



## **Routt County Climate Action Plan Collaborative Board Meeting & Work Session Minutes**

January 10, 2025 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Gilpin Conference Room, Routt County Health and Human Services  
135 6th Street, Steamboat Springs, CO 80487

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### **1. Roll call**

Meeting called to order at 10:09 a.m. by CAP Board Chair Gail Garey.

Collaborative Board Members in attendance:

- City of Steamboat Springs: Gail Garey
- City of Steamboat Springs: Steve Muntean
- Routt County: Scott Cowman
- Town of Hayden: Matt Mendisco
- Town of Oak Creek: Melissa Dobbins
- Town of Yampa: Sheila Symons
- Community: Jeff Millius
- Community: Sarah Jones
- Community: Tim Wohlgenant
- Community: Emily Katzman (arrived at 11:09 a.m.)

Yampa Valley Sustainability Council (YVSC) (CAP Program Management Entity) staff in attendance:

- Michelle Stewart
- Tim Sullivan
- Paul Bony
- Abby Vander Graaff
- Ashley Dean

Mathew made a motion to alter the agenda to move approval of the minutes and appointment of officers to the start of the agenda, then move into a working session. Scott seconded. All in favor.



## **2. Minutes to Approve**

Mathew made a motion to approve the December 6, 2024 meeting minutes. Scott seconded. All in favor.

## **3. Appointment of Officers**

Scott made a motion to approve Gail to continue in her role as board chair and Mathew to continue his role as board co-chair. Melissa seconded. All in favor.

## **Routt County Climate Action Plan Collaborative Work Session**

### **1. Partner Updates**

Scott shared that he received an email from a community member expressing frustration for having to pay for recycling at former Waste Management facility.

Mathew shared that Hayden is moving forward with work at the Hayden Business Park.

Melissa shared that Oak Creek is working on assessing water and sewer lines to discover source of water loss, securing funding for needed upgrades, achieved funding to form a South Routt housing authority and is hiring a town administrator.

### **2. Board Administration Updates**

#### **a. Welcome - Angelica Salinas**

Angelica will serve as the CAP Board representative for Routt County, Scott will serve as back-up.

#### **b. Welcome - Ryan Banks**

Ryan will serve as CAP board alternate to Mathew.

#### **c. Community member board seat update**

Sarah and Tim W. were asked to continue in their community board seats and both accepted. Yampa and Steamboat Springs have formally approved the reappointment. Routt County, Hayden and Oak Creek have community board seat approval on their upcoming agendas.



**d. Public comment from CAP open house**

Tim S. said a number of comments were about the solar project. Scott said working group members appreciated having a point of connection.

**e. Partner engagement update**

**i. Follow up from South Routt School District**

Tim has not yet reached out to interested teacher in South Routt but will.

Melissa said South Routt is meeting Jan. 27 and 28 from 6:30-8 p.m. to discuss options to invest money in school improvements. Topics for discussion include bringing the middle school up to compliance or building a new campus altogether. She said it would be good to have a CAP presented and could fill that role.

Gail said a focus on conversation could be on weatherization and highlighting available funding. Jeff said it would be a good idea for YVEA to be involved earlier rather than later.

**ii. Update on UCHealth Yampa Valley Medical Center partner engagement meeting**

Plans for the meeting are underway.

**f. Greenhouse gas inventory update**

YVSC is meeting with Lotus next week and will have more information in February meeting.

**g. CAP Board 2025 goal setting process**

YVSC will have accountability tracker updated by the end of next week. Board members should review and come to February meeting prepared for a discussion of 2025 goals.

**3. Program Management Updates**

**a. Working group updates**

**i. Transportation and land use**



## **Transportation:**

Transportation Working Group met and had a presentation from E Source on decarbonizing the County's fleet. The group also reviewed outlying CAP recommendations, including permanent funding for Steamboat transit.

There is an upcoming stakeholder meeting on the mountain rail. Work is ongoing to apply for necessary infrastructure funding to prepare for the rail, build stations and filter regional transportation throughout the community.

There's been consideration of pursuing a DOLA energy impact grant. Grant applications will be regional, with governments applying together. Hayden has some staff available to help with these projects.

Mathew said the Town of Hayden is looking to make changes that would make the community RTA ready, even if rail never gets built.

Steamboat Resort is looking into clean diesel options as heavy equipment won't electrify in the near future.

## **Land Use:**

Tim S. shared that the Land Use Working Group discussed the importance of establishing processes around addressing large/utility scale solar projects and balancing emissions reductions, habitat and impacts on host communities.

Tim S. said that there is a question of whether the impacts for host communities, in the case of an upcoming solar project, for Hayden residents, can be mitigated and if the CAP Board should take a position. Tim S. and Paul are working to set up a workshop on this topic.

Jeff said developers will be trying to connect to existing transmission lines and that the further they get from existing lines, the more expensive the projects become. Originally coops couldn't access tax credits, so it made sense for outside groups to manage local energy generation projects.

Tim S. is creating a progress tracker for Land Use sector projects that identifies carbon sequestration value of individual projects. Colorado State Forest Service study showed that local forests are adding carbon to the atmosphere rather than removing it due to beetle kill.



## ii. **Climate equity**

Work on framework continues.

### **b. Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant update**

Colorado Energy Office (CEO) sent over near-final agreement, which will be reviewed and signed. YVSC will reach out to CEO with additional questions and funds may be disbursed at the end of the month.

### **c. Atmos Energy pilot project update**

Clean heat plan includes option to promote heat pumps and take gas boilers offline, though Paul said he is unsure if anything will come from Atmos' outreach to YVSC.

## **4. Other**

### **a. Next meeting: Friday, February 7, 10 a.m.-Noon, Gilpin Conference Room, Routt County Health & Human Services**

Meeting adjourned at 11:44 a.m. by Board Chair Gail Garey.

MINUTES SUBMITTED BY: Abby Vander Graaff

Approved February 7, 2025.