



**San Juan Regional Community Energy Board**  
**Meeting Notes**  
**March 15, 2011 2:00 p.m.**  
**Ridgway Town Hall**  
Call-in Option: 218-936-7979, access code 394137

**Attendees:** Kim Wheels, Bill Behan, Deanna Drew, Kurt Johnson, Bob Risch, Kris Holstrom, Elaine Fisher, Will Clapsadl, Todd Brown, Karen Guglielmone, Ken Haynes, John Clark, Jen Coates, Brad Zaporski

1) Advisory Board members – Activity Update (10 min)

- *Ken Haynes reported on the feasibility Study for a regional food assessment*
- *Bob Risch reported on progress of alternative energy projects in Ouray*
- *Elaine Fisher indicated Ouray County might be interested in the now published and final Alternative Futures Study*
- *Kurt Johnson reported on the GEO FERC study participation for the region.*
- *Brad Zaporski reported there are two RFPs recently released from SMPA for Community based RE projects. Additional information and RFPs are on website:*

*Project 1 – A project requiring the community to buy into the program; People from the community buy share of facility (percentage, panel, etc.) – can be any renewable energy project (does not have to be solar); buy-in = a credit applied to monthly billing; renters can participate with shares moving with them from location to location; people with low solar exposure can buy-in, etc; 1:1 credit is issued, similar to a net-metering agreement.*

*Project 2 – A 500 kW – 2MW – preferential treatment to proposals for community structures*

- a) Introduction of new SourceGas representative: Peter Cooke – *did not happen*
- b) Bob Risch – update from SMPA Mayor’s Forum meeting

*Bob Risch reported on a discussion with SMPA and Tri-State re: SMPA is the first to burn through 5% allocation for renewable energy sources under the Tri-State contract; Mayor Risch inquired about the negotiations with Tri-State under Policy 118 – ie: is the 5% is set in stone? What is the likelihood that Tri-State will support the request? Solar preferred by Tri-State because meets a defined need. Mayor Risch indicated if Ouray is to sell power to Tri-state then this would compete with the cheapest fuel source available (coal), which is likely not to be competitive without a carbon tax.*

*Elaine Fisher concurred with Bob’s report on the meeting stating that some gentleman from Tri-State were present at the forum, and the mission of SMPA is to provide least expensive energy to consumers vs. the for-profit energy providers who seek to make money for shareholders. There were discussions of Policy 115, Policy 117, Policy 118, the latter of which is the request for a variance through Tri-State to update renewable portfolio.*

*Brad Zaporski indicated there are 3 types of utility structures, and the policies dictate how SMPA addresses local renewables, so understanding of regulatory environment within which SMPA must operate is important for everyone to understand.*

2) TNCC Program Update (5 min)

a) GBR / EcoAction Program – Transportation and Carbon Offsets – April 1

*There are to be 2 presentations for this GBR: Galloping Goose and Transit Advisory Committee, including discussion of local carbon offsets that are available; Kim Wheels indicated the EcoAction Program is growing*

b) SMC Transit Advisory Committee meeting

*Kim Wheels attended this meeting a couple of weeks ago. Paul Gray of Region 10 presented the Region 10 focus and scope compared to the county specific groups. Elaine reported that San Miguel County Transit Committee has a website with a map on transit opportunities for the region, including Montrose and Ouray Counties and is looking to provide good reliable transit for the region. The Transit Committee is in the beginning stages of this, encompassing 3 counties and Rico. Additional information is on the SM County website: [www.sanmiguelcounty.org/transit](http://www.sanmiguelcounty.org/transit). The goal of the committee is to build a better and more efficient transit system.*

3) GEO Update (15 min)

a) Ski Area & CEC Meeting – April 6 & 7 – Should CEC attend snow-making meeting?

- i) This ski association meeting is April 6<sup>th</sup>, the session will be in Grand Junction. On 4/7 the AM session will cover carbon footprint of ski areas.
- ii) Here is the agenda link. <http://www.coloradoski.com/uploads/2011%20agenda.pdf>
- iii) The CEC meeting will follow the next day on April 7<sup>th</sup>. Location TBD.
- iv) The fee for participating in the am is \$60.
- v) These will be nuts and bolts snowmaking guys that will be a part of the session; but it will give a good idea of the issues involved one of the highest uses of electricity in ski industry.

b) GEO MSEI Program – mandatory workshop March 18 – Telluride library 8:30-10:00.

- i) 10 businesses / non-profit applications received
- ii) need 2 more... ideas?

*Kim reported the following businesses are participating to date: Wright Opera House (Ouray), RIGS (Ridgway), Humane Society (Ridgway), Boot Doctors (MV), 5 or 5 from Telluride.*

*The Sawpit Mercantile, and businesses at Society Turn were suggested.*

*The informational workshop is this Friday from 8:30 – 10 at the Telluride Library to teach owners to put data into GreenQuest. The deadline for application is extended mid-April, with work to be completed in mid-May*

*Brad Zaporski reported on a conversation with the account representative from the GEO on RE and EE. There is 95% surety that the GEO will not execute the proposed 2011 contract with SMPA. SMPA allocated \$95k to be matched to this program with the GEO. GEO is not likely to sign the contract or fund the program, in which case SMPA will use the \$95k for internal rebates. The 2010 funds remain to be spent in 2011, but when gone, they are gone. Rebate funds will be cut in half if the GEO does not sign contract with SMPA. Solar rebates remain available in most areas.*



*The Board discussed the GEO's CFL retrofits, and Weatherization Program and the appearance of limited outreach and implementation for the region.*

4) UC Denver GHG Inventory program – (10 min)

a) ICLEI: Community-Scale GHG Emissions Accounting and Reporting Protocol

b) Data collection deadline

i) SMPA and SourceGas data for 2010, propane data vague from Amerigas

*Kim is looking at a way to approximate propane use, which is a smaller component of the overall energy use for the region, and is awaiting SMPA and SG data.*

ii) Data being obtained for water, waste, assessor's offices.

*Kim has almost all the water and waste data from jurisdictions. UC-Denver is looking to base data on state averages as opposed to specific data for the region. Because of this, Kim is looking to gather more information to achieve better data. UCD is using ICLEI data, which is an international organization. The final report is anticipated by the end of May.*

5) STRATEGY (30 min)

a) Final Document Review – Kim highlighted updates to the plan

*Brad Zaporski suggested discussion and presentation of difference between kW and KWH and demand rates during a future WSJCEB meeting. SMPA completed an audit recently of accounts and a number of accounts were transferred to the demand rate. Also the WSJCEBoard discussed an explanation of a tiered rate structure and the non-demand, demand rate under the tiered rate structure. THE ACTION PLAN IS DONE and Kim will send to the GEO today!!!!*

b) Next Steps... EAC Actions – transition to EAC work

*Kim Wheels solicited input on next steps.*

*Kurt Johnson inquired about putting something on the ground now.*

*The Board discussed prioritizing the individual jurisdiction's actions from the plan.*

*Deanna Drew reported that Mountain Village is taking issues to the Board soon to ascertain broad priorities then roll out to individual departments for 2011 to be focused on data collection. Deanna also stated that MV Mayor Delves indicated the focus on energy is a priority, likely low-hanging fruit will be targeted first. MV is to have conservation commitments for the new year, with a 3-year baseline 2009-2011 then put into action in 2012.*

*Bob Risch indicated the City of Ouray put out 4 page list of goals for the City and then presented it to City staff to solicit inputs, and then will reach out to business community, and then to residents through public hearings. It was suggested that the Board continue to collaborate into the future, across jurisdictions.*

*Kim introduced the EACs:*

*Bill Behan – Ridgway, Deanna Drew – Mountain Village, Bob Risch- Ouray, Will Clapsadl – Ouray County, Karen Guglielmono - Telluride, and Nina Kothke – SM County.*

*Todd Brown indicated government entities are the least consumers, and at some point the focus needs to move beyond local government efforts.*

*Deanna Drew indicated the Town of MV would target getting own house in order first.*

*Kurt Johnson asked about the GHG report and presentation. Kim Wheels indicated the in-process GHG Emissions document is regional and will be ready for presentation at end of May, but will not arrive in a presentation ready format so each EAC will need to formulate presentation, or we will need to identify a way to get the information out to the region. Kim indicated we will receive individual spreadsheets from UC Denver to create specific presentations to the jurisdictions.*

*The Board discussed community outreach efforts and collaboration between jurisdictions.*

*Kurt suggested a presentation to both counties for GHG report and then to each jurisdiction individually, and then set priorities based on the report.*

*The Board discussed the need to reach out to all participating jurisdictions and not revert to singular or isolated efforts within the region.*

*Brad Zaporski discussed the difficulties of tiered rate structures and regulatory structure. There was discussion of applying tiered rate structures to residences only.*

*It was suggested that the Board move into a traditional advisory role and the EACs move into the on-the-ground action planning role individually and collaboratively, focus on government priorities from the Action Plan to identify and recommend priorities, and then review GHG UC Denver report and findings. EACs then work together to identify commonalities and shared efforts, then report back to the Board.*

*Kim recommended EACs converge GHG report and Action Plans for each jurisdiction, and that she has direction from Board to move forward at this time.*

6) County Economic Development Plans (20 min)

*Kim solicited inputs on incorporating green jobs, etc. into each of the regional ED plans; Jen Coates and John Clark indicated there was a meeting of Ouray County citizens to develop an ED plan on 3/14, and there appear opportunities for the WSJEB to incorporate green jobs, renewable energy and resource extraction, and other objectives from the Action Plan and previous discussions.*

*Elaine Fisher suggested the process was not an effective use of time as there is no funding to realize the proposed county ED plans.*

*The Board discussed the pros and cons of the ED statewide process. Kim will forward inputs from Gunnison County energy group and their inputs for the county-wide ED plans.*

a) Montrose Meeting update

b) Integrate sustainability & green job creation into plans

7) Watery Presentation (20 min) – *this item to be covered in another meeting*

8) Next meeting – *it was suggested that the Board celebrate the completion of the Action Plan, and take one month off. The EACs will then have time to assess and review data. The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, May 17 at 3:00 PM in Placerville.*