



**MINUTES**  
**August 27, 2021**  
**Town Park Stage**  
**Telluride, Colorado**

**I. Call to Order and Introductions, Dara MacDonald, CAST President**

**II. Welcome to Telluride**  
*Mayor DeLanie Young*

**III. Colorado Greenhouse Gas Reduction Roadmap**  
*Will Toor, Executive Director, Colorado Energy Office*

HB 19-1261 set pollution and GHG reduction targets. SB236 was an updating on rules around energy utilities and offered incentives. The electric power sector transitioning to renewable is having a big impact and means that transportation is now the largest emission source. Colorado set sector-based 2025 and 2030 emission targets. There are new technologies that can better measure emissions. Colorado's GHG Reduction Roadmap focused on building a near term action plan with clear strategies for which they are accountable. Mr. Toor highlighted some of these strategies including the need for additional funding for electrification in transportation. Last year Colorado saw 32 climate-related bills. Six utilities that operate 99% of fossil power plants in CO have committed to reduce emissions by at least 80% by 2030. Xcel has committed to 85% reduction. Transportation electrification funding was a big win of the last session including charging infrastructure and EV equity, fleet electrification incentives, and public transit electrification. This could build the infrastructure needed and put an end to range anxiety. SB21-230 gives \$40M to the Colorado Energy Office (CEO) to support investing in clean energy and efficiency and \$30M to the Colorado Clean Energy Fund. They will have a program to support small businesses. SB21-264 Clean Heat Standards and Plans give a structure that ensures meeting the GHG reduction goals.

There is lots going on in Transportation including the Transportation Commission setting GHG pollution standards for transportation plans. CDOT has looked at models of possible emission reductions and future projects will be reviewed through this model. A clean trucking strategy will, among other things, accelerate fleet turnover to electric. On the land use side, state agencies must work with local governments and MPOs to develop strategies to promote more sustainable land use and should develop criteria to use state investment to incentivize smart land use decisions. The State is looking to provide more incentives to remove inclusionary zoning restrictions.

Joan May, representing CC4CA, explained that many of the things Mr. Toor talked about would benefit from CAST member engagement. CC4CA will work with CAST members to learn how they can engage on these issues.

Discussion:

What is the best way for local areas to engage to make things happen? For example, communities off the I-70 corridor aren't a priority. Telluride isn't a population center, but visitors won't drive their EVs here if they can't charge them. Mr. Toor explained that the additional funding will change things significantly to allow for opportunities across the entire state. Comments from like-minded constituents is powerful. Towns and counties wrote a resolution to Tri State that helped make the recent changes. Some local utilities can't support EV infrastructure and new funding can potentially assist there. The Clean Energy Bank is a loan program that can fund small projects.

How did Colorado get oil and gas on board with HB1221? It helped that Xcel wanted to make it work. Gas utilities know they can't continue on the current path of higher emissions year to year. They knew they needed to be part of the solution.

What about rail? There is forward movement on rail with Front Range Passenger Rail. Grand Junction is talking about a freight off-loading facility which would help the region, getting deliveries at least close to towns and then letting EV trucks do the last mile.

#### **IV. Gearing Up for Electrification**

*Will Toor, Executive Director, Colorado Energy Office*

*Chuck Ray, Senior Associate, Rocky Mountain Institute*

*Kevin Cooney, Board Member, San Miguel Power Association*

Mr. Toor, CEO: Colorado got push back on the EV goals being unrealistic. In the last couple of years, the world has changed such that EV manufacturing is really accelerating. Battery prices are decreasing which increases the cost competitiveness with non EVs. On the regulatory side, in 2019 Colorado adopted a Zero Emission Vehicle standard. Colorado will determine if the State adopts California's emission standards or stick with current federal standards. Incentives: Colorado has a tax credit through 2025. SB260 also includes funding for incentives. Charge Ahead CO is a competitive grant program. The EV Corridors Program aims to build out 6 major highway corridors and is also looking at Scenic Byways and State Parks in partnership with Rivian, an EV recreational vehicle company.

Chuck Ray, Rocky Mountain Institute: Mr. Ray works on RMI's Carbon Free program. The 50% reduction goals by 2030 will require moving people with intention. We have learned to move by car, but we desire a more community orientation of ped and bike. It's all about mobility. He asks towns to consider the influence they have as their visitor might go home and want what they had here – walkable communities. Mobility is about shared rides. The EV purchase price is still a deterrent and incentives/funding programs have already been mentioned. How can we realize some of the cost savings up front? Vehicle types are expanding quickly. Today we have 31 countries, state and cities that have diesel or gasoline bans. Local governments can lead by doing through zoning, charging infrastructure, and taxes so they can guide the market. Many local governments are working on transitioning bus fleets to EV, now look to the electrification of municipal fleets. Resilient infrastructure is critical. Fires, floods, and outages are an issue and need to be considered. Ford has intelligent backup power on vehicle-to-home charging.

Kevin Cooney, San Miguel Power Association: Mr. Cooney is a board member for the local cooperative and represents the Coop at Tri State. What makes electrification beneficial? Lower bills for customers (economically efficient), lowering carbon, benefits to society (air quality) and benefits to the grid. One of grid problems as we move to renewables is that as solar has increased, we have overproduction in the middle of day. What will change that is battery storage. Battery costs are coming down in price which

will help. Beneficial electrification (BE) can help here in that it can balance the load through things like rate design (time of use rates) and peak power management. BE in the home can reduce costs and emissions. Power companies are starting to train tradespeople to install things like heat pumps. Outdoor equipment that are electric can be incentivized by local governments. SMPA provides rebates for this type of equipment.

Discussion:

Battery disposal is an issue. Manufacturers warranty batteries for 8 years and they have a second life. So, we need to incentivize manufactures for addressing second life and end of life. There is a federal push on this. Will need a real battery recycling industry.

When a person buys an EV, their old gas engine car gets sold and used. Cash for Clunkers is the closest thing we have now to get those off the road. A decrease in mechanics and gas stations will accelerate the retiring of gas vehicles.

Can the grid support a transition to heat pumps in a town like Telluride? Upgrading sub stations is expensive but will be needed to accommodate this transition as well as flattening the curve of demand.

#### V. **Local Wildfire Mitigation**

*Megan Eno, Norwood District Ranger, USFS*

*Stewart Robinson, Fuels Program Manager, USFS*

This valley used to be isolated from wildfire risk but that has changed. The tools available are prescribed fire and cutting trees. When talking about local wildfire risks, she encourages CAST to educate their constituents that these two tools are critical to protecting our communities. Megan recognized the great partnerships she has with local governments. Tel Ski has a vegetation management plan. They've been doing some forest management work around the spruce beetle and working closely with the ski area here via Cooperative Agreements. They work with Colorado State Forest as well. Fir Beetle is another pest. Heli-logging is utilized as a "light on the land" approach. Much of what they pull out doesn't have economic value so is burned. Stewart Robinson talked about local wildfire mitigation efforts. They are starting discussion about reducing wildfire risk on a steep slope near Mountain Village. USFS is planning proactively to deal with these larger and hotter fires. They are predetermining where they want to do mitigation to avoid these large fires with limited risk to personnel. They are pulling science, research, and models into the art of fighting wildfires. These models show the highest risk areas which directs their mitigation work. The models also show the level of risk to infrastructure and personnel. Conditions and fire behavior is changing and surprising everyone.

Discussion:

-Pitkin County uses Artificial Intelligence for wildfire detection.

-As NEPA review evolves they will likely better-consider carbon emissions on things like pile burning. USFS will likely get better at this in the future.

-Planting more diverse species is another tool.

-Megan can see a change of acceptance from managers and elected officials, but the public sentiment is still tough. The public doesn't want to see logging trucks or prescribed burns. There is a shift, but a slow one which is why she pleads with community leaders to direct this conversation.

-Local efforts on private land: Basalt is offering to haul away and chip slash from residents. Fire districts are doing fire mitigation plans on private property.

-Near Monarch, a new style of vertical mitigation with tethered logging tools is being utilized. It reduces impacts to soil and vegetation. It is a collaboration with municipal, county, forest, and water district.  
-Vail is working on an EA for mitigation on Wilderness Areas and asked about the USFS broadening potential treatments. Megan Eno said she does not expect a change in allowance for mechanized tools in wilderness areas.

#### **VI. HB 21-1162 & Single Use Plastic Actions, Todd Brown, Telluride**

Ten years later, it is clear that Telluride's plastic bag ban was successful, and compliance is high. HB21-1162 bans plastic bags and Styrofoam takeout containers beginning in 2024. Mayor Young was a strong proponent of this bill. Now that pre-emption is removed for local governments., local communities are allowed to be stricter than the State.

Telluride is next looking into bans on single use water bottles and straws. Also, Telluride might be an early Guinea pig for a re-usable takeout container system. Avon sees HB1162 as a step forward although they hate to wait until 2024. Avon adopted an ordinance that kept their current bag ban in place. The ordinance was amended to redefine their plastic bag ban and adopted polystyrene language from the bill as they worried about litigation. They have also looked into a styro compacter. Avon thinks a single use bottle ban is a worthy next step. Park City has an equity project that shows that the Hispanic population doesn't trust local water, so some outreach is being done there. Crested Butte public health inspectors got a concerned call about water stations being down and guests saying they didn't know where to get water. Steamboat Springs has a ban on plastic bottles and cans to reduce litter on the river. A \$5 fee is charged on the sale of innertubes. That will drive floaters to commercial outfitters that have more durable innertubes.

#### **VII. Business & Updates**

- The March 2021 Meeting Minutes were unanimously approved.
- Associate Member Application: Copper Mountain Resort Association. Todd Brown made a motion to approve Copper Mountain Resort Association's application. Jane Templeton seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Legislative Advocacy Policy- The board reviewed our current policy which is dated. We will update that policy and bring it back to the membership.
- Mayor Andy Beerman encouraged all to attend the Park City CAST meeting October 21-22.
- Other Business  
USPS: Sen. Bennet's office is engaged on the USPS service issue. Summit County published a phone number in the local paper and encouraged citizens to let their feelings about the level of service be known. This resulted in USPS meeting with Summit County and another meeting is scheduled.

For those sticking around, there is live music today at The Transfer Warehouse for a \$10 donation.

Thank you to Telluride for hosting!

*The meeting adjourned at Noon.*