



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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TO: Board of County Commissioners
Scott Vargo
Jeff Huntley
FROM: Sara R. Lopez
RE: Work Session Meeting of February 9, 2021
DATE: February 9, 2021

Attendees:

Elected Officials: Elisabeth Lawrence (via Zoom), Tamara Pogue and Joshua Blanchard – Commissioners

Frank Celico (via Zoom) – Assessor

Gary Wilkinson (via Zoom) – Surveyor

Jaime FitzSimons (via Zoom) – Sheriff

Kathy Neel (via Zoom) – Clerk & Recorder

Regan Wood (via Zoom) – Coroner

Ryne Scholl (via Zoom) - Treasurer

Staff: Scott Vargo, County Manager; Jeff Huntley, County Attorney; and Sara R Lopez, Administrative Assistant.

Staff (via phone or Zoom): Scott Vargo, County Manager; Jeff Huntley, County Attorney; Sarah Vaine, Assistant County Manager; Bentley Henderson, Assistant County Manager; Marty Ferris, Finance Director; Nicole Valentine, Communications Director; Michael Wurzel, Sustainability Coordinator; Peter Haynes, Undersheriff; April Paige, Executive Administrative Manager and Sara R Lopez, Administrative Assistant.

Guests (via phone or Zoom): Heidi McCollum, Libby Stanford and others who did not sign in.

I. Joint Meeting with Electeds

Commissioners conversed with other County Elected Officials, as well as the 5th Judicial District Attorney regarding their goals and the challenges their departments are facing. The Electeds who participated are:

Frank Celico (via Zoom) – Assessor

Gary Wilkinson (via Zoom) – Surveyor

Jaime FitzSimons (via Zoom) – Sheriff

Kathy Neel (via Zoom) – Clerk & Recorder

Regan Wood (via Zoom) – Coroner

Ryne Scholl (via Zoom) - Treasurer

Heidi McCollum (via Zoom) – District Attorney, 5th Judicial District

Commissioners and Electeds discussed the frequency of future meetings and

II. 2021 Sustainability Department Climate Action Work Plan

Michael Wurzel gave an update on the following topics including but not limited to:

2021 WORK PLAN FOR CLIMATE ACTION PLAN AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPLEMENTATION

The Board adopted the Summit Community Climate Action Plan (CAP) on April 23, 2019, which sets goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) in Summit County 50 percent by 2030 and 80 percent by 2050, relative to a 2005 baseline. The CAP outlines recommended strategies to be pursued over the coming years to achieve these emissions reductions across the following sectors: energy use in buildings (Residential 30% and Commercial 35%), transportation (33%), and waste (2%). The CAP was prepared by the Summit Climate Action Collaborative, and all participating collaborative member organizations are now beginning to work together to implement the priority strategies set forth in the Plan.

Through the Collaborative, the County and towns intend to work with High Country Conservation (HC3), Xcel Energy, Mountain Parks Electric and other community partners to jointly develop and implement plans, programs and policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions throughout Summit County. The collaborative approach is intended to maximize efficiency and coordination, minimize duplication of efforts and create a shared community roadmap for implementation that fosters a holistic evaluation of key opportunities across jurisdictions.

RECOMMENDED 2021 PRIORITY PROJECTS:

1. Adopt a Summit County EV (Electric Vehicle) Readiness Plan

Key priorities identified in the EV Readiness Plan for the County and town governments include infrastructure, local policies, light-duty fleets, public transit, and community outreach. From a macro perspective on CAP implementations strategies, besides Xcel's rapid transition to renewable energy and strict new building codes in terms of energy efficiency, rapid adoption of EVs is the next best strategy for lowering greenhouse gas emissions across Summit County.

KEY TASKS:

- Develop EV Readiness Plan and present the plan to the Board for review and adoption. The anticipated timeline for plan completion and board presentation is spring 2021.
- Work with partner entities to pursue group buy programs and apply for state and federal grant funding for identified vehicle purchases and build-out of the necessary EV charging infrastructure. Partner with Xcel Energy on a make-ready infrastructure pilot program focused on government fleet and transit vehicle charging infrastructure.
- Master plan for future EV charging needs at county facilities.
- Develop and implement a fleet policy to guide decision-making on EV conversions during annual vehicle purchases.
- Planning & Budgeting – County staff will need to develop and present recommended plans for 2022 projects (e.g., fleet conversions and infrastructure construction), and associated budget needs, for Board review and approval. An analysis of any necessary

County matching funds will be needed, for consideration during future project planning and budgeting discussions.

2. **Complete EV Charging Projects at the County Courthouse and Frisco Transfer Center**
Work across county departments and with state funding opportunities to expand access EV charging for fleet, employee, and public use. The CAP set a goal to increase the share of EVs on Summit County's roads to 30 percent by 2030 and 60 percent by 2050. To achieve this goal, the number of local EVs registered in Summit County must increase from 191 today to 10,440 by 2030. A recent McKinsey study found people are buying EVs faster than charging infrastructure is being installed. To assure that fleet, residents, and visitors that plugs are available, our local communities will expand electric vehicle charging infrastructure by directly installing charging stations.

KEY TASKS:

- Work with partner entities, engineers, and contractors to build-out the necessary electric supply and install the EV charging infrastructure to complete projects in summer 2021.
- Partner with Xcel Energy on a make-ready infrastructure pilot program focused on government fleet and transit vehicle charging infrastructure.
- Purchase EV charging infrastructure and complete grant requirements per Charge Ahead Colorado grants.
- Planning & Budgeting – These projects are underway. \$25,000 is budgeted for the County Courthouse charging project and grant-matching funds are available in the 2021 Sustainability budget for the FTC.

3. **Participate in the Xcel Fleet Electrification Advisory Program**
Fleet operation managers are finding time and cost savings by switching existing fleet vehicles to electric – including cars, light duty trucks, and buses. Xcel offers fleet advisory and assessment services, at minimal cost to the county. The first step is to evaluate the county's existing infrastructure and vehicle usage to determine the most financially sound pathway for switching to EVs.

KEY TASKS:

- Apply for participation in Xcel's Fleet Electrification Advisory Program, choose potential vehicles for electrification, and coordinate with Fleet Services on installation of data collection devices.
- Xcel will collaborate with the county and a fleet data analytics provider to gather and analyze performance data on the chosen fleet vehicles. The goal is to determine the best EVs to replace traditional vehicles.
- The result is a highly customized, data driven analysis portal tool that provides electric vehicle procurement recommendations and data for decision-making.
- The assessment provides an analysis and evaluation of the financial payback of switching to EVs, as well as vehicle duty performance and environmental benefits. The county will be able to change criteria and EV options through the tool to suit our needs.
- Xcel Energy will collaborate with County staff, an electrical engineering, and infrastructure construction provider to help determine feasibility and costs involved in potential EV

charging sites. Xcel will evaluate site conditions, utility infrastructure requirements and site needs.

- Planning & Budgeting – County staff will need to develop and present recommended plans for 2021 and 2022 projects (e.g., fleet conversions and infrastructure construction), and associated budget needs, for Board review and approval. This project alone has minimal costs that can be covered in the 2021 Sustainability budget.

4. Streamline the solar permitting and development process to achieve SolSmart Gold Certification

In 2020, Summit County achieved the SolSmart Bronze designation. The SolSmart certification is a nationally recognized audit process to analyze and remove barriers for solar installations, streamline the solar permitting process, and promote Summit County as a solar-friendly community, through a free U.S. Department of Energy Solar Energy Technology Office program, supported by the Solar Foundation and the International City/County Management Association. The SolSmart Gold designation currently represents SolSmart's highest designation for local government support of best solar policies and practices. Gold caps fees on small residential solar at \$400 and \$1,000 for commercial, authorizes over-the-counter approval of small, residential solar permits, requires best practices training for building inspection staff, and recognizes many other County adopted best practices in solar planning codes and community engagement opportunities.

KEY TASKS:

- Building Department to develop SolSmart materials and implement necessary changes to permitting practices and staff training.
- Building Department to propose new fee schedule and code to BOCC at work session and regular meeting in spring of 2021.
- Sustainability Department to prepare and submit the SolSmart Gold application to SolSmart, to request a free audit of the County's existing code regulations, permitting processes and fees for solar installations, and obtain recommendations on suggested changes for best practices.
- Anticipated County resources – County staff time will be needed to prepare the application, compile the documents to be audited, plan and carry out trainings, and coordinate the necessary policy or changes to receive designation.

5. Implement the Summit County Renewable Energy Program to reduce outdoor energy use and promote renewable energy

Commercial and residential energy use make up 65% of Summit County's GHGs, and while the county has several programs and initiatives to reduce emissions from indoor uses, outdoor energy use is currently overlooked. Heated driveways and snowmelt, outdoor pools and spas, and outdoor gas fireplaces consume a huge amount of energy. The annual energy consumption of a 200 square foot heart driveway is equal to the annual home electricity use of an average, single-family home in the Wellington neighborhood!

A renewable energy program allows outdoor energy use, but requires the energy use to be offset by on-site renewable energy or by paying a fee. Fees paid into the program provide

rebates and grants for community energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. The program goals are to reduce carbon emissions by offsetting outdoor energy use and raising awareness about how much energy is used by these outdoor consumers. Finally, exceptions to the renewable offset or fees will be available for public safety, disability or financial hardship. Jess Hoover gave the following examples:

Example #1: 375 square foot residential heated driveway (roughly 12 feet wide x 30 feet long)

- Would require either 6.98 kW solar PV system OR \$22,680 fee in lieu OR a combination of both
- Benefit to homeowner is being able to take advantage of solar tax credit (currently 26%) + generating their own electricity

Example #2: 225 square foot commercial outdoor heated pool (15 feet x 15 feet)

- Would require either 20.94 kW solar PV system or \$68,041.82 fee in lieu OR a combination of both
- Benefit to business is being able to take advantage of solar tax credit, advanced depreciation schedule, and generating its own electricity

KEY TASKS:

- HC3 is the lead agency convening the collaborative working group to develop a renewable energy program for Summit County. Key participants include County and town staff, including representatives from planning/community development, building inspection, and sustainability, engineering and design consultants, local builders, local renewable energy installers, and other key stakeholders. There have been several stakeholder group meetings throughout 2020, and there will be several more in 2021.
 - The collaborative working group still needs to make key decisions about exemptions, offsets, fees, etc.
 - HC3 and the working group will bring a Summit Renewable Energy Program proposal to the BOCC during the summer of 2021 for input and potential implementation.
 - *Anticipated County resources* – County staff time are needed to design the program, implement the program at the building department, and coordinate further staff training and business and construction resources.
6. Track State of Colorado commercial building benchmarking bill and continue voluntary benchmarking pilot program
- The commercial and industrial building sector produced 35% of overall community emissions for Summit County in 2017. Reporting programs can empower owners and managers to make smarter decisions about how to operate their buildings and facilities. To reduce emissions in the commercial building sector, the CAP recommends adopting local ordinances to require energy reporting for large commercial buildings, but this may no longer be legally possible for the County with the State of Colorado moving forward with its own benchmarking statute. Per the current proposed bill, owners of commercial and industrial buildings of 50,000 square feet, or greater, of which there are approximately 29 in Summit County, will publicly report their energy use on an annual basis through a state run, online portal. There may be resources for additional measures at the county and town levels, but that is to be determined.

The Climate Action Collaborative members will track this state benchmarking effort and decide the best path for moving forward between the county and the towns this year. Voluntary benchmarking will continue as planned.

KEY TASKS:

- Continue to engage with pilot benchmarking project stakeholders, owners of buildings from 4,400 to 200,000 sq ft.
- Track State of Colorado effort to pass a building benchmarking statute.
- Timeline:
 - 2020: Summit County volunteers were recruited, trained, and began collecting data.
 - 2021: Annual data reporting continues, evaluate success stories, and track state effort to pass a benchmarking bill.
 - 2022: Benchmarking programs could begin implementation at the town level.
 - 2023: Commercial Property owners of buildings greater than 50,000 sq. ft. must begin reporting energy usage data, according to the current, proposed bill at the State of Colorado.
 - 2024: Annual statewide reporting continues, according to the current, proposed bill at the State of Colorado.
 - Planning & Budgeting – County staff, HC3, and stakeholders analyze operations and data from the voluntary reporting program and track developments of a benchmarking bill at the state level. HC3 will work with interested towns on developing and passing a benchmarking ordinance in 2022, if that's deemed the best path forward for the town. County staff and HC3 will develop associated budget needs, for Board review and approval.

7. Continue to advocate for climate action at the state level through CC4CA and county resolutions

To prevent the worst effects of climate change, action is needed at the local, state and federal levels. Summit County supports Colorado Communities for Climate Action (CC4CA) as an advocate for meaningful climate action at the state level, and to a lesser degree, the federal level. The County has had success signing letters of support for state and federal legislation and passing resolutions in support of climate action goals, like resolutions urging Xcel Energy and Tri-State to adopt aggressive renewable energy goals, a resolutions to adopt the CAP, a resolution to become a GoEV County and transition to 100% EVs and others.

KEY TASKS:

- Draft and pass climate action and sustainability resolutions to urge climate action at the local and state levels.
- Draft and sign letters of support for state and federal legislation and regulatory initiatives on climate action, like the Xcel Transportation Electrification Plan.
- Participate in public input sessions on climate action, especially to advocate for effective rule making and enforcement for climate action at the state level.
- Anticipated County resources – County staff to draft materials and coordinate appropriate communications.

8. Draft Roadmap to 100% Renewable Electricity for County Facilities

The County, HC3, and Xcel Energy will work toward identifying a realistic path for the County to reach its 100% renewable targets. Analyses of the County's electric demand, for County facilities, will be a key part of this process. This effort will also include a list of actions that could be taken by the County to move toward its 100% renewable energy goals for its facilities and operations.

KEY TASKS:

- Analyze the County's electric demand, for County facilities and operations.
- Exploring Xcel Energy tools and programs at a variety of levels to support the County with its renewable electricity goals.
- Draft a roadmap that would supports the County reaching its goal, including: incorporating Xcel's addition of future solar and wind resources and other clean energy sources to its system, expanding programs like Renewable*Connect to allow residents, customers, and businesses to participate in additive renewable products, constructed and operated here in Colorado, analyzing on-site solar, storage, and micro-grid opportunities at County facilities, and expanding community solar.
- Draft an initial list of actions that could be taken by both parties to move the County toward its 100% renewable energy goals.
- Anticipated County resources – County staff to draft materials and coordinate with project partners.

9. Update the GHG emissions inventory for the CAP using data from 2018, 2019, and 2020
Summit County can't manage what we don't measure, so the CAP recommends the County update its GHG inventory every 3 years to determine whether or not we are on-track to meet our goals. An update to the GHG inventory provides the County, the Summit Climate Action Collaborative stakeholders, and HC3 revised metrics, upon which to evaluate their climate action policies and resource allocation in various policies, programs, and initiatives.

KEY TASKS:

- HC3 to contract with consultants on CAP update.
- HC3, county staff, and climate action collaborative stakeholders to provide consultant with updated GHG emission data.
- HC3 and county staff to present greenhouse gas emissions update to BOCC in the fall of 2021.

ONGOING KEY PROGRAMS:

1. Energy Smart Colorado – Residential Energy Audits and Rebates
2. Solarize Summit – Rebates for Solar PV installation
3. Resource Wise & CPACE – Commercial Energy Audits, Rebates, and Energy Efficiency and Renewable Funding
4. Sustainable Building Codes – Residential and Commercial Buildings EV Readiness and Energy Efficiency
5. Climate Action Collaborative – Stakeholder Group Meetings and key policy work across the county

6. Track Climate Action at the state and federal levels and apply for grant funding opportunities
7. Track and monitor County facilities energy use on the EnergyPrint dashboard and monthly calls with Building Technology Systems consultants and facilities staff

KEY TASKS

- Develop EV Readiness Plan and present the plan to the Board for review and adoption. The anticipated timeline for plan completion and board presentation is spring 2021.
- Work with partner entities to pursue group buy programs and apply for state and federal grant funding for identified vehicle purchases and build-out of the necessary EV charging infrastructure. Partner with Xcel Energy on a make-ready infrastructure pilot program focused on government fleet and transit vehicle charging infrastructure.
- Master plan for future EV charging needs at county facilities.
- Develop and implement a fleet policy to guide decision-making on EV conversions during annual vehicle purchases.
- *Planning & Budgeting* – County staff will develop and present recommended plans for 2022 projects (e.g., fleet conversions and infrastructure construction), and associated budget needs, for Board review and approval. An analysis of any necessary County matching funds will be needed, for consideration during future project planning and budgeting discussions.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- HC3 is the lead agency convening the collaborative working group to develop a regional EV readiness plan for Summit County. Key participants include County and town staff, including representatives from planning/community development, transit, fleet, and public works / facilities, Xcel Energy, Mountain Parks Electric, ski areas and other key stakeholders. CoPIRG, SWEEP and CLEER are also offering to provide free technical expertise and assistance with development and implementation of this regional EV Readiness Plan for Summit County communities.
- County staff would participate in the development and implementation of this shared plan, as appropriate, focusing on implementation of the key tasks listed above.
- County Staff Project Leads – Michael Wurzel (Sustainability), Director of Public Works, Dale Stein (Capital Projects), Kevin Yoder (Fleet Services), Curtis Garner (Transit), Wayne Byrne (Facilities)

Commissioner Blanchard asked if there has been community outreach to form partnerships to help implement the EV Readiness goal. Mr. Wurzel said the towns have expressed support for the plans, and the next goal is to work with the ski areas and get them onboard.

Commissioner Blanchard also noted that at this stage, electric vehicles are outside the price range for most people. Michael Wurzel said that with the advances in technology, it is expected that in the near future EVs could cost about the same as internal combustion vehicles.

Commissioner Lawrence requested a timeline of when current county vehicles would need to be replaced with Electric Vehicles (EVs) (e.g. 2 vehicles per year or 10 per year.). Commissioner Pogue would also like an overview of the state of the county's current fleet, how old they are, etc.

Bentley Henderson said that at this time, the challenge is to replace All Wheel Drive or 4-Wheel Drive vehicles as the market does not have medium and heavy-duty electric vehicle options. And they will be looking at the age and condition of vehicles before considering replacement.

Commissioner Pogue asked Mr. Wurzel for clarification of the Sustainability Department's responsibilities vs. what High County Conservation Center (HC3) does for the county. Mr. Wurzel said that before his position was created, HC3 performed as the county's Sustainability Department, and his focus has been on EV Readiness, as this was what the previous Board wanted, finding and applying for grants to move the project forward.

Commissioner Lawrence asked whether it would be a good idea to have a Sustainable Purchasing Policy to ensure that departments update their purchasing practices. She also asked whether the county is doing enough to manage waste within departments and if we are sequestering enough carbon in our open areas.

Commissioners want to use every resource available in addressing climate change. That means looking into the carbon stock on open space properties and seeing if there are management opportunities to sequester more carbon through landscape restoration, tree planting, or other options. Mr. Wurzel will meet with the Open Space Department to discuss these options.

Commissioner Pogue said that her goal is to identify goals that are attainable and affordable. She also would like to see inclusion of minorities in the community outreach so people do not feel they are being forced to comply. Commissioner Blanchard asked about budget implementation and asked that once the county starts to implement goals to be mindful of the costs.

Commissioners thanked Mr. Wurzel and Ms. Hoover for the update and agreed to move forward with the plan. Mr. Wurzel will provide monthly updates focusing in one of the goals at a time. Nicole Valentine offered suggestions to inform the community of the County's sustainable efforts.

III. SB20-217 Evidence Technician (Sheriff's Office)

Jaime FitzSimons, Christopher Walton and Peter Haynes gave an overview of the following topics including but not limited to:

APPROVAL FOR HIRE OF TWO EVIDENCE TECHNICIANS

In order to bring the Summit County Sheriff's Office (SO) into compliance with SB 20-217 they are requesting to hire two evidence technicians to process and catalog the video produced by camera systems. One technician was approved for hire in FY2020 and the department is getting close to make an offer. They would like to hire two technicians from their current pool of applicants, this would avoid the expenditure of time and resources to hire and train two new personnel separately.

Sheriff FitzSimons gave an overview of the SO's hiring process and noted it takes them 90 days from processing fingerprints, background checks, etc., for all applicants. At this time, the SO has two qualified candidate and both could start right away. He also said that because the SO was able to sign a contract with Axon, the body cameras and vehicle cameras, before the end of 2020, their office has been moved up the priority list and they will be coming to the county in March to provide training on the equipment.

Commander Chris Walton gave an overview of the technicians' duties and noted that hiring a second technician would ensure that both are professionally trained by Axon. Commissioner Lawrence and Commissioner Pogue asked for clarification on some of the reasons presented for needing a second technician. Sheriff FitzSimons said that even before SB-217, the Sheriff's Office has had an increase in criminal activity.

Commissioners agreed to move forward with the hiring of the second technician. Scott Vargo asked Marty Ferris for a budget update to reflect the savings mentioned by the Sheriff and find a source to fund the second technician.

IV. Managers' and Commissioners' Issues

Senior Management and Commissioners discussed several topics including but not limited to:

Sarah Vaine gave an update on the following:

- The 5-Star Program Town Hall for Businesses is scheduled for Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. Commissioner Lawrence will attend.

Commissioner Blanchard gave an update on the committee meetings he will be attending

Commissioner Pogue gave an update on the following:

- CDOT is conducting a review of regulations on the language that can go on their road signs; they will be accepting comments. Commissioner Blanchard said he would appreciate having more local autonomy. Mr. Henderson will find out how the county can submit comments.
- Behavioral Health Task Force – If anyone has input on this bill. At this time, the focus is mental health and equity.

Commissioner Lawrence gave an update on the following:

- CCI Vaccine Updates. Commissioner Lawrence suggested consistency on the information going out to the community regarding when appointments will be available and listing the amount of vaccines received. The goal is to avoid misunderstandings. Scott Vargo suggested having this conversation at the next BOH/BOCC Joint Meeting so Amy Wineland, Public Health Director, can explain the process.

Commissioners also reviewed schedules and upcoming calendar events.

V. Discussion of Land Use Matters and the Legal Issues pertaining thereto. (Attorney) (Executive Session Recommended)

A motion was made by Commissioner Pogue and seconded by Commissioner Blanchard to discuss land use matters and the legal advice related thereto. BOCC voted 3 to 0 to go into Executive Session per CRS 24-6-402 (4) (b). The motion was approved.

Respectfully submitted:



Sara R Lopez, Deputy Clerk



Approved by:



Elisabeth Lawrence, Chair