

**GUNNISON COUNTY GREEN TEAM
MINUTES
January 4, 2012**

The January 4, 2012 Green Team meeting was held in the Planning Commission Meeting Room in the Blackstock Government Center.

Present were:

Beth Baker, Community Development
Rich Corbett, Facilities and Grounds
Ben Cowan, Administration
Mike Lee, IT
Debbie Moore, Administration
Cathie Pagano, Community Development
Mike Pelletier, GIS
Jill Stahlnecker, Public Health

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 10:05 am.

2012 GREEN CHALLENGES PROGRAM: Those present discussed the 2012 Green Challenges Program.

Transportation (April – June):

Ben Cowan presented some ideas including a May 18 Bike (walk/carpool) to Work Day, matched with the national day with refreshments and/or some freebie giveaways like red blinky lights given to participants. Those present expressed they would like to have the BOCC/management participate.

Another idea was to unveil the county bikes for employee travel between County facilities or errands within the City of Gunnison. He spoke with Doug Spann, Neighborhood Services Officer with the City of Gunnison, and free bikes can be acquired prior to the bike auction for unclaimed lost/stolen bikes. He spoke with Tomichi Cycle's and left a message at Rock N' Roll Sports to see if they were interested in fixing these bikes up. While there was no response from Rock N' Roll Sports, Bill O'Rourke with Tomichi cycles said he would be interested in fixing the bikes mechanically, but not in painting them due to the tremendous labor involved with removing the parts for a quality paint job. He specified that he wouldn't want to work with cheap bikes and needed name brand quality bikes. Since Cathie Pagano's husband fixes up old bikes as a hobby and the local shops aren't really interested in painting, repairing and setting bikes up with baskets, the Green team authorized Daniel Crean to work with Doug Spann to acquire four bikes, paint them green, get them in working order and add baskets for carrying meeting supplies, etc. with a budget of \$200 per bike. These bikes will be supplied with a combination lock and only county employees agreeing to lock the bikes and obey traffic

laws will be given the combination. Cowan will try to determine whether decals can be added to the bikes saying “Gunnison County Green Machine.”

Cowan also wanted to encourage participation in the County’s existing Walk 4 Your Life program by getting employees to gain their steps by walking to work. Debbie Moore had an idea to have a “Poker Walk” where each trip around the block would gain a card until a poker hand was established. The winner could get a Green Team award.

It was discussed that the Green Team can’t have much impact on replacing older, inefficient vehicles/equipment with more efficient models, as required by the BOCC priority. That is dependent upon budget availability.

Cathie Pagano and Beth Baker volunteered to coordinate the second quarter theme with other Green Members helping with the actual events.

Building Efficiency (January – March):

The team then discussed building efficiency. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the use of space heaters throughout county offices. Cowan expressed his disdain that many employees have been observed using space heaters instead of using the newly installed thermostats because of the instant heat. He also said that the new setback temperatures at night and weekends are causing the heaters to run excessively after hours if the employee forgets to turn it off – which is easy to do. He contacted the county’s insurance carrier to inquire about fire danger. Misuse and malfunctions of portable heaters now account for one fifth of all structural fires. Over 30,000 people are injured and killed each year in the U.S. from portable heater related fires. CTSI (insurance carrier) reported that many counties require heaters to be county owned so heaters can be kept in good operating order (without frayed wires and functioning tip over shut-offs). Other requirements are heater bans unless it can be documented that a reasonable temperature threshold cannot be maintained with the central heating system. Many counties that tried to enact a complete ban were not successful since many courthouses or older facilities systems do not provide adequate heat. Although some members wanted to develop a policy recommendation, it was decided that members of the Green Team could meet with departments to discuss the use of heaters and see if thermostat settings, window draft stoppers (provided by the Green Team), redirection of blowing vents, or other options could address needs and try to get employees to voluntarily remove their heaters or allow the county to purchase one for them (perhaps with a kitchen style timer) that prevents them from being left on and trying to bring 60 or 65 degree setback temperatures back up to 70 degrees after hours. Options or fine-tuning occupancy sensors and the use of the setback override button after hours could be discussed during the meetings as well.

Cowan and Rich Corbett will prepare a press release for the performance Contract as soon as the measurement and Verification report is finalized.

Cowan will provide Mike Pelletier with utility usage data at the Doyleville Shop to calculate potential savings gained from the active solar collector installed last year.

Ben Cowan, Rich Corbett, Mike Pelletier and Debbie Moore (for meeting scheduling) signed up to coordinate these initiatives.

Recycling (July – September):

Beth Baker discussed the need for designated cardboard recycling areas in buildings and that some cardboard is being thrown away. She also provided the team with sample Recycle Guides (or publications created by ORE) that could be posted at receptacles and possibly at trash cans with “Think Before You Throw” signage. The Team discussed the need to purchase more consistent recycle bins for the most commonly recycled items since it has been observed that not all buildings have receptacles or have some, but it is unclear about whether comingles items or which items are taken. Jill Stahlnecker provided an option for receptacles and Rich Corbett will see what his costs are from his supplier. It was discussed that close coordination with the county’s Recycling Manager will be critical to make sure eventual designated areas and receptacles are on the pick-up route and that the correct items are being gathered.

Beth Baker, Jill Stahlnecker, and Debbie Moore volunteered to coordinate these efforts, ensuring that they take an inventory of existing recycling opportunities and available receptacles and fill in/provide signage where necessary.

Green Purchasing (October – December): Although not finalized, it was discussed that the final challenge could center on Green Purchasing. It was discussed that The Paper Clip provided a Green Buying Guide for office supplies. Cowan reported he tried to get an electronic copy, but hasn’t been successful. Some asked whether Paper Clip would have the ability to identify the most frequently purchased items and provide green alternatives (recycled, sustainable products or refurbished, etc.) to see if the price compares to the virgin alternative. This has already been done with paper and the county is using recycled paper countywide. This will be discussed further as the year progresses. In the past, the Team discussed holding off on creating policies until a countywide policy manual is developed. It is believed that a stand-alone policy would not be used unless it is integrated with a larger policy document.

Mike Pelletier is working on a greenhouse addition for the 4-H building at the Fairgrounds and Mike Lee will work on removing single person printers across the county. Focusing on more centralized printers saves on equipment costs, gains economies of scale per printed page, and reduces the time the Information Technology Department spends keeping numerous printer drivers up to date and compatible with numerous server and end-user operating systems.

RECOGNITION/INCENTIVES:

Cathie Pagano reported she has been reading a book called “Getting Green Done” by Auden Schendler and found an idea for recognition called the “Eco-Star” that could be used at Gunnison County. This would be an award given to a person who is making

exemplary efforts to improve the county's environmental performance. The Team discussed that nominations could be made by someone else, with a winner chosen each quarter by the Green Team. That "Eco-Star" nominee could then be featured in the county's quarterly newsletter. At the end of the year, an overall winner would be chosen by the Green Team, recognized perhaps by a plaque, a letter from the Commissioners and finally perhaps in incentive small monetary gift. This would help foster employee participation in greening government initiatives as well as recognize employees who are making a difference. This may encourage others to either do the same things or spur new ideas to save money in departmental budget while saving on the use of resources, either utilities, paper, or other consumptives.

The Team discussed that we need to try to "piggy-back" on other established communication means such as the newsletter for announcements. Sending out emails too frequently became a chore for some employees so they didn't read the emails. Information should also be included in the body of emails since it seems attachments are not opened. Posting information by microwaves, coffee pots, or restroom mirrors might encourage people to read the flyer rather than take the time when looking through numerous emails received throughout the day.

ADJOURN: The meeting adjourned at 11:40 am.