

**MINUTES  
ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD  
July 18, 2022**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Colin Quinn called the in-person/virtual Environmental Board meeting to order at 6:01 pm on July 18, 2022.

**ROLL CALL**

The following members were present for roll call:

E-Board Members:      Colin Quinn, Acting Chair  
                                 Fred Malo, Member  
                                 Hannah-Hunt Moeller, Member  
                                 Quinn Donnelly, Member  
                                 Michael Port, Member  
                                 Tessa Schreiner, Member  
                                 Pat Hunter, Alternate

Town Staff Present:    Mark O'Meara, Staff Liaison  
                                 Chris Hassig, Board of Trustees Liaison  
                                 Kae McDonald, Boards and Commissions Clerk

Guests:                    Zuleika Pevec, CLEER Representative  
                                 Richard Vottero, Prospective Member

**CONSENT AGENDA**

***Motion Passed:*** Tessa ***moved*** to approve Environmental Board meeting minutes from the June 20, 2022, meeting with a correction to Page 4, Paragraph 11 from "...could fund a professional environmental staff person." to "...wasn't enough to fund a professional environmental staff person." Pat ***seconded*** the motion, and the minutes were ***unanimously approved***.

**PERSONS PRESENT NOT ON THE AGENDA**

Pat noted that the Environmental Board's ad will be included in the Mountain Fair program. He also reported that he spoke with representatives from the three banks along Highway 133 and all were willing to post signs about limiting vehicle idling. He noted that the Public Works Director confirmed that there is no controlling ordinance regarding verbiage, so the language used in the posted signs will be up to each bank. He also reported that traffic counting will resume once school is back in session.

Hannah-Hunt asked for clarification about the traffic counting.

Pat explained that traffic counters were purchased a few years ago and that he had provided the Public Works Director with a map highlighting areas where it might be useful to have baseline traffic counts prior to the current development. He added that CDOT also undertakes traffic counts, and that information is available on their website.

Zuleika reported that the Residential Beneficial Electrification Program matrix should be ready for discussion at the August meeting.

Michael asked of the Environmental Board would be taking a position on the We-Cycle Program.

Colin replied that he had had a conversation with the mayor concerning this topic and the Environmental Board supports it, but the Environmental Board hasn't taken an official position.

Chris commented that the proposal had been approved by the Board of Trustees and there will be 75 bikes distributed among 15 solar-powered stations. He noted that the program is oriented towards getting people back and forth from the RFTA Park-n-Ride, but an area that will require further planning is the Rio Grande Trail crossing at Highway 133.

Fred reported that 350 Roaring Fork is working on the conversion of gas-powered yards tools to electric and that effort is gaining momentum. He added that the organization is planning a garden tour to encourage property owners to replace sod yards with native plants and/or food gardens. He noted that they are trying to discourage the final approvals for the Uinta Rail Line.

Colin replied that the Environmental Board could potentially partner with 350 Roaring Fork on the garden tour.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD CHAIR NOMINATIONS**

Colin announced his intention to resign as Chair of the Environmental Board. He noted his appreciation for the efforts of the long-term members and his excitement for the energy the new members will bring. He added that Hannah-Hunt has expressed an interest in filling the position and asked if there were any other members that might be interested in the position.

Tessa nominated Hannah-Hunt for the position of Environmental Board Chair.

Colin pointed out that the official vote will take place at the August meeting and noted that he is planning on continuing the Environmental Board through the meeting with the Board of Trustees after which he will resign his membership.

Hannah-Hunt commented that one of her goals for the Environment Board is to create a clear and actionable strategic plan.

### **STRATEGIC WORK PLAN SESSION**

Colin commented that there is a tremendous opportunity to work with the Board of Trustees if the Environmental Board develops actionable items. He added that he also had a conversation with Ben and Chris and there were four topics that they touched on:

- 1) What are the guiding documents to implement a strategic vision.
  - a. Climate Action Plan (CAP)
  - b. Environmental Bill of Rights (EBOR)
  - c. Vulnerability, Consequences, and Planning Scenarios (VCAP)
  - d. Comprehensive Plan
- 2) Have the goal for upcoming Town-sponsored development (i.e., the pool and Town Center) to be net-zero. This is an area the Environmental Board could throw

their support behind, while acknowledging the energy efficiency at the pool could be challenging.

- 3) Diversity lacking on the Environmental Board.
- 4) How to conserve water

Hannah-Hunt added that resilience planning would build on the VCAP. She noted that the Fire Department has a scope of work, and they will need to contact them. She pointed out that a work session with the Board of Trustees is planned for the fall and she would like to have the strategic plan finalized for that meeting. She asked if anyone had information on the Board of Trustees work session on water tomorrow evening.

Mark replied that it is primarily informational and will focus on water rights and water supply and demand.

Chris added that Lonnie is preparing a report, as well, and Colin will present a report on housing. He thought it would be worthwhile to listen.

Hannah-Hunt noted that there are a variety of topics listed in the proposed Strategic plan, with water primarily a focus of demand reduction. She added that in layering recent comments over the 2018 Strategic Plan, she thought it could be more concise.

Mark asked if he should add any updates from the Town's perspective.

Hannah-Hunt answered in the affirmative and encouraged him to prepare a staff update for the monthly meeting.

Tessa suggested included mental resiliency in the VCAP. She asked if Garfield County had a Hazard Mitigation Plan and noted it was a good way to embed climate in a larger planning document.

Hannah-Hunt replied that as a volunteer board, there is only so much that they can be involved in.

Tessa answered her own question and noted that Garfield County does have a 2022 Hazard Mitigation Plan. She thought it might be worthwhile to review.

Colin commented that he has asked about sustainability staff and both Ben and Chris weren't sure whether that might happen -- the Environmental Board would need to demonstrate why a specific staff person would be solely devoted to sustainability issues because the staffing budget is limited and there is a lot of work being done across departments. He noted that they thought it might be possible to have a grant writer help procure funds.

Chris commented that they are in the process of hiring staff and thought it was also a budget question because funding for staff is currently limited. He acknowledged that the contract with CLEER helps, but if the Town generates more income, additional staff could be considered.

Pat pointed out that based on a conversation with the Public Works Director, department heads currently handle grant applications. He suggested it might be possible to hire a free-lance grant writer with money written into the grant to pay themselves.

Mark noted that depending upon the project, most grant writing is completed in-house or through a third-party with the Town of Carbondale acting as the financial manager.

Hannah-Hunt reminded the board members that the purpose of the discussion was to decide on goals utilizing the guiding documents and then identify two or three projects to work on as subcommittees. She also reminded the group that the Google worksheet is a live document and suggested that when adding to the Focus Area comments to please include a name or initials and the date.

Tessa noted her support for this approach and recommended starting with the “What” not the “How.” She encouraged building on solutions and thought that three projects are a good number for one year’s work.

Hannah-Hunt asked if CLEER has a Climate Action Plan update that they can report on.

Zuleika replied that CLEER’s scope of work is developed in collaboration with the Environmental Board. She added that CLEER has an internal checklist, but she isn’t sure how up to date it is.

Colin commented that the Climate Action Plan is top priority. He explained that they had previously worked with Maisa to track what CLEER, the Town of Carbondale and the Environmental Board were doing and suggested reviewing those spreadsheets and having a conversation about it outside the current meeting. He added that there is so much in the Climate Action Plan that could be isolated for individual projects but recommended focusing on climate adaptations and emissions reduction.

Hannah-Hunt proposed supporting the Climate Action Plan as the primary goal and implementing the Environmental Bill of Rights as the second goal.

Tessa asked how that support would look in practice.

Pat suggested getting the Climate Action Plan and the Environmental Bill of Rights into the Unified Development Code in ways that get them addressed. He added that he located the directives for Comprehensive Plans in Colorado, and they don’t have to be aspirational and that is the crux of the issue.

Colin replied that the Environmental Bill of Rights is more of a guiding document than a series of implementable actions.

Hannah-Hunt agreed and noted that the term implement is misplaced – the Environmental Bill of Rights is more ethos than strategy and should be considered “Guiding Principles.”

Quinn asked if the Environmental Bill of Rights was written more for Town of Carbondale staff or for the community.

Hannah-Hunt replied that it is specific to the Town of Carbondale.

Colin added that communication is a cross cutting goal that the Environmental Bill of Rights falls under.

Tessa commented that these are purpose statements and not actionable goals – by contrast, Dandelion Days is an indivisible action item. She reiterated the necessity to set smart goals that can be accomplished within one year’s time using the Climate Action Plan as the overarching guiding document.

Hannah-Hunt replied that the guiding documents listed under Items #1 and #2 aren’t changing. She suggested reviewing Items #4 and 5 to delineate purpose versus goals.

Colin suggested allowing the subcommittees to determine the goal for the upcoming year. He explained that in 2018 it wasn’t clear that Dandelion Day would continue which is why the financial oversight and implementation of that event was moved to Carbondale Arts. He added that as personnel shifts, it still isn’t clear that Dandelion Days will continue.

Pat commented that the Environmental Board came into being over the issue of spraying dandelions and has evolved into approving environmental actions prior to being presented to the Board of Trustees. He pointed out that the Environmental Board has worked on definable targets such as the trash ordinance and plastics issue. He agreed that the Climate Action Plan should be the overarching guiding document but pointed out that as a volunteer board the Environmental Board isn’t capable of fully realizing the tenets presented in that document. He didn’t think CLEER needed the Environmental Board to refer projects to the Board of Trustees, or that the Environmental Board should be in a position to approve climate action. He suggested approaching action items in terms of what Carbondale needs but doesn’t have.

Zuleika clarified that CLEER organizes what can be done, and while they do some projects, they can’t take everything on. She noted that CLEER uses the Environmental Board’s guidance to help Town staff implement action items.

Mark pointed out that in terms of the Climate Action Plan, they helped CLEER consolidate information and identify areas of energy demand.

Hannah-Hunt noted that the overall goal is to support the Climate Action Plan. She asked who would be interested in identifying what is important and make recommendations to focus on. Michael, Fred, Tessa, and Colin indicated an interest in working on that topic.

Colin listed the themes discussed to this point while also noting that others have been proposed via email:

- Improve preparedness for natural disasters
- Revisit the VCAPs in terms of managing water shortages caused by drought
- Understanding risk mitigation for natural disasters
- Ecological themes including landscape codes, strategic plan, and open space
- Town of Carbondale staffing structure
- Communication

Fred asked what the next step should be.

Colin asked that about a ½ page summary, including a stated goal for the coming year, be prepared that would be appropriate to include in a memo to the Board of Trustees and submit it in time to be included in the next meeting’s packet.

Hannah-Hunt listed the interested board members for each theme:

- Richard and Quinn as interested in the Natural Disaster Preparedness theme
- Nicole, Genevieve, Hannah-Hunt, and Jane Hendricks as interested in the Ecological theme
- Nicole, Michael, and Colin as interested in staffing structure and communication (includes managing the Google Document and preparing the memo for the Board of Trustees)

Hannah-Hunt asked about a Dandelion Days scope of work.

Colin explained that with upcoming transitions in leadership at Carbondale Arts – and in the event Natalie Rae moves on – it is important to have a document that has been agreed upon by the Carbondale Arts director. He agreed to touch base with Amy Kimberly and write a scope of work.

Pat commented that he has a box of Dandelion Days files that might be useful to someone.

Richard asked if Dandelion Days was self-sustaining. He thought it was important that Natalie Rae groom someone to take over.

Michael suggested developing a structure for addressing “one-off” items or have someone review them prior to being added to the agenda.

Colin agreed and noted that the agenda can quickly be overrun by “one-offs.”

Tessa commented that she is on the CORE Board, and they are working on ways to review projects. She thought a process could easily be created.

Michael suggested having a Town staff and Board of Trustees update at each meeting, so board members are aware of what is being done and what is coming up.

Chris noted that the Board of Trustees anticipate reviewing the compiled Comprehensive Plan sometime soon.

Pat pointed out that he has been doing the Environmental Board’s outreach education and is willing to help anyone who needs help.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mark reminded the board members that along with the tasks they are taking on with the strategic work plan, to not forget about the things they have been doing all along.

Fred asked if anyone could confirm that all the residential units in the new construction near the Highway 133 roundabout were all electric.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The July 18, 2022, regular meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for August 15, 2022 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kae McDonald