



**Regular Monthly Meeting
Minutes
June 2, 2010**

I. Call to Order / YVSC Mission

The mission of YVSC is to provide leadership to advance environmental, economic, and social sustainability for current and future generations through education, programs and collaboration among individuals, organizations, businesses and government.

YVSC's goals include the following:

1. **Raise awareness** of sustainability issues in the Yampa Valley.
2. Support and/or **develop projects** and tools that enhance sustainability in our community.
3. Encourage **collaboration** among other entities of like purpose, ensuring that everyone is moving in the same general direction and maximizing efficiency of resources.

II. Introductions

Present: George Danellis, Steve Hoots, Jeff Graber, Angela Ashby, Sasha Nelson, Ted Allen, Dave Fowler, Tim Winter, Greg Gunn, Kyleigh DeMicco, Kate Nowak, Liz Wahl, Paul Potyten, Andy Kennedy, Mike Zopf, Erica Olson, Laura Frolich, Meg Bentley, Jody Patten, Candace Noriega and Anne Mudgett

III. Approval of Minutes from May 5, 2010 Monthly Meeting.

Kyleigh DeMicco made a motion to approve the minutes from May 5, 2010. Liz Wahl seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.

IV. Open Forum

A. Sasha Nelson-Colorado Environmental Coalition update

The **Greater Sage Grouse** was listed as candidate for the endangered species act. There is a short window of opportunity to turn things around for this species and avoid listing. CEC hosted an outing to watch the grouses' mating ritual this spring. Received national ABC news coverage, and benefitted local businesses. This event was a great example of how Eco-Tourism and conservation can benefit the local bottom line. CEC is working with partners to make this an annual event.

The **Cottonwood Restoration Project** on the Green River in Brown's Park is unique in that it is propagating native species in situ. This spring, CEC transplanted 22 trees in just a few hours with SmartWool's help. CEC will be doing another planting this fall and will need volunteers.

Yampatika and CEC partnering on a couple of **events this summer**: An outing to view wild horses and an overnight to Canyon Pintado during Summer Solstice.

BLM on-shore drilling policy

New federal policy is now recognizing that leasing of oil and gas resources may not be in the best interest of other resources. There is now no presumed preference for oil and gas development over other uses. The previous administration prioritized oil and gas above all other uses, which led to public lands being privately leased. This new federal policy will lead to land-use planning reform, including master leasing plans. There will be an ongoing discussion in the conservation community

about where leasing is appropriate. CEC will need the Routt County conservation community's help in support of the master planning process and will need citizen involvement in alerts, petitions, quotes, etc.

Regarding oversight of drilling companies and the relation to the Gulf oil spill: There have been two recent instances of over ground pipelines leaking into drainages/watersheds. The past leakages were found by conservation groups not by drilling companies or regulatory agencies. We could lose whole drainages if we are not vigilant.

B. Marion Ayer-Young Professionals Network

Update to come at July meeting.

C. E-Recycling Event, June 12th 9-3pm Meadows Parking Lot www.mountainrecyclers.com

This is a yearly event. Important to note that there are fees involved to cover the costs to responsibly recycle electronics.

D. In Transition

Paul Potyen thanked YVSC, particularly Andy Kennedy, for supporting In Transition with marketing and communications. On May 20, the movie was shown at the library, followed by a discussion lunch the next day. Paul gave a slide presentation June 1. All events have been well-received. Paul is putting together an initiating group. The initiating group will create working groups, which will come up with transition plans for various areas. Paul and Andy are creating a working list of organizations, businesses, etc. that fit into transition movement, so that efforts aren't duplicated.

E. Chamber Update

Bike to Work Month

Join the commuter challenge as an individual or team of 4. Go to www.steamboat-chamber.com/sustainable to sign up.

Sustainable Business Lunch

June 24 at 11:30 a.m. at Ore House. Cost is \$5 if you are a Sustainable Business member, \$15 for non-members. More info at www.steamboat-chamber.com/sustainable

V. Old Business

A. YVSC Sub-Committee Reports (as warranted)

1. **Zero Waste** – The committee meeting has been moved back to Sunday, June 6 at 3:00 p.m. at the library. The committee will have second meeting this month because there is so much to do.

Dave Epstein and Liz Wahl are presenting at the CAFR conference about Zero Waste and are also doing a tour of base area and tour of Twin Enviro's landfill/compost operation in Milner. The CAFR Gala is a Zero Waste event at the Steamboat Community Center.

In 2010, at least 12 large-scale community events, including the entire line-up of the Steamboat Springs Free Summer Concert Series, will move toward Zero Waste. Bike to Work breakfast on June 23 at the Historic Courthouse will be a Zero Waste event, as is the ReTree after-planting party on June 26.

The committee is creating and streamlining policies and procedures, so that local event organizers can more easily make events Zero Waste.

- Created a Zero Waste “stamp” for local event organizers to use to spread the word about their efforts to make their events Zero Waste.
- Created a vendor guidelines sheet, which will be used for large-scale Zero Waste events. The Concert Series committee is sending it to all vendors. SSRC is using the same vendor guidelines for events at the ski area.
- Purchased tents with highly-visible signage and solar-powered lighting for Zero Waste stations to be used at events.

2. Talking Green

The next Talking Green event is June 22 about CSAs. Farmers from around town and the Front Range will be on-hand. A list of local direct-to-consumer vendors (eggs, meat, etc.) will also be presented at the event.

The next Talking Green committee meeting is June 8 at 5:30 p.m. at the library.

3. Youth Education

School is out this week, but the club has had 20-25 attendees per meeting. The committee hopes to work with the middle school and elementary schools next year and would like to utilize social media to engage students, including an Eco-Club Facebook page.

The committee would like to have a presentation about In Transition for students in the fall.

- Andy Kennedy asked if Litter Solutions could also do a presentation in the fall.
- Sasha Nelson suggested that the Cottonwood Restoration trip with CEC would be a great activity for students.

4. Green Building/Green Tours-Green Building Tour/ASES Solar Home Tour Oct 2, 2010

The Green Building group has had two committee meetings and come up with a Vision statement:

To advance the local green building movement with educational opportunities and collaborative outreach; by highlighting rebates, showcasing sustainable projects, and offering an educational series, we will make an impact on waste management, increase energy efficiency and help improve the indoor health of our built environment.

The committee has also created a list of initiatives:

1. 10/2/10 Green Building tour with ASES, which will help in marketing and recognition throughout the country.
2. Develop contractors guide to recycling
3. Green Building education

4. Energy Star Education
5. Guide to incentives and rebates
6. Green drinks happy hour
7. Policy changes in city/county

- Sasha Nelson mentioned that CEC did a Green Building Tour as part of Energy Summit in Craig featuring two Silver LEED-certified projects in Craig.

5. Eco-Guide

The guide is a work in progress. It can be found at

www.steamboatchamber.com/ecoguide. We are still in need of photos, such as Zero Waste events or other sustainability-related activities. Email photos to meagan@steamboatchamber.com

6. UC Denver Study/Workshops/Action Plan

Tim Winter reported on this joint venture of the City and County. The study/GHG inventory will be ready for presentation in the next week or two. Once we present the results, we need to figure out what we are going to do with information. Not surprisingly, the biggest user of energy in our region is buildings and facilities. So, energy efficiency needs to be a key part of the action plan moving forward. Next steps:

1. Presentation of results (YVSC will help set this up.)
2. Follow-up meeting with key stakeholders (SSRC, hospital, City, County, other large building operators)
3. Action plan moving forward
 - Liz Wahl made the suggestion to involve people who are not actively involved in sustainability.
 - Meg Bentley suggested a July 16 breakfast meeting at Citizen's Hall to present the results.
 - Mike Zopf asked if there will be an executive summary which could be circulated to pique interest.
 - Andy Kennedy suggested that Jennie Lay at the library would be interested in getting involved.

7. Fall Fundraiser-October 1, 2010

The rough idea at this point is a casual event with a collaborative/networking element prior to a speaker, hors d'oeuvres and silent auction.

- Meg Bentley suggested thinking about Oct. 2, rather than Oct. 1.
- Kate Nowak offered that GEO would like to be involved and help.

8. EcoFest 2011

Nothing new to report. The planning committee will be starting to meet soon.

B. Other

1. Every Day is Earth Day report

More than 429 people attended the various event throughout the community May 20-22, which included *In Transition* movie, Routt County Clean-Up Day, Free Yard Waste Drop-Off, Free Building Materials Drop-Off, Migratory Bird Day, Community Garden Dedication, Give Your Stuff Away Day and Recycling Education at the Green Machine. YVSC would like to thank all the organizations who collaborated to make this belated Earth Day celebration a success.

- Mike Zopf thanked the Clean-Up Day volunteers and mentioned that there is potential for the event to grow. The town of Yampa participated, as well as volunteers as far North as Steamboat Lake. Anyone who would like to go out on their own can still get bags and vests to do clean-up at any time.

VI. New Business

A. 2010 Program/Events/Partnerships

1. **ReCharge Colorado – Rebates for energy efficiency/renewable/appliance/energy audits and more – Money is running out! – www.rechargecolorado.com**
Tax incentives and rebates are available on the GEO website by zip code. Kate Nowak will be doing quarterly outreach events for GEO. She has started the regional energy plan for Rio Blanco, Routt and Moffat Counties.
2. **Green Building/Building Science Forum – June 3, 2010 Steamboat Grand. 8-4:30**
teri@hbasteamboat.com or tdalessio@earthlink.net
3. **CAFR conference June 6-8, 2010**
4. **Bike to Work Day Breakfast- Historic Courthouse Lawn - June 23, 2010**
5. **ReTree Colorado - June 26, 2010 www.retreecolorado.com or Tristan Frolich 819.9140**

Volunteers will be meeting at the Meadows lot at 9 a.m. More community groups have committed to volunteering. Steamboat Parks & Rec is donating a 40-person bus. GO Alpine and SSRC are also helping with transportation. Steamboat Lake can handle 5,000 trees, so they will probably send 100 volunteers there. They will send 30-40 volunteers to Spring Creek, 30-40 to SSRC and 50-100 to USFS sites. If you are interested in being a crew leader or helping with registration, contact Tristan and Laura.

Cuginos is providing \$3 pizzas for the after-planting celebration. They still need a band to play at the party.

- Meg Bentley encouraged City Council to make it a family event.
- Candace Noriega will talk to CJ Mucklow about the master gardeners being crew leaders.
- Angela Ashby will try to do a corporate challenge with realtors.

Meeting adjourned at 1:08 p.m. by Angela Ashby.

Next meeting July 7, 2010 11:30-1:00 p.m., Centennial Hall Rms 113-114