



Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG)
San Miguel and Ouray Counties
Western San Juan Community Energy Board
May 4, 2010 at 3:00 p.m.
Ridgway Town Hall
Call-in Option: 218-936-7979, access code 394137
MEETING MINUTES

Present: Kim Wheels, Ken Haynes, Kris Holstrom, Bob Risch, John Clark, Leif Juell, Keith Meinert, Natalie Shelbourn, Brad Zaporski, Elaine Fischer, Bob Delves, Stu Fraser, Greg Clifton, Todd Brown, Pat Willits

Called to order at 3:12 p.m.

Activity update – none

TNCC Program update:

Zero Waste in Durango: composting can help with CEB goals to reduce GHG emissions
Energy Star for New Homes & Green Building Expo Event – June 9 & 10

Can TNCC create a proposal for joint grant applications where appropriate? Then it might be easier for govts to respond. A Telluride employee felt that the only way to take advantage of opportunities is to do some shared grant applications.

Bob Risch – is being very selective and going through one at a time. Realistic assessment of ability to respond. Another layer may be needed to distill the opportunities and then it still has to go through the various staffs.

Elaine asked about geothermal heat pumps and rebate status. It is listed under Energy Efficiency. Brad noted that SMPA does have rebates of \$200/ton. Information given at Mayor's forum was incorrect.

Conference call on Energy Transmission may be conferenced in by phone. Elaine may participate as well.

PACE is on tri-county meeting on May 18th at 4-H Center in Ridgway – around 1:00 p.m. Gov. Ritter signed the bill that will allow rural communities to take advantage of PACE.

USDA options – Rural Housing Preservation – ongoing grant based on EE, replacing windows, improve lifestyle and health of folks. Challenging to fill out as an individual but can be done. Ken has helped – for low income individuals. Energy Improvements – directly towards EE. Rural Business Opportunity grant – for small businesses. Empowerment Zone and Enterprise Community – commits community to becoming this type of community over the years. (Planning grant).
Might be worthwhile to invite Dave Carter to one of our meeting to help and Ken Charles from DOLA.

Bob Delves asked about anything for Housing Authorities. May be some for affordable housing and will check on the Housing Authority question. Both retrofit and new. Not as much available for new construction. High Performance Building grant may be appropriate as well.



Reviewed recent information from Recharge Colorado and Colorado Carbon Fund, and GEO grants currently open.

Biomass feasibility grant – is there a logical project out there? Kurt would be available to help write the grants though not a biomass expert – it shouldn't be an area with air issues. There is a biomass assessment study occurring on the plateau. Keith asked about whether it was more private or commercial. Grant opportunity is open to nearly everywhere.

Kris asked that if anyone has business names that might be interested forward to us and we will contact. Geothermal advanced project development – Ouray is working on. Rico did some work but had to back out due to costs.

Brad noted that the Colo School of Mines – Masame Nakagawa – has set up an offshoot campus in Rico to teach. Geothermal greenhouse wanted in Ouray wants to talk to some of the students. Todd, Bob Risch, Kris – should discuss further.

School EMS – could we combine districts to hire one part time person with the grant that could make energy savings to potentially save positions for teachers.

High performance building program grants – Ken is finishing the medical center addition to high performance standards at \$126/sq.ft. – Promote through building officials and contractors rather than governments? Could potentially work for day care center in Telluride.

Main St. Efficiency – we should focus Main St in a Box that Kim will be getting more info on.

Above Building code grant – should be considered.

CFL buy down – SMPA not eligible because of the Tri-state program.

Street lighting grant – LED lights in Ouray – they pay 25% of former cost and light doesn't go into the sky.

Norwood? Near school? SMPA found the LEDs at a light show in Vegas. Gary Miller worked with Ouray on the project. They have suggested it as a possible program to the SMPA Board.

Environmental Training for Youth -

Youth Involvement – Ouray shop class is building the micro-hydro building. Shop teacher is getting them college credit for that. Mark Miller – TNCC will contact him.

Request for government staff contact info.

MEETING Minutes approved

STRATEGY: GAP Analysis

Each person contributed top GAP items.

Excel now can now charge more for larger users of energy – landmark decision to an 'inclining block' rate structure.

Can SMPA consider a different rate structure – Brad – harder under a cooperative structure – they do have a consultant working on that.



Keith – each GAP item should stimulate discussion on what is impeding progress. Then after brainstorming we should be addressing the impediments. Then it's up to business folks, govts , etc to find ways to make changes.

Bob R – the 5% cap for RE with SMPA/Tri-state is an impediment for future regional RE progress. If SMPA isn't able to commit to purchasing this energy that's an issue. Can the govts provide input and pressure to Tri-state to change that. The solar wastewater treatment plant has a special dispensation on the 5%.

Next meeting we will be discussing each item. Then need to quantify the GAPs and bring in measurement items.

Will need to review activities – and think about how to narrow those GAPs.

How to move lip service into action. Status quo is more comfortable than taxing. Lobbying efforts will be important. Are our communities willing to spend money to accomplish goals?

How to address constituents to accomplish goals.

Need a list of tools to help us accomplish:

- Inclining block fees for energy
- Trash expensive, recycling free

Ouray – starting with projects to establish a track record.

Resend energy use spreadsheet to all and request them to fill it out.

Leif – Ouray County is implementing building permits for solar installation. There doesn't seem to be a standard in place. All additional fees can be a disincentive. Keith noted that there may be rebatable. Suggested discussion between county and solar providers.

Could be productive to get the planners together to share ideas and brainstorm. TNCC could organize that meeting – focus on question of renewable energy and energy efficiency – facilitate – talk about code issues, cutting edge, zoning issues and requirements – where are they, helpful where are they impediments.

Brad – SMPA has decided to go forward with a 2 MW solar farm, probably in Norwood. Working with Sun Edison on the project. Will offset about 2% of the total load with local renewable energy. Landmark. First facility of its kind in this area. Will break down in September. About 20 acres needed for 2 MW, but looking for a 40 acre plot. Also some options in Paradox Valley. This will go into the local distribution system.

Keith - Additional cost to consumer is miniscule even based on today's energy prices. There is a real economic benefit to these renewable energy projects.

Decided to put GEO updates after Strategy work in our agendas. Next meeting is May 25th at 3:00-5:00 in Placerville at Firehouse.