



## **Routt County Climate Action Plan Collaborative Board Meeting Minutes**

December 6, 2024 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

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

### **1. Roll call**

Meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m. by CAP Board Chair Gail Garey.

Collaborative Board Members in attendance:

- Community: Emily Katzman
- Community: Jeff Milius
- Community: Sarah Jones
- City of Steamboat Springs: Gail Garey
- City of Steamboat Springs: Steve Muntean
- Town of Hayden: Mathew Mendisco
- Routt County: Sonja Macys
- Routt County: Scott Cowman
- Town of Yampa: Sheila Symons

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

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

### **2. Minutes to approve**

Mathew made a motion to approve the November 1, 2024 minutes and Sonja seconded. All in favor.

### **3. Board Administration Updates**

#### **a. CAP Public Open House discussion**



Board members discussed their takeaways from the CAP Open House, which included the importance of cost consideration in energy transitions, a focus on electrifying mobile homes, and remediation of past climate equity issues.

**b. Partner engagement updates**

**i. South Routt School District - Tuesday, November 19 (5:30 p.m.)**

Sonja, Sarah and Sheila said their presentation with South Routt School District was met with a tough audience, but the conversation was civil and there was some interest, including an agriculture teacher who would like to meet further. Tim S. and Scott will follow up on land use and composting.

**ii. Next partner engagement meeting discussion (UCHealth?)**

**1. YVSC Community Meeting (Nov 20): Intersections of Climate and Public Health**

Michelle explained that YVSC laid the groundwork for a discussion with UCHealth representatives during YVSC's November Community Meeting focused on the intersections of climate and public health, and that the group is ready for conversation with the CAP Board. There could be a process issue between UCHealth local and corporate branches acting as a barrier.

**c. Greenhouse Gas Inventory discussion**

YVSC presented the pros and cons of a Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory as outlined in the pros/cons document.

Tim S. explained that if approved, the GHG inventory would likely be for 2023, as a full year's worth of data is needed.

Sarah and Paul explained that there won't be a significant change in building emissions reflected in the report from building electrification until the grid becomes greener.

Sarah said the Board should separate the GHG inventory from a need for progress and view it as an update to look at strategies and adjust where needed.



Mathew said that to the layman, considering greening of the grid is misleading. Tim said the report wouldn't take credit for those changes but would justify electrification, clearly showing what reductions were the result of what actions.

Sonja said that Routt County will vote no on the GHG Inventory, but believes that the CAP Board needs to move forward with it based on a majority vote so no one organization is blocking progress.

Gail said she thinks that from a city perspective having a GHG Inventory will impact emissions reduction conversations.

Sarah motioned to move forward with the GHG inventory, pursuing the most updated data. Emily seconded.

The Board discussed the timing of the report, which would likely take 4-6 months to complete.

Mathew said he'd only support a GHG Inventory that takes Hayden Station emissions into consideration.

The motion was withdrawn by absence.

Mathew motioned to move forward with a GHG study that would be paid for with the new Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant and include all emitters within Routt County. Gail seconded.

Yes votes: Town of Hayden, Emily Katzman - Community, City of Steamboat, Jeff Milius - Community, Town of Yampa.

No votes: Routt County.

Motion approved.

#### **d. Community Member Board Seat update**

Four applications were received. Review meeting scheduled for next week with a goal to have a selection by the end of the year. Incumbent candidates have indicated a desire to return to the board.



**e. CAP Fund update**

Michelle and Tim W. have not met yet. Goal of the meeting is to determine the application procedure.

**f. CAP Board Accountability update**

The Board reviewed the CAP Board Accountability Tracker. Gail said the Collaborative should update the board each quarter and clarify the definition of private partnerships in the tracker.

**4. Program Management Updates (YVSC)**

**a. Working Group updates**

**i. Energy and Waste**

Paul said the Energy Working Group is looking for new recommendations to be included in the CAP process and codify quarterly updates for information sharing.

Other updates include that Atmos Energy selected Routt County to pilot their clean heat program with a focus on hard to reach rentals and mobile homes, which will include efficiency improvements that can reduce emissions.

Scott said major waste updates include that Apex Waste Solutions members were at the Waste Working Group meeting and are exploring the potential for a drop site and expanding their MRF. Other updates included enforcement of the City recycling policy, EPR and the potential for a pay as you throw policy.

**ii. Climate equity update**

First advisory committee meeting was November 19, in which the group workshopped the definition shared during the Open House. The group will next meet to create a framework based on that definition.

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

**i. Draft RFP**

Grant on track to come in as a lump sum, but must be used over time.



**c. Other grant updates**

**i. Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program  
(due December 12)**

YVSC met with Yampa Valley Housing Authority to discuss the potential to apply for this grant for beneficial electrification of mobile homes in Whitehaven Mobile Home Park and in an area West of Hayden.

**ii. EPA Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grants for Community  
(local governments - due December 20)**

Opportunities include funding for recycling and diversion programs and a feasibility study for a regional composting facility. The team is investigating the opportunity.

**iii. CEO - Community Accelerated Mobility Project (CAMP) - Technical  
Readiness Planning Phase (local governments - due January 10,  
2025)**

Item not discussed.

**5. Other**

**a. Next meeting**

Next meeting moved to January 10.

Emily motioned to adjourn. Sheila seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 12:01 p.m.

MINUTES SUBMITTED BY: Abby Vander Graaff

Approved January 10, 2025.