



Routt County Climate Action Plan Collaborative Board Meeting Agenda

March 24, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Routt County Commissioners' Hearing Room, Steamboat Springs
Hybrid option below

AGENDA

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86069618594?pwd=dUZ2cDQ3UWFsWnVmMGFXTE5Pc0pVdz09>

Meeting ID: 860 6961 8594

Passcode: 406707

10:00 - 10:05 am

1. Roll Call
2. Minutes to Approve
 - a. February 24, 2023

10:05-10:20 am

3. Board Administration Updates
 - a. Community Collaborative Board Member update
 - b. Update on City Council Staff CAP work session
 - c. Confirm Collaborative Partner update presenters to City of SS - April 4
 - d. 2023 Board Goals sub-committee meetings progress update (scheduled)

10:20 - 11:20 am

4. Board Direction to Working Groups
 - a. General direction on recommendation language/content
 - b. Review recommendations format and timeline

- c. Discuss Working Group working session goals (April 27)

11:20-11:30 am

- 5. Working Group Updates/Requests to Board - Energy, Transportation, Waste, Land Use and Economy
 - a. Energy - Solar Net Metering technical memorandum

11:30-11:45 am

- 6. Communications/Outreach
 - a. Communications Updates and forthcoming 2-month plan (Julia)
 - b. Update on Intergovernmental Comms Team
- 7. Other, as time allows
 - a. Next meeting - April 28, 2023 10 - 12 p.m. - Routt County Commissioners' Hearing Room



Collaborative Board Meeting Minutes

February 24, 2023, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Commissioners' Hearing Room, Routt County building

Roll Call

The meeting of the Collaborative Board was called to order at approximately 10:03 a.m. on Friday, February 24, 2023 as a hybrid meeting.

Collaborative voting members in attendance:

- Steamboat Springs: Counselor Gail Garey (Chair)
- Hayden: Mathew Mendisco (Co-chair)
- Routt County: Commissioner Sonja Macys
- Routt County: Scott Cowman
- Yampa: Sheila Symons
- Oak Creek: David Torgler
- Community: Steve Johnson
- Community: Tim Wohlgenant
- Community: Geoff Blakeslee
- Community: Sarah Jones

Quorum is present.

YVSC's Michelle Stewart, Paul Bony, Tim Sullivan, Winn Cowman and Ashley Dean were present supporting Program Management for the Collaborative Board.

Minutes

Counselor Garey moved to approve the January 27, 2023 minutes with Commissioner Macys' edits. Tim W. approved. Commissioner Macys seconded. All in favor. No objection. Approved 10-0.

Host Updates

- Routt County: The County is making active steps toward sustainability. Actions include looking into fleet conversion, participation in Regional Transit Authority

DRAFT MINUTES

(RTA) exploration, and revision of the County Master Plan, building codes and policies. Kristy Winser is leading a technical working group for updating planning regulations. The County will be joining Colorado Communities for Climate Action (CC4CA) and is looking to bring federal funds to the community.

Board Administration Updates

1. Community Board Member Update. Routt County and the City of Steamboat Springs have formally approved the reappointment of Steve Johnson for the CAP Board Community Member seat. Yampa, Oak Creek and Hayden will add the approval to their next council meetings. (3/15/23 - Yampa, Oak Creek and Hayden have all formally approved Steve Johnson's appointment).
2. Update on City Partner Engagement meeting - scheduled for 30 minutes 3/21/23. 15 minutes for presentation, 15 minutes for conversations and questions. Steve, Commissioner Macys and Tim W (if available) to present. Mathew may join remotely. YVSC will provide updated presentation material. (3/6/23 - City Council Partner Engagement meeting moved to April 4)
 - March 14 - there is a City Council work session scheduled to update the City Council on sustainability and what the City is doing as it relates to the CAP strategies.
 - March 21 - City Council to discuss snowmelt
 - Hayden will also be reviewing land use codes and wants to work with the Collaborative on that (May timeframe).
3. Review and finalize 2023 Board Goals
 - Discussion was had about the value of leaving education (AS4) apart from Community Engagement – recommendation to combine the two.
 - Public/Private Engagement - Goal is to focus on high carbon footprint (e.g., look at businesses with high carbon footprint), engage directly with partners and raise awareness.
 - Education - To what end are we doing this work? Routt County's Todd Carr hosting workshops to talk about new building codes – will change GHG emissions, talk about climate action in a formed group.
 - Set specific goals for communications work. Concern that we are not communicating well enough with the general public, especially those interested in what is happening with the CAP.
 - Discussed difference between education and communication. Need strategic, actionable, targeted communications.
 - Board agreed to develop subcommittees to shape out goals for each CAP Accountability Goals section. By May have a clear set of goals and implementation plan.
 - Accountability Strategy 1 (Ensure adequate funding for the CAP) - Counselor Garey, Mathew and Sarah

DRAFT MINUTES

- Add developing a mechanism for private entities to fund the CAP
- Accountability Strategy 2 (Establish accountability mechanisms for the CAP) - Commissioner Macys to lead this group, but may come back to this after the Board has gone through 1,3,4 and 5
 - How to support implementation of the CAP recommendations? Give governmental partners to the tools to implement
- Accountability Strategy 3 (Align with other community plans) - Steve and Scott
- Accountability Strategy 4 (Carry out educational programs in support of the CAP) - Tim W., Commissioner Macys and Steve
- Strategy 5 (Public and Private Partner Engagement Goals) - Sarah, Sheila and Geoff

Board Direction to Working Groups

1. Review updated criteria
 - More qualitative than quantitative exercise at this point. Doesn't quantify down to ton of carbon/metrics. Harder to assess than models Lotus developed for the CAP. Can amend before we get to the final list. Some of the working groups will start ranking these.
 - Criteria received well by the Board
2. Review proposed recommendations timeline
 - Board agreed draft recommendations should go before the public for input at the end of May CAP public open house. Working Group members will be present to answer questions and receive feedback.
 - Concern that public not currently aware of monthly Working Group meetings. Working Group agendas and Meeting Summaries are posted on the CAP website. Need to increase public awareness of the CAP website and utilize social media platforms (Facebook and Instagram) to improve communication with the public.
 - After recommendations publicly released, it was suggested the Board schedules presentations with each of the municipalities.

Working Group Updates/Requests to the Board

1. Updates - Working Group Meeting Summaries are provided to the Board prior to Board meeting for review. A current list of Working Group recommendations can be found in each Meeting Summary for Board review.
2. Process for sending letters
 - a. Letters are offers of information which is different from a policy-oriented white paper.
 - b. Letters need a consensus of approval from the Board to move letters forward.

DRAFT MINUTES

- c. Counselor Garey moved to send City Council and City Council Managers Gary Suiter and Tom Leeson CAP Waste Working Group Construction and Demolition (C&D) letter. Tim W. approved. Mathew seconded. All in favor. No opposition.

Communication/Outreach

1. Communications updates
 - a. Board received communications report from CAP/YVSC Communications Associate Julia Hebard.
 - b. Commissioner Macys and Tim W. expressed concerns over current draft of CAP press release and agreed to work together to provide the necessary edits.
 - c. Counselor Garey proposed a 48-hour timeline for review of press releases by the Board.
 - d. Sonja to circulate a final draft of the press release to the board by next Wednesday.
 - e. Concern that website sign ups are a little hard to find. Currently located in the footer of each CAP webpage and on the 'Get Involved' page.
 - f. Request for Julia to join CAP Board Communications conversation at next Board meeting if available.

Next Meeting

- Friday, March 24, 2023 - 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Routt County Commissioners' Hearing Room

Adjournment

Counselor Garey moved to adjourn at 12:05pm. Matt approved. Sarah seconded.

MINUTES PREPARED, REVIEWED AND RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY: Ashley Dean Approved __ Day of _____.



CAP WORKING GROUP DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

3/21/23

Energy Working Group

- 1) Approve the IEC 2021 building code and adopt planning/zoning regulations with language that minimizes outdoor energy use unless it is provided by a no carbon energy source by January 2024
- 2) Implement an aggressive energy and carbon reduction program targeting existing buildings that fail an established energy use profile based on annual Btu's consumed per square foot by year end 2024
- 3) Adopt policies requiring that all new municipal building construction and capital equipment replacements be carbon free using best practice, life cycle cost decision making, including a social cost of carbon and third party/professional peer reviews before the beginning of their 2024 budget cycle (July)
- 4) By 2024, establish a county-wide dedicated team/division focused on increasing local renewable energy, energy efficiency and carbon emission reduction activities needed to meet the 2050 CAP goals
- 5) Develop partnerships with YVEA to create a Routt County "Energy Smart" Investment Fund of \$600,000/year by 2025 focused on increasing energy efficiency and beneficial electrification in support of the CAP
- 6) Engage with Atmos Energy to position Routt County as a targeted market area and implementation partner in their Clean Heat Plan scheduled for implementation in 2023
- 7) Establish annual trainings and recruiting efforts for skilled contractors focused on energy efficiency, renewable energy and electrification practices and technologies that support the CAP carbon reduction goals
- 8) Develop and fund a renewable energy plan by year end 2025 that will replace 5% of electricity and 5% of natural gas with local renewable energy
- 9) By year end 2025, create a Routt County-wide Beneficial Electrification and Energy Efficiency plan, that is integrated into the CAP, sufficient to meet the 2050 CAP energy

efficiency and increased electrification goals for existing residential and commercial buildings and industrial processes

Land Use Working Group

- 1) Develop on-the-ground projects to capture current increased funding for climate-smart agriculture projects through NRCS
- 2) Restore high elevation wetlands through Low-Tech Process Based Restoration techniques
- 3) Increase capacity to accelerate rate of tree planting on wildfire burn areas and other forested areas with need and potential for reforestation
- 4) Increase tree planting in urban and other residential housing areas with focus on opportunities to reduce turfgrass in parks and increase shade to buildings
- 5) Plant canopy trees on sufficient acres to meet water quality standards for temperature in the Yampa
- 6) Increase the area of wildfire risk mitigation projects (including prescribed burns) that help reduce the risk of large, intense fires that pose risks to existing forests in the County
- 7) Adopt land use regulations that establish or update appropriate wetland, stream and shoreline buffer widths and adjacent land uses and that avoid conversion of wetlands in new construction
- 8) Develop smart siting/mitigation rules/guidelines for large-scale solar development to avoid clearing of native habitat or loss of productive agricultural lands
- 9) Develop criteria for PDR awards that incentivize restoration and protection of carbon rich resources and increase outreach to landowners with climate significant properties
- 10) Develop land clearing regulations and incentives for protecting natural habitat for new developments in the County
- 11) Include strong water conservation requirements in revised City of Steamboat Springs landscaping standards and consider for County land use regulations
- 12) Encourage cluster development and use of Land Preservation Subdivision (LPS) exemptions to discourage and reduce the desirability of 35-acre lot subdivisions and to protect natural habitat

Waste Working Group

- 1) Implement a phased ban on single use plastics (water bottles, straws, lids and utensils) in municipalities and County
- 2) Establish single hauler contracts in municipalities, County and/or HOAs.

- 3) Pass ordinance to require residential volume based pricing in municipalities and County
- 4) Pass ordinances that require takeout materials be either reusable (durable), recyclable or compostable in municipalities and County
- 5) Revise codes/design standards to include hydration stations in high traffic areas
- 6) Establish a Community Recycling Center to collect traditional recyclables, hard to recycle materials, household hazardous waste, C&D materials (bricks, dimensional lumber, windows, fixtures, doors, etc.), and organics (food and yard waste). Include satellite drop sites for recyclables
- 7) Establish or ensure access to a publically available materials recovery facility (MRF) or transfer station equipped to handle all regional single-stream recycling
- 8) Create and support compost programs that are accessible to all municipalities and County residents
- 9) Create and support yard waste drop-off programs that are accessible to all municipalities and county residents
- 10) Require that all permitted events be zero waste
- 11) Pass ordinances to require commercial and multi-family unit recycling
- 12) Revise code to increase C&D diversion at construction sites

Transportation Working Group

- 1) Adopt, fund and implement an individual or joint EV Readiness plan by 1-1-25
- 2) Adopt and implement a community or county-wide vehicle miles traveled (VMT) reduction plan with specific goals and benchmarks by year end 2024
- 3) City of Steamboat Springs to identify and bring to voters options to implement dedicated funding source(s) for Steamboat Springs transit adequate to increase route availability, timing and service area that increase 2023 transit availability by 25%
- 4) By 1-1-25, develop, fund and implement a community or joint bike-commuter readiness plan
- 5) Implement a voluntary carbon offset plan for the Yampa Valley Regional Airport (YVRA) by year end 2024
- 6) Adopt EV readiness requirements in the pending Routt County building code update (1-24 adoption)

- 7) Complete the CDOT funded Regional Transportation Authority study and bring to the voters, an RTA for the Yampa Valley including Steamboat Springs, Routt County and the City of Craig by year end 2024

Economy Working Group

- 1) Develop green purchasing programs/policies at government, commercial, and residential levels
- 2) Expand a buy local campaign and educate the public/businesses about why/how to buy local
- 3) Fund and develop a feasibility study that examines a regional circular economy
- 4) Expand Yampa Valley Green Business Program

Group still needs to work through the following recommendations:

- 5) Support the greening of Hayden Industrial Park (provide energy and economic consultations to support..., economic diversification, job creation)
- 6) Support local hay production for ranchers, increase agricultural stewardship training opportunities to promote benefits of land stewardship for the community (grazing, leasing, water rights)
- 7) Create a sustainability toolkit for businesses (best practices, resources, funding opportunities, include a carbon offset option) that includes a database/resource site for funding that supports green practices.
- 8) Encourage businesses to use less packaging or recyclable packaging
- 9) Reward sustainable practices by highlighting businesses via a newsletter, success story in the paper that encourages other businesses to participate

Land Use and Water Working Group Recommendation

#1

Develop program to capture current increased funding for climate-smart agriculture projects through NRCS programs

CAP STRATEGY and ACTION: LUS1 Promote land management practices that increase carbon sequestration A2: Work to implement specific natural climate solutions for croplands and rangelands within the County.

DESCRIPTION: The [Inflation Reduction Act](#) (IRA) provided an additional \$19.5 billion over five years for climate smart agriculture through several of the conservation programs that USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) implements \$850 million is being allocated in 2023 with significantly larger amounts in future years. The Land Use Working Group reviewed a list of approved Climate-Smart practices under the Farm Bill programs. The primary barrier to increasing the pace of implementation is capacity to work with landowners to educate about the opportunities for funding and to help with preparing technically sound proposals to NRCS. This recommendation seeks to increase capacity for this type of outreach for the next one to two years to build a pipeline of potential projects with climate benefits in line with the CAP Actions.

ASSESSMENT

GHG Reduction Potential: L

- Note/Assumptions: Unclear that there are a lot of opportunities for climate smart projects as currently defined by NRCS in our dominant agricultural systems. And overlaps with benefits from riparian tree planting contained in a separate recommendation.

Co-benefits: M

- Notes/Assumptions: Generally, these projects will have benefits for water quality and possibly wildlife habitat

Implementation Costs: M

- Note/Assumptions: If successful at recruiting participants, will have steady funding stream from NRCS. Likely will need new local funding for developing projects

Political Barriers: L

- Note/Assumptions: Only applies to willing landowners and projects are beneficial to others

Ease of Implementation: L

- Note/Assumptions: Will require new capacity or approach to identify willing landowners. There might be limits on implementation capacity

LEAD IMPLEMENTER(S): NRCS, CSU Extension, Outreach partner TBD

PARTNERS: RCCD, YVSC, Trout Unlimited

IMPLEMENTATION NEEDS & NEXT STEPS

1. With NRCS, identify eligible practices that are likely to be adopted in Routt County
2. Identify funding for contracting with an organization/individual to conduct outreach and assist with planning projects
3. NRCS to approve projects and execute contracts with landowners
4. Technical support to implement projects
5. Support NRCS monitoring efforts to document climate benefits

TIMEFRAME TO BEGIN IMPLEMENTATION: Immediately (0) to one year (1)

COST ESTIMATE: \$100,000 for outreach and technical support. Project funding from NRCS funds

POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES: County support; State of Colorado DoA, USDA, private grants

Technical Memorandum – Routt CAP Energy Sector Working Group (ESWG)

Date: 2/6/2023

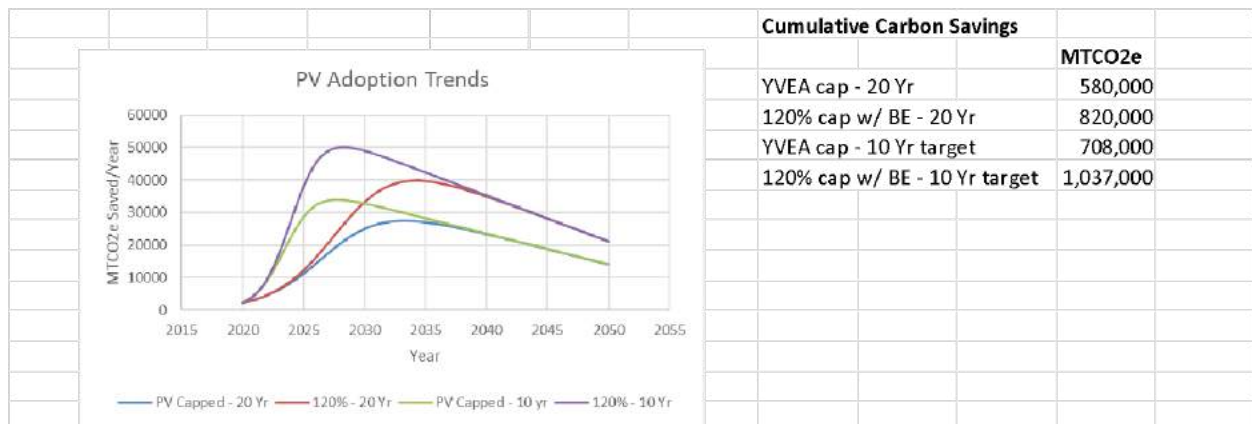
Submitted by: N. Weaver, ESWG member, Steamboat Springs, CO (Version 2.1)

Regarding: PV trends under revised YVEA Net Metering Policy

The CAP Board has requested the ESWG to comment on the impact of YVEA’s recent policy changes regarding on-site solar and net metering. The key new features of this policy are caps on grid-connected system size and departure from previous sizing limit based on 120% of annual consumption. The new policy limits solar system sizes for residential grid-connected solar to 10kW and small commercial solar to 25 kW.

Based on some broad assumptions about energy use characteristics of typical residential and commercial YVEA customers (with a customer mix 80% Residential, 19% Small Commercial, 1% Large Commercial, Industrial not considered), this memo presents an analysis projecting solar photovoltaic (“PV”) adoption under the old and new policy. For this analysis a “20% of customers” (in each customer class) is the hypothetical target. The carbon impact for four scenarios is shown – (1) “Reach PV adoption target in 10 years” with average electric usage, (2) “Reach target in 20 years” with average usage, (3) “Reach target in 10 years” with added residential “beneficial electrification” (for example, added electric vehicle charging and possible conversion to high performance heat pump heating) and “120% sizing” and (4) “Reach target in 20 years” with residential beneficial electrification and “120% sizing”.

The new YVEA policy does not significantly curtail adoption for average residential users and small commercial customers with current usage patterns. A “20% customers” target could result in approximately 70 MW of new PV added in the service territory (either on a 10-year or 20-year timeline). Local PV supporting beneficial electrification could add roughly 40 MW more PV capacity if sized to the 120% rule but these additions are not as likely with the new YVEA policy. Larger commercial and public PV projects (>25kW) would require special arrangements with YVEA. One thing to note is that the carbon impact of encouraging local PV (and energy efficiency, for that matter) is greater the earlier it is adopted as the clean energy carbon savings benefit declines as operation of the overall the electric utility grid gets progressively cleaner.





Energy Sector Working Group
Meeting #7 - March 1, 2023
YVEA Conference Room, 2211 Elk Road

MEETING SUMMARY

1. Welcome and roll call
 - a. Present
 - i. Dan LeBlanc (Chair)
 - ii. Todd Carr (Co-Chair)
 - iii. Brian Adams
 - iv. Marc Lyman
 - v. Jeff Milius
 - vi. Scott Conner
 - vii. Steve Johnson
 - viii. Norm Weaver
 - ix. Bob Major
 - x. Paul Bony (YVSC technical assistant)
 - b. Not Present
 - i. Paul Komor
 - ii. Hedda Flage Kukla
 - iii. Ken Fogle
 - iv. Clay Shrader
 - c. Member updates
 - i. Todd Carr has scheduled two Public Forums to discuss the new proposed Energy Codes and Outdoor Energy Recommendations.
 1. March 2, 8am-2pm (Routt County Courthouse - BCC Room)
 2. March 23, 8am-2pm (Routt County Courthouse - BCC Room)
 - ii. City and Municipal energy letters and net-metering technical memorandum
 1. Group approved Energy letters and technical memorandum
2. Update from the Board meetings
 - a. Proposed recommendations timeline
 - i. March - Identify gaps/recommendations
 - ii. April - Assess/rank recommendations (more of a scoring protocol)
 - iii. All CAP Working Group session - April 27 (3-5pm)
 - iv. May - Format recommendations
 - v. Public Open House - end of May
 - vi. June - Finalize formatted recommendations
 - vii. July - Public releases of recommendations - move to quarterly meetings

3. Continue to revise/refine 'big wins'/recommendations to turn in quantifiable (if appropriate), specific actions. Think about things in the CAP not addressed in our list (orphaned actions/tactics)
 - a. Focus on actionable wording - who/when/funding needed
 - b. Criteria - add utility costs into implementation costs (all electric isn't totally clean and capacity isn't there right now)
 - c. **Recommendation 1** - All of the participating Routt County CAP governments are encouraged to approve the IEC 2021 building code and adopt planning/zoning regulations with language that minimizes outdoor energy use unless it is provided by a no carbon energy source by January 2024
 - d. **Recommendation 2** - All of the participating Routt County CAP governments are encouraged to implement an aggressive energy and carbon reduction program targeting existing buildings that fail an established energy use profile based on annual Btu's consumed per square foot by year end 2024.
 - e. **Recommendation 3** - The Routt County CAP governments are encouraged to adopt policies requiring that all new municipal building construction and capital equipment replacements be carbon free using best practice, life cycle cost decision making, including a social cost of carbon and third party/professional peer reviews before the beginning of their 2024 budget cycle (July).
 - f. **Recommendation 4** - By 2024, all of the participating Routt County CAP governments are encouraged to establish a county-wide funding mechanism/source to support a dedicated team/division focused on increasing local renewable energy, energy efficiency and carbon emission reduction activities needed to meet the 2050 CAP goals.
 - i. This funding strategy could carry the CAP after the WGs dissolve
 - ii. How much budget should this add up to? What's the order of magnitude? More money in renewable energy and energy efficiency right now than ever before. Large start up grants available right now
 - iii. IRA funding is the best way to achieve all these programs - someone in sustainability division to walk people through IRA grant opportunities
 - g. **Recommendation 5** - All of the Routt County CAP governments are encouraged to develop partnerships with YVEA to create a Routt County "Energy Smart" Investment Fund of \$600,000/year by 2025 focused on increasing energy efficiency and beneficial electrification in support of the CAP.
4. Meeting summary for extra virtual work session (March 15) to finish recommendation working
 - a. **Recommendation 6** - Engage with Atmos Energy to position Routt County as a targeted market area and implementation partner in their Clean Heat Plan scheduled for implementation in 2023.
 - b. **Recommendation 7** - All of the participating Routt County CAP governments are encouraged to establish a county-wide funding mechanism/source to support annual trainings and recruiting efforts for skilled contractors focused on energy efficiency, renewable energy and electrification practices and technologies that support the CAP carbon reduction goals.
 - c. **Recommendation 8** - All of the participating Routt County CAP governments are encouraged to develop and fund a renewable energy plan by year end 2025 that will replace 5% of electricity and 5% of natural gas with local renewable energy.
 - d. **Recommendation 9** - By year end 2025, all of the participating Routt County CAP governments are encouraged to adopt, fund and implement a strategic action plan that will meet the 2050 CAP energy efficiency and increased electrification goals for existing residential and commercial buildings and industrial processes.

- i. We are at about 3% right now on our local grid - only 2% more seems easy to achieve. The gas one is more difficult to solve.
- 5. Next meeting - Wednesday, April 5 - 1:30-3:00pm
 - a. Begin to think about criteria for prioritizing recommendations



Transportation Sector Working Group
Meeting #7 - March 8, 2023
9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

MEETING SUMMARY

1. Welcome and roll call
 - a. Present
 - i. Sarah (Co-Chair)
 - ii. John Spezia
 - iii. Jonathan Flint
 - iv. Mike Beyer
 - v. Mike Mordi
 - vi. Tom Erps
 - vii. Barb Dowski (filling in for Matt Rochon/Routt County Riders)
 - viii. Winnie DelliQuadri
 - ix. Kevin Booth
 - x. Paul Bony (YVSC technical assistant)
2. Update from the Board meetings
 - a. Proposed recommendations timeline
 - i. March - Identify gaps/recommendations
 - ii. April - Assess/rank recommendations
 - iii. All CAP Working Group session - April 27 (3-5pm)
 - iv. May - Format recommendations
 - v. Public Open House - end of May
 - vi. June - Finalize formatted recommendations
 - vii. July - Public release of recommendations - move to quarterly meetings
 - viii. Reason for the timeline is to incorporate recommendations into 2024 budgeting process which happens in July.
3. Continue to revise/refine 'big wins'/recommendations to turn into quantifiable (if appropriate), specific actions. Think about things in the CAP not addressed in our list (orphaned actions/tactics)
 - a. Timeframe for recommendations is about 5 years, but not limited to this timeframe for critical bigger wins. Potential for those to be reviewed in the next 5-year review.
 - b. How to make recommendations more actionable - Who? When? How (tactics)?
 - c. Need a place in the criteria for foundational items which should be the highest priority. These can be flagged foundational.
 - d. There's been a lot of planning that has already gone into Transportation - some of these big wins are attached to current plans, but not county-wide.

- e. **Recommendation 1** - Encourage All CAP collaborative member communities to adopt, fund and implement an individual or joint EV Readiness plan by 1-1-25
 - f. **Recommendation 2** - Encourage All CAP collaborative member communities to adopt and implement a community or county-wide vehicle miles traveled (VMT) reduction plan with specific goals and benchmarks by year end 2024
 - i. Can't do recommendation 1 and 2 simultaneously
 - g. **Recommendation 3** - Encourage the City of Steamboat Springs to identify and bring to voters options to implement dedicated funding source(s) for Steamboat Springs transit adequate to increase route availability, timing and service area that increase 2023 transit availability by 25%
 - i. Issue is not ridership, but increased services
 - ii. If you increase availability by a % that will increase ridership by that much % or greater. This is transit in the City. Is 25% the right number? Depends on funding. Commensurate with additional funding. Unless you vote on it, it's not dedicated. What's a reasonable goal? What does it do if we extend services out to Brown Ranch? Goal % at this point is premature.
 - iii. This targets residents more than guests. Servicing guests with lodging shuttles.
 - h. **Recommendation 4** - By 1-1-25 all of the CAP collaborative member communities are encouraged to develop, fund, and implement a community or joint bike-commuter readiness plan.
 - i. YVEA grid capacity/charging station equity - removing as a big win since YVEA is already doing work on this
 - i. Reasonable to ask YVEA to look at the EV infrastructure and regional capacity issues. Move as a key task under recommendation 1.
 - j. Privatization of public EV charging - removing from big win list
 - i. Nobody's making money on privately owned chargers
 - ii. Not presently seeing EV charging challenges with current supply. Public ones are being brought on every year
 - k. Fund and implement 2021 Steamboat Springs Transportation and Mobility study - place as a tactic under Recommendation 2 and focus on emissions reductions recommendations
 - l. **Recommendation 5** - Request that Routt County implement a voluntary carbon offset plan for the Yampa Valley Regional Airport (YVRA) by year end 2024
 - i. Educates travelers. People forget about carbon footprint.
 - ii. Future emissions inventories may include airline travel, so good to include now.
4. Meeting summary for extra work session (March 22) to finish recommendation working
- a. **Recommendation 6** - Adopt EV readiness requirements in the pending Routt County building code update (1-24 adoption)
 - b. **Recommendation 7** - Complete the CDOT funded Regional Transportation Authority study and bring to the voters, an RTA for the Yampa Valley including Steamboat Springs, Routt County and the City of Craig by year end 2024
 - c. Homework for next meeting - Rate current recommendations and begin adding actions and tactics to each recommendation
5. Next meeting - Wednesday, April 12 - 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.



Waste Sector Working Group
Meeting #7 - March 14, 2023
9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

MEETING SUMMARY

1. Welcome and roll call
 - a. Present
 - i. Meredith Rose (Chair)
 - ii. Scott Cowman (Co-Chair)
 - iii. Gail Garey
 - iv. Mark Berkley
 - v. Brian Ashley
 - vi. Autum Sloop
 - vii. Heather O'Donnell
 - viii. Tori Cook
 - ix. Winn Cowman (YVSC technical assistant)
 - b. Not present:
 - i. Jim Cook
 - ii. Grant McCannon
 - iii. Alicia Archibald
2. Update from the Board meeting
 - a. Proposed recommendations timeline
 - i. March - Identify gaps/recommendations
 - ii. April - Assess/rank recommendations
 - iii. All CAP Working Group session - April 27 (3-5pm)
 - iv. May - Format recommendations
 - v. Public Open House - end of May
 - vi. June - Finalize formatted recommendations
 - vii. July - Public release of recommendations - move to quarterly meetings
3. Review recommendations spreadsheet and proposed criteria for prioritizing recommendations
 - a. **Recommendation 1** - Transition to a ban on single use plastics (water bottles, straws, lids and utensils) in municipalities and County.
 - i. May tie into Green Business Program
 - ii. Think about incentives
 - iii. Review Telluride ordinance
 - b. **Recommendation 2** - Encourage municipalities, County and HOAs to create single hauler contracts for areas in order to: 1) Negotiate competitive rates, 2) Reduce track truck vehicle miles traveled (VMT), 3) Reduce wear and tear on local roads, 4) Reduce traffic on roads and in neighborhoods

- i. Would allow municipalities to manage rates, recyclable materials list and impose fines for contamination
 - ii. Look at Summit County
 - iii. Cost concerns for local haulers - need to weigh concerns against the benefits
- c. **Recommendation 3** - Pass ordinance to require residential volume based pricing in municipalities and County.
 - i. Use residential volume based pricing instead of Pay As You Throw
 - ii. Starting with the City could be a good approach to expanding - vast majority of material generated is within the City
- d. **Recommendation 4** - Pass ordinances that require takeout materials be either reusable (durable), recyclable or compostable in municipalities and County
 - i. Consider PFAS and contamination - Front range no longer accepting these
- e. **Recommendation 5** - Revise codes/design standards to include hydration stations
 - i. Water fountain = hydration station (put water underneath to fill)
 - ii. Criteria based on number of people in the building
 - iii. Start with lodging, high traffic commercial, public (define locations)
 - iv. Would encompass new commercial, buildings
 - v. Bottle fillers in most of our parks, but those get turned off during the winter
 - vi. Encourage and require private industry to do the same
- f. **Recommendation 6** - Establish a Community Recycling Center to collect traditional recyclables, hard to recycle materials, household hazardous waste, C&D materials (bricks, dimensional lumber, windows, fixtures, doors, etc.), and organics (food and yard waste). Include satellite drop sites for recyclables
 - i. Enable other parts of the county to participate
 - ii. Need to be monitored
 - iii. One large community recycling center and smaller, manned satellite drop off sites for smaller items (traditional recycling, organics)
- g. **Recommendation 7** - Consider development of a publically available regional materials recovery facility (MRF) or transfer station to handle single-stream recycling.
 - i. Maybe take out MRF and just keep it as a transfer station, it is free to take it to Eagle (would include transportation, but shorter than taking it to Denver), would reduce VMT. Eagle is asking for more material, makes their operation more cost effective.
 - ii. Work to make we already have more publicly available or shift to handling waste at landfill to more of a public structure
- h. **Recommendation 8** - Create and support compost programs that are accessible to all municipalities and County residents.
 - i. Better to deal with food waste close to source
 - ii. Twin Enviro is working with an Ag program in Sorocco high school (more community based)
 - iii. Oak Creek has expressed interest in this
- i. **Recommendation 9** - Create and support yard waste drop-off programs that are accessible to all municipalities and county residents.
 - i. Twin Enviro may have a program for this this spring
- j. **Recommendation 10** - Require that all permitted events be zero waste in municipalities and the county.
 - i. Variance procedure could address hardship concerns

- ii. Focus on permitted events (for monetary gain - e.g., ticketed event), but just encourage for weddings/private parties - discount on permit if do it as zero waste
 - k. **Recommendation 11** - Pass ordinances to require commercial and multi-family unit recycling in municipalities and County.
 - i. We are going to learn how this goes in Steamboat and if it makes sense for other municipalities and County
 - l. **Recommendation 12** - Revise code to increase C&D diversion at construction sites.
 - i. Must ensure infrastructure available to support separation of materials
 - ii. No market for some of the materials and labor costs are prohibitively expensive - need to pay attention to what is being generated and planning and protocols for markets for these materials
 - iii. Recycle Colorado is building a roadmap/study on this. More movement on this issue now.
 - iv. We know we can divert steel, aggregate, find the low hanging fruit here - while we look for more outlets for these other materials.
 - v. This is a big, relevant topic as far as GHG are concerned. What we can do locally is challenging, but it is something we need to keep in mind as we plan to reduce emissions. What gets used in new buildings?
4. Next meeting - Tuesday, April 11 - 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.



Land and Water Sector Working Group
March 9, 2023
1:30 - 3:00 p.m.
Meeting Summary

1. Welcome and roll call
 - a. Present
 - i. Geoff Blakeslee (Chair)
 - ii. Carolina Manriquez (Co-chair)
 - iii. Ann Raiho
 - iv. Michael Woodbridge
 - v. Kristy Winser
 - vi. Michele Meyer
 - vii. Nathan Stewart
 - viii. Tim Wohlgenant
 - ix. Tim Sullivan (YVSC technical assistant)
 - b. Not present
 - i. Julie Baxter
 - ii. Todd Hagenbuch

2. Update from the Board meetings
 - a. Proposed recommendations timeline
 - i. March - Edit recommendation wording and assess against criteria
 - ii. April - Identify Implementation Actions and Tactics
 - iii. All CAP Working Group session - April 27 (3-5pm)
 - iv. May - Format recommendations
 - v. Public Open House - end of May
 - vi. June - Finalize formatted recommendations
 - vii. July - Public release of recommendations - move to quarterly meetings

Group is focused on defining near to mid-term actions for the CAP Board to consider. Consolidate what we are going to be working on.

By April will need to define key action steps for each proposed recommendation. With mostly final wording completed by May.

3. Continue to revise/refine proposed recommendations and review proposed criteria rankings See Recommendations Spreadsheet
 - a. Down to 13 recommendations - all have plausible connection to carbon reduction
 - i. Removed a couple that relate to a broader, cross-cutting recommendation (e.g voluntary offset funding programs), building code amendments fall

more to Energy Working Group, open space purchase program might not be the best way to address carbon reduction. We won't lose these ideas, but we aren't going to flesh them out at this point.

- b. Review of proposed lower tier recommendations and what might be missing
 - i. Clarify that alternatives to burning refers to open slash pile burns, and is not *per se* a recommendation against use of biomass at Hayden plant. If Hayden biomass proposal moves forward, the group would encourage a lifecycle carbon analysis to insure the plant is helping achieve CAP goals.
 - ii. Do we need to think more about forest management as a wildfire management/fuels reduction process with carbon benefits from avoided wildfire and climate resilience co-benefits? Carolina suggests yes given how much of Routt County is in forested condition. We will add a new proposed recommendation for the next meeting. Incentivizing local processing should be part of this consideration, and can have carbon sequestration benefits.
- c. Criteria - Low is relative within section. Feasibility relates to short-term (3-5 years).
- d. Review of current recommendations:

Tab 1 - Climate Smart Agriculture

Riparian trees projects probably the most shovel ready of NRCS identified practices. Issue for this recommendation may be having the staff to reach out to private landowners. Unclear if big win for greenhouse gas potential if cannot do many acres. Good co-benefits.

Momentum - Conservation District starting to push climate smart ag ideas, working pretty closely with NRCS, conservation district and extensions.

Communicate that there are specific programs that could have a significant impact on carbon and need some effort in Routt County to bolster these programs, particularly in bolstering NRCS. Key to mention partnerships in carrying this out.

Tab 2 - Small low-tech wetland restoration projects

Some of this work is already underway; how do we do more here? These are the most carbon rich habitats we can create on an acre by acre basis. Co-benefits - water quality and quantity. Seems popular with landowners that have been willing to do this in places like Moffat and Gunnison counties.

It would be helpful if we had some more data on GHG potential per acre and overall.

Tab 3 - Post-burn reforestation

Forest Service: Lots of these likely are going to be on Forest Service lands. Highest GHG reduction potential on this list, but at what scale. Hard to replant in wilderness areas and some other burns. Costs should maybe be high and not medium - depends on the forest service budget.

Hopefully the Forest Service gets more money for tree planting, other ways to do plantings, to get money into in (Penny Pines program, National Forest Foundation, Arbor Foundation) - at least a handful of ways for external money to purchase seedlings and get plantings done. Perhaps the County could appropriate a budget line to encourage plantings? Our

recommendation should talk more about external money, not just increase Forest Service budgets, but bring in other funding.

Identifying a key partner is paramount. Can YVSC grow to whole landscape planting rather than just riparian? In other areas, there are NGOs whose sole purpose is to plant trees. Funding, grants out there, low hanging fruit, but needs to be at the scale we need. Need to include something in actions steps about seed collection, tree growing, tree procurement.

Tab 4- Urban tree planting

Do we need to be talking about native trees? Exotic trees may suck up more water.

Can add under actions/tactics - identify appropriate species for these. City has thought about what is appropriate. Do the current programs need adjusting?

Should we be thinking beyond municipalities on this issue? HOAs to expand?

Change urban to include residential (but need a caveat to not increase wildfire risk/and use appropriate species)

County: Working on design criteria for Stage 2 growth areas (like Stagecoach) - good to cross tree planting over to residential as well as urban. Have begun process, outlining a technical working group - looking to stakeholders for comments to help inform the process from a technical perspective. Also community outreach element. Saying 'consider' if making a recommendation that looks beyond the County to take the lead.

'Consider' increasing the rate...

Tab 5 - Riparian tree planting

Included in Integrated Water Management Plan - has momentum Dovetails with first strategy, climate smart agriculture - City looking to implement a water credit training program that can include use of trees to address water temperature exceedances. Work is underway, so have feasibility behind it, but only funded for a couple years, though anticipate more funding being available for this work.

Strategy 2 - Tab 7 - Riparian setbacks in code

Codes are already being rewritten now.

City and County have existing regulations, County updated more recently to be restrictive. State as **'Evaluate and revise land use' rather than adopt**. Adopt makes it sound like there aren't any regulations in place right now. **Leave off new construction at the end to keep it more broad.**

Tab 8 - Solar Siting rules

Current commissioners are supportive of the CAP and large scale renewables, but still likely going to be a County responsibility to permit development. **Consider and develop, Evaluate and develop...**

Action step to develop what some guidelines would look like (follow up with Kristy).

County: County has a draft set of regulations at the staff level which has been handed over to consultants. County going to do a solar summit April 26 - rep from Colorado Solar and Storage Association (COSSA) to do some presentations, CPW, industry as well as County giving overview on update process.

Add a few more co-benefits beyond wildlife habitat. If regulations lead to increased costs, that could have an impact.

Tab 10 - Land clearing permits for new subdivisions

County: Evaluating whether the County should have land clearing permits, right now you can clear cut your property as part of the building process without any restrictions. Other counties have a permit process. We have much larger properties here.

County: Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) code - would need to develop some landscaping criteria which we don't have currently. Design criteria are pretty minimum at present because we don't have too much development out in the county, but that is increasing in certain areas. Need to prepare and create design criteria - evaluating landscaping codes, promoting street trees for new developments and smart planting for stuff that supports WUI. For larger parcels - if removing X amount, need a permit for that - similar philosophy should there be a permit process.

Tab 12 - County water conservation

Maybe more appropriate through zoning regulations than building codes. Incorporate with Tab 10 on landscaping process.

Tab 13 - Land preservation subdivisions

Are there other incentives we can be looking at for people to follow this process?

4. Next meeting and proposed agenda:
 - a. When2Meet poll to be sent for April meeting



Economy Sector Working Group
March 16, 2023
10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

MEETING SUMMARY

1. Welcome and roll call
 - a. Present
 - i. Jeff Trip (Co-Chair)
 - ii. John Bristol (Co-Chair)
 - iii. Gail Garey
 - iv. David Torgler
 - v. Sheila Symons
 - vi. David Torgler
 - vii. Michelle Stewart (YVSC technical assistant)
 - b. Not present
 - i. Christine Rambo
 - ii. Lisa Popavich
 - iii. Tegan Ebbert
 - iv. Rachel Tuyn
2. Update from the Board meeting
 - a. Proposed recommendations timeline
 - i. March - Identify gaps/recommendations
 - ii. April - Assess/rank recommendations
 - iii. All CAP Working Group session - April 27 (3-5pm)
 - iv. May - Format recommendations
 - v. Public Open House - end of May (WG members to meet with the public, answer questions, capture public input and feedback)
 - vi. June - Finalize formatted recommendations (implementable)
 - vii. July - Public release of recommendations - move to quarterly meetings
3. Critical review of current 'big wins'/recommendations and possible gaps
 - a. Economy sector strategies are not linked to carbon reduction the way the other sectors are. More weight in co-benefits (economic diversification, equity, workforce development)
 - b. **Recommendation 1** - Develop green purchasing programs/policies at government, commercial, and residential levels
 - i. Challenge - procurement distributed across different departments and can come at an extra cost
 - ii. Benefit - extra cost goes into the local economy

- iii. Gov't entity has to be of a certain size, hard for a small municipality to do this
 - iv. Need to work on the education component of this (keeping money in the economy), benefits of green procurement, clear discussion of co-benefits
 - v. Action - Pitch night for what we would like to have locally-sourced, what's available and what's out there
 - vi. Action - identify higher impact procurement changes
 - 1. Buildings and transit for the city (also significant for emissions)
 - vii. Action - Review procurement policies, identify relevant staff of appropriate municipalities size
 - viii. Would there be efficiencies of centralized procurement?
 - 1. Centralized, key entities - hospitals, gov't, schools, big industry (Ski Corp - has central procurement, lodging)
 - 2. Centralized purchasing for restaurants? PFAS now a big concern for compost (reusable may be the way to go)
 - 3. What about gas stations (to go cups, paper straws)?
 - ix. Concern - All green power costs more for Oak Creek
 - 1. Renewable Green Energy Program Fund
 - 2. Costs need to be put right up front, are we going to mitigate costs or just have people pay more
 - 3. Hydropower helps keep costs down
 - 4. What are the offset incentives out there?
 - x. Cost is an important question - WGs are looking to this group for creative funding mechanisms, climate aligned investments as they relate to energy are high, how do we create the bridges to make climate investments more possible?
 - xi. Economic opportunities and economic realities
 - xii. How do we support smaller entities that want to also do this, actions may be a blend of policy and other, are we looking for a menu of options or a policy shift?
- c. **Recommendation 2** - Expand a buy local campaign and educate the public/businesses about why/how to buy local
- i. Also came up in third strategy (regional self-reliance)
 - ii. Chamber has added a whole week for local food
 - iii. Expand and support growth of via vendor connections...
 - iv. Co-benefits are high here, but GHG impact low
 - v. How can local campaigns expand geographically, partner pretty closely with CAA. Local producers membership (\$75) - would like more regional businesses in there, can expand in social campaigns, adding on to email database
 - 1. Leverage CAA county wide, forge those connections, getting information to buyers and producers to get involved, centralizing marketing costs
 - 2. Expand messaging on to visitors as well
 - 3. Feature CAA under Economy enewsletter (create space within CAP website), social media sites
 - vi. Action - Educate on how to buy local, centralizing marketing costs which are out of reach to small producers
- d. **Recommendation 3** - Fund and develop a feasibility study that examines a regional circular economy
- i. Follow up with Christine Rambo (NWCDC) potential to leverage partners there - leverage end waste products (e.g., tires ground up for road base),

extends outside the County - scaling behooves the outcomes (would engage both Routt and Moffat)

- e. **Recommendation 4** - Develop end markets for current compost operations -- use for ag and landscaping
 - i. Actions - identify opportunities, how big landscaping operations, how much compost being applied to landscape?
 - ii. Would you need a large scale composting facility? Establish a compost facility at Milner Landfill but only open seasonally during the spring/summer
 - iii. Composting is a valuable climate solution
 - f. **Recommendation 5** - Support transition/expansion of Materials Recycling Facility
 - i. What's the potential revenue, benefit to the economy would be our take on this versus Waste recommendation
 - ii. Arguments that small source separated centers are the best for small rural communities. Hayden just has one hauler. Source separated distributed sites across the county.
 - 1. Yampa has SRC (all goes together and one person separates it all)
 - 2. Oak Creek recycles through Twin Enviro, Hayden through Waste Management
 - iii. Action - Collaborate with Waste Working group to identify best scenarios for recycling infrastructure and how that would support workforce development
 - g. **Recommendation 6** - Support local hay production for ranchers, increase agricultural stewardship training opportunities to promote benefits of land stewardship for the community (grazing, leasing, water rights)
 - i. Is this a big win recommendation?
 - ii. Action - Increase education - Extension 'Guide to rural living'
 - h. Working group still needs to work through 11 more recommendations
4. Next meeting - Thursday, April 20 - 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Communications Board Report - 3.24.23

Communications Updates

Social Media

- Facebook and Instagram accounts set up
 - 11 FB Followers | 29 Instagram Followers
 - FB reach 3.3K + | Instagram reach 67
 - Posts are creating conversations in community groups
- Strategy Adjustment -
 - Facebook - We will be focusing more on sharing "Climate In Action" blog posts and longer forum content for sharing in addition to short posts
- **Board & Working Group Request:** If you are active on social media, please like/follow us on Facebook & Instagram and invite your friends to like our Facebook page.
 - [Instructional video](#) - how to invite your friends to like Routt County Climate Action

Monthly Email Newsletter

- [Draft of the inaugural newsletter](#)
- Stand Creative is in process of creating the template

Media Updates

- Press Release - didn't get much traction with local media partners. Will be sharing the blog post in Facebook community groups on 3/27.
- Media Partner Updates
 - Steamboat Pilot
 - Suzie Romig reached out looking for updates on recommendations for the working groups, which aren't yet available to the public.



- Will be doing a climate series this fall and is excited to have us submit/co-author a CAP specific piece for the series.
 - Steamboat Magazine
 - Expressed interest in CAP press release and regarding ways we can partner to spread the word. I am waiting to hear back from Deb Olsen.
 - Steamboat Radio
 - Shannon Lukens is open to hosting an ongoing CAP segment. She records out of her home.
 - Julia & Ashley are working on ideas and timelines for this
 - **Board Requests:** We would like to develop an interview schedule for board members and working group members. I will be working with Shannon to create the schedule and am hoping to have board members and working group members make themselves available for a conversation with Shannon.

Intergovernmental Meeting Update

- Held a listening session with the county, city, and municipalities to discuss best ways to gather and share CAP related information.
 - [link to meeting notes](#)

Other Updates

- Website/blog - renamed "press" to "Routt County Climate in Action"

Two Month Communications Plan

- Social media: develop CAP specific hashtags to use in communications & continue to grow our number of followers.
- Leverage our existing relationships with county, city, municipalities and other environmental organizations (by asking them to include in their communications) to continue to grow our newsletter database.
- Communications by month:
 - April - Communications will focus on Interviews with board chair & working group chairs (will post online and share via social media)
 - May - Communications will focus on Interviews with intergovernmental partners and spreading the word about the upcoming open house with the community.

