



## Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes

March 2, 2011

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Centennial Hall, Rms 113-114

### 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:

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

### III. Approval of [Minutes from February 2, 2011 Monthly Meeting](#).

Angela Ashby motioned to approve, Paul Potyen seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.

### IV. Upper Yampa River Basin Water Quality Project presentation by Mike Zopf, Routt County Environmental Health

- Storm water system separate from sewer system. Important to report anything that seems amiss with storm water drain usage.

Objectives:

1. Water quality database online <http://rmgsc.cr.usgs.gov/cwqdr/default.aspx?project=Yampa>
2. Assessment of water quality
3. Design and implement monitoring program, will be monitoring through Sept. 2011
4. Periodically assess new data

- Establish a baseline
- Identify emerging problems e.g. fracking
- Identify trends over time e.g. pharmaceuticals

- Report will be released in the next few months. Overall our water would be considered very high quality.

### V. Partner Updates

#### A. Yampa Valley Partners/GEO, Joani Matranga

- Appliance rebates are gone. Still have solar rebates and efficiency upgrades (furnaces, insulation and sealing, energy monitors, Energy Star homebuilder incentives, etc.)
- Workforce training scholarship for energy efficiency-related jobs.

- Governor's Bottom-Up Economic Development Plan  
Governor Hickenlooper is focused on economic development. Online survey to collect suggestions for economic development: <http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/462074/County-Economic-Development-Self-Assessment-Survey>
- Can also go to website to submit comments, [www.advancecolorado.com](http://www.advancecolorado.com) (see tab "Governor's Bottom-Up County/Regional Economic Development Plans")
- Also holding regional meetings during this initiative process to work in a collaborative manner on a regional basis to incorporate county economic development plans into a regional economic development plan. Our region's meeting is March, 9 at 3-5:30 p.m. at the Center for Craig.

#### **B. CEC, Sasha Nelson**

- This session has been mostly about defending progressive legislation passed in earlier years.
- Senate Bill 95 (would have threatened FASTER) was been postponed indefinitely (PI-ed).
- HB 1150 would have removed cash from DOW to Water Conservation Construction Fund. Would have lost matching grant funds but was PI-ed.
- HB1223 attacks composition of Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission. Urge you to contact Baumgardner and White. Visit [www.ourcolorado.org](http://www.ourcolorado.org) to take action.
- At federal level doing a lot of work on frac'ing. Oil and Gas industry has an exemption from Clean Water Act for frac'ing. Not really sure of effects on water quality. If you are a private property owner being approached by an O & G developer you can request baseline water quality monitoring. Can also request radio isotope tagging.
- Thos of us who care about natural resources need to communicate the economic development value of these resources.
- Greater Sage Grouse tours  
March 25-April 10  
Discounted rate of \$25/person for Routt County residents  
More info at [www.ourcolorado.org](http://www.ourcolorado.org)

#### **C. Main Street Energy Efficiency Grants (due March 1)/Workshop (March 22), Tracy Barnett**

- MainStreet Steamboat Springs was awarded grant by GEO to upgrade energy efficiency in commercial properties.
- 5 grants/rebates up to \$2000. Each grantee will get an energy audit. Did receive 6 applications.
- Energy Efficiency Workshop  
March 22, 6:00 p.m. at Community Center  
Lighting efficiency and energy efficiency  
Will also cover Green Quest energy monitoring program  
RSVP to Tracy at 846.1800

#### **D. Yampatika, Melissa Calhoun**

- Climate Change Soup Session last month. 45 people attended. Second one is March 9, changes in USFS policy acknowledging climate change.  
Library Hall  
5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
- Have launched environmental literacy plan within K-12. 4<sup>th</sup> grade water quality, 5<sup>th</sup> grade renewable energy, First in the state to launch plan.
- Monthly watershed walks this summer. First one in May will focus on snowpack melt and run-off. Go to [www.yampatika.org](http://www.yampatika.org).
- From the Ground Up March 10 seed cataloguing at Commissioners room, 6:30 p.m.

#### **E. Routt County, Diane Mitsch Bush via email**

- Several bills that would have removed multimodal funding from FASTER- Funding Advancements in Safe Transportation and Economic Recovery, which is the ONLY source of funding for transportation at the State level other than gas tax, were defeated. I had sent a series of fact sheets to members of the General Assembly, both houses, detailing the negative impacts such a funding cut could have. So far we are OK with FASTER and with attempts to either get rid of or circumvent our bottom up transportation planning process.
- On the bad news side, a very positive Bike access bill was defeated. I will e-mail you alerts- updates as the session progresses.
- Our County "Routt County Multimodal Road Users Advisory Board"-RCMMRUAB- which is advisory to the Routt County Board of County Commissioners on "share the road" issues on County roads is progressing very well. They will have some key policy proposals for us to consider later in the Spring. As you may recall, this groups has seats for representatives from: Agriculture, trucking, construction, biking, pedestrian-running, bike businesses, and the geographic areas of Steamboat Springs, West, South and North Routt County. City engineer Janet Hruby and County engineer Heather McLaughlin are the ex-officio members.
- Our South Routt Vanpool from Oak Creek is doing well, but we still need riders from Stagecoach to get a second vanpool going there.. If people could get that word out to Stagecoach residents, that would be great! Please have them contact me.
- We are very thankful for the monetary contributions from the Trappers lake Sierra Club for our local match for the CDOT-FTA grant. Without them, this could not have worked!
- HB1223 is a rollback of oil and gas regulations passed during Giv. Ritter's administration. Endangers water and air quality and agriculture. Opposed by CCI and AGNC. Randy Baumgardner is a co-sponsor of the bill.

#### **VI. Open Forum**

##### **Jason Peasley, City Planning Dept.**

- In next couple months will be kicking off update process for community plan. Would like to be on YVSC agenda in April or May. Gauging community priorities for updating the plan.

### **Routt County Litter Solutions committee**

- Committee is raising awareness of litter in RC. Doing a poster/slogan contest in all Routt County schools. \$250 prize to winning HS student.

### **Bag It movie**

- Library tonight, 6:30 p.m.

### **Annie Leonard Story of Stuff**

- New video about corporations running what goes on in this country and how that might change.

### **Deep Roots**

- Deep Roots has started conversation about starting greenhouses in community.
- Goal is 1 Greenhouse per year for next 5 years
- 1 going up this summer by Community Cultivation at RMYC.
- Goal is to get one at school.
- Deep Roots is also looking for board members.

## **VII. Old Business**

### **A. YVSC Sub-Committee Reports**

#### **1. Zero Waste**

- Last project was Winter Carnival. Weren't able to contact vendors ahead of time, but it was great exposure.

#### **2. Talking Green**

- Handouts from Community Supported Agriculture event are on YVSC's website:  
[www.yvsc.org/talking-green-topics/](http://www.yvsc.org/talking-green-topics/)

- Shares are still available with many of the producers at the event.

- **Next event:**

Tax Incentives and Rebates

March 22, 2011

5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

Location TBA

#### **3. Sustainable Schools**

- Meeting next Thur. 4:30-5:30 p.m. school district office. Second Thursday at this location from now on. Will be planning what to do to celebrate Earth Hour, Earth day in schools.
- Grant to replace Styrofoam trays and plastic silverware in schools.
- \$1500 from Alpine Initiatives. Goal is to make spring carnival a Zero Waste event. SPE art show and family fun night will be Zero Waste. Focus is on recycling. Home ReSource has donated materials to make robots.

#### **4. Green Building**

- Working on Energy Star forum series.
- Updating construction site recycling guide.
- Website to showcase local incentives at [www.yvsc.org](http://www.yvsc.org).

B. Other

**VIII. New Business**

**A. 2011 Programs/Events/Partnerships**

**1. Earth Hour (March 26, 8:30 p.m.)**

- CMC and YVSC will do social media campaign.

**2. Every Day is Earth Day (May 14-22)**

- Planning meeting immediately following YVSC meeting today.

**3. RC Clean-Up Day (May 21)**

**4. ReTree (June 11)**

- Looking for committee members. Email [info@yvsc.org](mailto:info@yvsc.org) in the next week if interested.  
Will be meeting later this month.

**B. Other**

**1. YVSC Help Wanted**

- a. Board members
- b. Committee members (ReTree, Talking Green, Sustainable Schools, Green Building, Zero Waste)
- c. Zero Waste Coordinator

Meeting adjourned at 1:04 p.m.

**Next meeting:**

April 6, 2011

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Centennial Hall Rms 113-114