



## MINUTES

September 24, 2007

Durango

President John Pryor called the meeting to order at 8:15.

John Pryor, Tim Gagen, Joyce Burford, Dave Torgler, Nick Teverbaugh, William Buck, Bruce Hill, David Huseman, Kevin Batchelder, Frank Bell, Susan Parker, Joe Fitzpatrick, Patti Clapper, Renee Parson, Eddie Stern, Vicki Mattox, Steve Jeffers, and Paul Strong were in attendance.

Minutes were approved unanimously.

Tim Gagen gave an update on the Colorado Climate Project and the initiatives that will be recommended. The website is <http://www.coloradoclimate.org/> and comments can be emailed to [saunders@rockymountainclimate.org](mailto:saunders@rockymountainclimate.org). The final meeting is September 12<sup>th</sup>. Stan and Tim will give a presentation at the Jackson meeting. Tim also said that the Governor's office will have some action regarding forest health and that we should be involved. John and Paul will contact DNR about what is being considered.

Dr. Koren Nydick gave an overview of the Mountain Studies Institute. MSI's mission is to enhance understanding and sustainable use of the San Juan Mountains through research and education. By focusing on a distinct mountain range, MSI activities will serve the global mountain community and have broader application to the study of mountain systems. Dr. Nydick illustrated this mission through examples of air and water quality, fens, and climate change.

Harry Bruell gave presentation on the purchase and renovation of the Durango Federal Building into "The Commons," a one-stop educational center. This innovative project used a USDA loan and New Market tax credits.

Dr. Ben Honigman from the Colorado Center for Altitude Medicine and Physiology at the University of Colorado School of Medicine presented on the effects of altitude on health. 14% of Colorado residents live above 7000 feet in elevation. Colorado has fewer incidences of stroke, heart disease and cancer than anywhere in the nation and less obesity. However, we have more melanoma, and breast and prostate cancer. Seven of the top ten counties for long lifespan are in the mountains of Colorado. 25% of tourists will encounter acute mountain sickness. How do we work to educate our visitors, similar to what the cruise industry has done regarding seasickness?

Meeting adjourned at 11:35

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