



San Juan Regional Community Energy Board  
Meeting Minutes

**November 9, 2010 3:00 p.m.**

Placerville Firehouse

Call-in Option: 218-936-7979, access code 394137

**Present: Kim Wheels, Bob Delves, Bob Risch, Kurt Johnson, Stu Fraser, Todd Brown, Kris Holstrom, Nina Kothe, Jen Coates, Pat Willits, Ken Haynes**

1) Advisory Board members – Activity Update

- TOT – WWTP will be up to 112 kw now
- Ouray is operating and generating some hydro power – intermittent, but being worked on.
- Sustainability Action Café – Tuesday will cover the Action Plan
- Silverton is coming together with its small hydro.
- Stu and Bob did a commercial for SMPA.
- Kurt – new water line coming on in two years so in-line hydro doesn't make sense at MV at this time. Will need operating data once new system is in place before applying for grants. Received a feasibility study grant to look at it, but with the above info it doesn't make sense.

**Jen Coates joined the meeting.**

2) TNCC Program Update

a) EcoAction Program – Participant training launch in January

EcoAction Program to launch in January will include electricity, nat. gas, transportation, trash and food. Launches with Green Business Roundtable on January 14 and follow up after. Previous GBR from Vail very successful. December 3<sup>rd</sup> is two lodging facilities discussing their sustainability efforts.

b) Green Business Roundtable, Telluride Library - Fri November 5, December 3

Luke Carton spoke at the GBR on the ski industry

c) Sustainability Roundtable – Thursday, Nov 4

Kim was in Denver for Sustainability Roundtable for Alliance for Sustainable Colorado. Reps from all over including western slope folks. Lots of colleges and corporations attended. Those entities have tools that may be useful for us.

d) Western Slope Sustainability Group – discussion at Roundtable

Western Slope Sustainability Group – may be formed. The Alliance will coordinate the next calls and get rolling. Topic needed – agriculture may be first one

e) CEC Mtg update – Friday, Nov 5

- CEC's gave input to GEO for next year's meetings: frequency, location, topics – planned to spread throughout the state outside of Denver for meetings. Most wanted fewer meetings, but two day things – so travel is worthwhile – and spread throughout state.
- Need to use Advisory Board to increase education of community. Need for RE EE literacy efforts – our group should help with that.

- Telluride CEC mtg next year - IDEA to plan around Mountain Film. May 27-30  
 Friday Symposium & theme for Mountain Film is "AWARENESS INTO ACTION"  
 Proposed CEC meeting in Telluride around Mountainfilm – theme is awareness  
 into action. Kurt noted Hydro conference is scheduled June 13<sup>th</sup> in Mountain  
 Village at the Peaks will tour Ames among other things. Maybe better for June  
 rather than Mountainfilm. CRES meeting is in Montrose again same weekend as  
 Bluegrass.
- Department of Labor and Employment, Workforce Development Council – Montrose –  
 Abby, CEC in Montrose is on this Board and Kim is working with Abby; scholarships are  
 available in the "green labor" field.

Kurt reported the planned Hydro conference for 2011 is on June 13<sup>th</sup> in Mtn Village; Kim will  
 send notice the CEC group on the hydro conference

### 3) GEO Update

- a) Micro-Hydro Projects –streamlining of FERC – projects that could go through new process?
  - Ridgway Dam hydro, Ophir water supply, irrigation/ranching water supply, others?
 Kurt reported that the Ridgway Dam project is moving forward but will not go through the FERC  
 process. No other micro-hydro projects were identified as moving forward in the region, except  
 for possibly Ophir according to Kurt.

**Correction per Kurt: it is reasonable to assume that local projects including Ophir,  
 Silverton, and a possible 2nd small hydro project in Ouray will be eligible for the  
 expected new GEO small hydro permitting assistance program**

GEO looking for micro-hydro projects that might be eligible for their new FERC regs. Ridgway  
 Reservoir doesn't need to go through FERC.

**Pat Willits joined the meeting.**

**Ken Haynes joined the meeting.**

- b) November Grant: Renewable Energy on public buildings - The GEO will award two grants of  
 \$100,000 to \$125,000 each to two local government renewable energy projects. These funds  
 are statewide. Kim indicated that we could potentially combine two smaller projects and she  
 would explore this option for the region. Kurt indicated Ophir is working on a couple renewable  
 projects (PV, Micro-hydro) that might qualify, and currently has funding from SMPA.
- c) Renewable Energy Development Team (REDT) - Program will start early January next year  
 (projects with feasibility analysis & other work already done will have an advantage for  
 selection). Team of GEO experts will:
  - screen projects – includes feasibility analysis
  - help with project development - technical and some financial analysis
  - Select projects

**Project Ideas to-date for both of above:** Telluride Public Works Buildings, Telluride airport remodel, Norwood School, Ophir Water Treatment Plant, Others?

Stu reported the airport remodel payback is too long to justify renewable options.

Ouray and Ridgway submitted letters of interest for the wastewater and water treatment facility audit funding program with the GEO. Norwood expressed concern about the matching cost. Kim reported the GEO is searching to offset the matching costs for this pilot program.

#### 4) STRATEGY

a) Incorporation of Gunnison/Hinsdale STRATEGY

b) Benchmarking / Baseline Data Analysis – jurisdictional, regional energy use data – utility

Kim distributed graphs from Source Gas on gas consumption by jurisdiction and type (residential, commercial) for Ouray and SM Counties.

TNCC is doing outreach to the community on energy consumption and conservation and Kris indicated that TNCC applied for funding to do TV outreach targeting second homeowners.

Bob indicated Mtn Village TV usage is about 63%, with the remainder using cable services.

The Board discussed the possible disconnect between property owners and property managers whereby energy is being consumed without the owners being aware of the consumption and possible savings. It was suggested that outreach efforts could target property management companies with seasonal reminders on cutting energy costs.

Stu suggested the property management companies set up an arrangement with the owners where the management companies receive a portion funds realized through energy savings.

The Board discussed the need for a multi-pronged approach for outreach to residential consumers.

Ideas:

- MV could do a letter to homeowners – explaining and showing the data. Seasonal reminders should go out. To owners and mgt companies.
- TOT water bills – include insert.
- Caretakers – Property mgt companies – incentive program where they could get a percentage of the savings.
- Less an issue in Ouray and Ridgway. Most Ouray second homeowners shut their places down for winter.

Data analysis:

Bob suggested looking at the Mtn Village gas usage data more closely to identify the largest accounts (eg: Village Court Apts, etc.) and single accounts for multiple users.

The Board discussed demand rates and charges with SMPA and if some of the homes are benefitting from the demand rates, requiring consistent use of 20kw per month.

Kurt defined demand as being the highest instantaneous peak in any given month. In a demand charge, the consumer pays a lower payment per kWh but also pays a premium for SMPA to insure the energy will be available during the highest demand period. It was suggested that the



jurisdictions review charges per account to be certain demand rate is applicable to each account being billed.

The Board discussed the value of obtaining data from HomeTown Propane, Ferrell Gas and Amerigas as propane providers. Kurt indicated he uses about 2 tanks of gas per year and that may be a targeted average for residential propane use. It was suggested that obtaining propane use data is difficult and may not provide equal insight or benefit to the Action Plan.

Kim asked that each government put energy use data in a reportable format for the Action Plan goals.

c) Review of process & our status - set schedule

Kim stated the goal of the plan process is to put the action items in to place. Kim presented a Strategy from the Office of Resource Efficiency on how the jurisdictions work together to realize the components of the Action Plan.

i) Public review / input process: "Publish the Action Plans. Key stakeholders should receive a copy of the Action Plans and be asked to indicate if the team is on the right track. If key stakeholders have concerns or modifications, notify the team prior to next meeting, or plan to discuss."

(1) Who are key stakeholders?

(2) How do we want to approach this process?

TNCC is reaching out to the public for inputs on the action plan. Board members should begin seeking inputs from the public in each jurisdiction and interested parties as well. Kim suggested that Sheep Mountain Alliance may be a resource for inputs as well.

The Board discussed the utility of the data that we now have on energy usage and incorporating this data into the Strategy document. The Strategy is a draft that needs input at this time from the Board.

The Board adjourned at 4:30PM due to toxic chemicals in the Fire Station.

ii) Government approval process

d) Review Strategic Goals & Action Items – comments / edits

5) Schedule Next Meeting – November 30<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 in Ridgway Town Hall