoration and Resilience
4. Water resources
5. Community Connections
6. Organizational Strength

Currently 132,000 acres within the six western slope counties managed by the Land Trust are under conservation easements. He also provided a map detailing the properties with easements and gave update on properties recently added.

Nick Jacobson next spoke. His office is located in Montrose and he is focused on Ouray County. He told members that approximately 140,000 acres within Ouray County have been identified as possibilities for placement of conservation easements. He advised he has specific targets and is continuing to work with landowners.

Scott Williams inquired as to the availability of maps presented by Nick could be made available to the County for use in updating the County's Master Plan which is currently being revised. Nick indicated the maps could be made available. Rich thanked both Nick and Rob for their informative talk.

Rich Niemeier next asked for approval of the Minutes of the business meeting held September 21, 2023. With a motion by Diane Thompson and a second by Anthony Gegauff, the Minutes were approved as presented.

Anthony Gegauff advised that the treasurer's report for end of year has been filed on line and available for review.

All Committee Reports are available for review on line. No verbal reports were given.

Rich Niemeier then introduced Bianca Diaz, Montrose County Community Organizer with Western Colorado Alliance who had agreed to facilitate and assist members in setting goals and strategy for ROCC for 2024. She challenged members present to come up with three goals for ROCC to increase participation in 2024. The members were then split up into small groups with the task of brainstorming ideas to increase ROCC participation. Following a work period each group presented their best idea. Bianca documented the ideas and will pass them on to Rich and Carolyn.

Roze Evans, Al Lowande and Rein van West, as the Nominating Committee then presented nominations for vacant positions as follows:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Individual</u>	<u>Term</u>
Co-Chair	Dick Gingery	Dec. 2024
Treasurer	Anthony Gegauff	Dec. 2025
WCA Rep	Dan Kigar	Dec. 2025
WCA ALT Rep	Al Lowande	Dec. 2025
Director	Scott Williams	Dec. 2025
Director	Val Szwarc	Dec. 2025

Upon motion by Linda Browning and a second by Carolyn Dresler, the above individuals were elected to fill vacant positions. These individuals join the following officers not up for election:

Co-Chair	Carolyn Dresler	Dec. 2024
Secretary	Linda Browning	Dec. 2024
Communications	Austin Ray	Dec. 2024
Director	Dan Kigar	Dec. 2024
Director	Kate Kellogg	Dec. 2024
Past Co Chair	Rich Niemeier	Dec. 2024.

As a result of the earlier workshop guided by Bianca Diaz, several members encouraged the ROCC Board to address issues raised in the workshop. Specifically:

1. Number of required meetings (per By-Laws)
2. Structure of meetings
3. Based upon review of By-Laws, how many meetings would be considered necessary
4. How to make meetings interesting. Should they be more focused on providing information on topics of interest to the membership
5. Should the focus be on talks, not meetings.
6. How to determine membership interests. Locate speakers
7. How to increase participation of all members

Following this discussion, it was agreed that the entire meeting to be held on January 18, 2024, would address these issues with the goal of setting a concise strategy for 2024. Members were asked to come to the January meeting prepared with ideas and solutions.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned