



Environmental Advisory Board

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, October 04, 2022

3:30 pm

130 Kearns Road

Small Conference Room

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Joseph Goodman, Andrew Wickes, Mike Steiner (arrived late), Phi Filerman, Kirby Jacobs, Nicholas Valentino, Chris Tullar, Greg LeBlanc, Sam Guarino
Guest speaker-Ryland French, CORE

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2.a. July 2022 Minutes

Motion to approve minutes made by Phi Filerman

Motion passed

[07-05-22 EAB Minutes.pdf](#)

3. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

3.a. Battery Storage – HCE

Holy Cross tabled the discussions with the ASC concerning PURE due to COVID. Now is an excellent time to continue the conversation.

One option is for SkiCo to pick one lift, such as the Elk camp gondola, and do PURE for just that. Holy Cross expects the costs to come down significantly due to rebates.

Action Item: Holy Cross does need to talk to the Town and Aspen Skiing Company about revisiting the battery system and microgrid project. They will be rolling out a pilot program for a commercial battery system like the residential Tesla power walls with possible financing options. Holy Cross needs to talk to Greg about the possibilities for

Town facilities.**3.b. SkiCo Renewable Energy Discussion**

Greg LeBlanc wanted to bring this to the group, noting past discussions were started but then put on hold due to the pandemic. With the climate goals the Towns has, now is an excellent time to approach Aspen Skiing Company (one of the most significant users) to see if there are any offsets they can do or maybe change how they do operations to help meet the Towns goals. Ryland French formally worked for ASC, currently with CORE, listed past ideas discussed with the Ski Company.

Ideas they said no to was:

- Pump hydro on the mountain using existing infrastructure and storage

- Hydro project with Ziegler and Snowmass Water and Sanitation

The idea they are interested in:

- Modernizing the Fanny Hill Micro Hydro Project. Upgrading controls could double the production. It could qualify for a CORE grant

Action Item: Ryland will connect the Skiing Company with Greg to discuss possible partnership options.

Action Item: Working with the Climate Action Plan, it would be helpful to know what percentage of the total town usage the Skiing Company uses. CORE and Holy Cross will find this out before the next meeting. Possibly have the Skiing Company do a presentation on what their energy mix is.

Board continued discussion on other possible innovative ideas the Skiing Company might consider.

Sam suggested looking into ground source heat pumps, keeping ground temperatures down on the ski hill. The idea was brought up in the planning of the Transit Center. Possibly look into a partnership between ASC and TOSV.

Land mowed down before ski season significantly affects the soil's carbon storage. Labor, fuel usage, and emissions from mowing contribute to the problem. Are there other ways to accomplish this that are better for the community? In the past, the area was agricultural and had sheep and cattle grazing. Possibly create a local economic development model that would make using sheep or goats economically feasible.

We would need to start by looking at the economic value.

3.c. EAB Winter Retreat

The Board agreed on early January for the Retreat. Schedule a 3-4 hour meeting, possibly 3-6 pm., held at Town Hall Council Chambers.

Greg/Andrew will develop a draft agenda and present it at a future meeting

Invite specific people to help build the Climate Action Plan. Board will advise on list of potential guests.

Good idea to have a moderator

The challenge will be putting everything on paper so the Board can go to Council with specific requests. The retreat needs to focus on the Climate Action Plan

Keys to successful Climate Action Planning:

1. Setting goals
2. Assign responsibility for what you need to be doing
3. Funding

4. UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS

Potential November agenda items:

- Ryland and Phi will have a pre-meeting with ASC to lay the groundwork for a meeting with the Board.
- Bring in ASC to discuss what they are doing and their future plans.
- Provide the Board with draft Retreat Agenda for January
- Building regulations review

5. CORE UPDATE

CORE is working with the Snowmass Housing department for rebates on current projects and past invoices on employee housing projects

Area-wide updates; Basalt passed sustainable building regulations. A good model to compare the Towns current regulations with to see if there are areas the Town could improve on.

CORE is working on coordinating the ABC Microgrid project

The APCHA incentive program has started

Coal basin project moving forward, if you have an interest, they will set up a guided tour of the site

6. NEXT MEETING DATE

November 01, 2022

7. NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Nicolas suggested the Board also start working on some of the smaller projects previously looked at.

Some businesses specialize in energy efficiency solutions. Joseph suggested sending out an RFP to see if any energy remodel companies would be interested in doing x number of homes in Snowmass. This could be one way to make energy conversions more affordable.

8. ADJOURNMENT