

**Minutes
Environmental Board
August 15, 2022**

Call to Order:

Colin Quinn called the in-person Environmental Board meeting to order at 6:01pm on August 15, 2022.

Roll Call:

The following Board members were present for roll call:

E-Board Members:

- Hannah Hunt Moeller, Member
- Colin Quinn, Acting Chair
- Tessa Schreiner, Member
- Fred Malo, Member
- Jane Hendricks, Member
- Michael Port, Member
- Pat Hunter, Alternate
- Nicole Rebeck-Stout, Member

Town Staff Present:

- Mark O'Meara, Staff Liaison
- Chris Hassig, Board of Trustees Liaison

Guests:

- Alice Laird, CLEER Representative

Consent Agenda:

Motion Passed: Tessa ***moved*** to approve Environmental Board meeting minutes from the July 18, 2022. Jane ***seconded*** the motion, and the minutes were ***unanimously approved***.

Persons Present Not on the Agenda:

Pat Hunter commented on an Xcel Energy report regarding emissions.

Vote on Chair Position:

Motion Passed: Colin ***moved*** to nominate Hannah-Hunt Moeller to be the Environmental Board Chair. Fred Malo ***seconded*** the motion, and the motion was ***unanimously approved***.

Colin commented that there eventually will be a need for a Vice Chair. No one on the E-board immediately volunteered or voiced an interest, and Colin said that this could be a discussion brought up again at a future meeting.

Board of Trustee Updates: Chris Hassig

Chris provided an update on the WeCycle and RFTA partnership for a new bike share program in Carbondale. 25 bikes will be e-bikes, of the 75 bikes to be deployed.

Energy meeting that CLEER put on. Gas is up 3% and energy use is flat despite a lot of building in town. This led to some discussion about gas use in town and if Town should discuss banning it or taxing it heavily. With this data, Town is going to have to spend some money to begin chipping away at resource use.

Staff Update on Board of Trustees Work Session Regarding Water:

Mark provided an update on the Water Board workshop. The workshop began with a background of the status of the water supply and systems in Carbondale. He shared that there are currently three water treatment facilities in Carbondale, in addition to the Carbondale Ditch. Residents are on the City's water system and the ditch system. The ditch system is open to public use. The ditch system is a blessing because it's a tremendous asset to the town and allows for less traditional water infrastructure.

The town also operates the wastewater system. All the water used in residential and commercial areas is metered going into the building, the water is used, goes down the drain, goes to the wastewater plant, and clean water goes back into the Roaring Fork River. The net consumptive use of the water is not just the charts you see for water usage, but also includes the water returned to the river.

The full agenda for this water work session can be found on the Town's website.

Trends so far for 2022 show a reduced amount of water usage to date compared to previous years' trend. Mark said that notices were put out in previous years about drought or water restrictions, and the Utilities department noted a drop in consumption overnight – Mark noted that this shows the community is responsive to these notices and mindful of times in which supply is low.

Tessa asked about drought and stages of restrictions. Mark said in 2018 there were low levels on the Crystal River and a water plant was shut down. This hasn't happened regularly and there are not regular restrictions on watering.

Mark noted that irrigation is a huge draw on water in Carbondale and that leak detection is done twice a year on water systems.

Hannah-Hunt summarized: Carbondale has a lot of resources and is doing well in water management and the Town is responsive to needs for consumption reduction. Chris said the Town has good water rights, but that we still need to do our part. Hannah-Hunt will send the link to all this information to the E-board.

Michael Port asked if there were any action items from the Water Board meeting or if it was more of an inventory of the existing infrastructure, resources, and trends. Mark said yes, it was more of an inventory.

Jane asked what happens when a development like the River Valley Ranch is developed (when it used to be agricultural land). Mark responded that those water rights go back to the Town.

CLEER Updates:

Alice Laird presented on behalf of Zuleika Pevec. She shared that she is eager to help the E-board prepare for upcoming work session to the Town Board of Trustees. She asked if she could share the four goals that came out of the Garfield Clean Energy Action Plan, saying that she would like input on these goals from the E-board. She mentioned that

- **First goal:** Garfield County electricity will be carbon-free grid by 2030
 - Alice suggested that Carbondale could adopt a carbon-free electricity goal
- **Second goal:** Achieve energy efficiency and conservation savings resulting in 1% annual use reduction by 2030 over 2019 baseline.
- **Third goal:** Mobility: Garfield County regional strategy will transition 15% of all registered vehicles to zero emissions by 2030 and will reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT)
- **Fourth goal:** Greenhouse gas emissions: Garfield County region will reduce greenhouse gas emissions related to energy supply by 30% by 2030, and regarding to electric supply by 100% by 2030, and related to natural gas by 10% by 2030

Hannah-Hunt voiced support for adopting more ambitious climate goals than what Carbondale currently has, and what Garfield County has set. Colin agreed and said he would be supportive of ambitious but achievable goals.

Nicole asked why Garfield County's new goals/plan doesn't contain elements such as waste. Alice responded saying that this plan is focused on energy specifically.

Michael asked what CLEER would like to see in edits to these goals. Alice responded saying that she hopes to see more ambitious goals, and ones that highlight efficiency instead of relying on the grid to become more renewable.

Hannah-Hunt asked Alice if CLEER is getting with other municipalities to understand what other municipalities' climate plans and goals look like. Alice said that Glenwood Springs is the only other town in the County that has had a Climate Plan in place historically, and CLEER has not been able to revive specific conversations with them.

Pat commented that Crested Butte has banned new gas hookups for new construction. He also mentioned that Carbondale has adopted the 2018 building codes, and that we should be leapfrogging to the 2021 building code.

Hannah-Hunt thanked Alice for the update and asked what the timeline was for adopting these new goals in Garfield County. Alice said there's a Trustee work session in September where the edited goals will be presented. Alice will send the most updated goal version to Hannah-Hunt and Colin and feedback will be provided.

Pat mentioned that he felt updates from staff are good but warned that if we don't follow-up with specific action, we'll spend our meetings talking without taking steps forward.

Subcommittee Updates:

The Climate Action Plan Subcommittee (Michael, Fred, and Tessa) met and created recommendations for immediate steps from the Climate Action Plan. Michael shared that the group recommended several actions under the categories of Building Energy Use, Transportation, and Waste Reduction.

For Building Energy Use, the group recommends:

1. ASAP - Request presentation from Facilities, Building, Planning or other relevant departments to understand energy efficiency developments in municipal buildings and the building code update process.
2. Short Term - Continue working with CLEER to support residential beneficial electrification program research and development for existing buildings.
3. Long Term - Work with Building Dept. on updating building codes to raise energy efficiency standards for new construction.

For Transportation, the group recommends:

1. ASAP - Request presentation from Public Works about progress to electrify the municipal fleet.
2. Short Term - Meet with Carbondale's RFTA representative to see how we can support alternative mobility, improve/expand in town bus service.
3. Research community charging station current infrastructure and whether the town is on track to meet capacity needs.

For Waste Reduction, the group recommends:

1. ASAP - Request presentation from Public Works or other relevant departments and service providers on recycling access, participation in municipal buildings and recycling access for households in town.
2. Long Term - Expand participation in composting. We will need to partner with the town but potentially local waste haulers as well.
3. Long Term - Develop comprehensive "Zero Waste" policy.

Mark says that it would be helpful for the E-board to regularly look at the spreadsheet on climate action progress. Hannah-Hunt will share this info. Colin shared that CLEER may know more about progress on various things and that we could engage them to give us an update.

Hannah-Hunt asked Mark who would be the key staff people for the E-board to engage in getting more updated information on Town climate progress. Mark suggested Kevin in Public Works. Colin shared that where the E-board has been effective before was pushing for the adoption of new building codes – this was done with the technical support of CLEER. The E-board did something similar for the waste hauling plan.

For next meeting, Hannah-Hunt has asked for the subcommittee to come back with two specific action items and projects and what the cost impact would be. She also suggested looking at sources of grants.

Preparedness for Natural Disasters Subcommittee (Quinn and Richard):

Neither Quinn nor Richard are present at this E-Board meeting so the group skipped this update.

Ecology Subcommittee (Jane, Hannah-Hunt, and Nicole):

The goal of the group is to analyze the existing landscape and irrigation requirements in the Unified Development Code (UDC) and identify opportunities to align the UDC with long-range planning documents and progressive peer communities.

Nicole provided a summary regarding the group's progress and discussion to date. The group looked at Carbondale's long-range plans that contain ecology and landscape policies, what other peer communities are doing, examples of incentive strategies, and a recommended next steps/actions spreadsheet. They would like feedback from the E-board.

Nicole shared that the group's findings and memo is in the E-board's shared Google drive.

Staffing Structure and Communication Subcommittee (Michael, Hannah-Hunt, and Colin):

Hannah-Hunt walked the E-board through the Google drive and how things are organized, where the E-board members can find content, and what working docs are going to be updated on an ongoing basis.

Hannah-Hunt and Pat discussed norms around using the Google drive, how to make edits, and that E-board members should notify the E-board if large changes are going to be made to any shared items in the drive.

Hannah-Hunt also said that she and Colin have been creating some structure around Dandelion Days and will report on this in September.

Michael and Colin have suggested that the EBoard has a conversation with the Town Manager and BOT about hiring staff to access finance, particularly grants, or a sustainability director.

Strategic Planning Updates:

Announcements:

Nicole asked if the E-board could consider creating a revolving sustainability fund that could be funded by savings realized by Climate Action initiatives.

Adjournment:

The August 15, 2022 regular meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for September 19, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Tessa Schreiner