

**MINUTES of
RMC EX COMM MEETING
Saturday, April 11, 2009
Primrose Studio, Fort Collins**

PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

1. The meeting was called to order by Chair Jenny Kedward. All persons present were asked to introduce themselves and to answer the question: "What is an activity or interest that other Ex Comm members might not know about you?"

Groups represented:

Blue River Group (Rick Warren)
Enos Mills (JoLynn Jarboe)
Indian Peaks (Bill Roettker)
Pikes Peak (Kirby Hughes)
Poudre Canyon (Will Walters)
Roaring Fork (Mark Stevens)
South Platte (Mike Mueller)
Trappers Lake (Rich Levy)
Uncompahgre (Eric Rechel)

Not represented:

Mount Evans
Rachel Carson
Sangre de Cristo
Weminuche

At-Large Members present:

Rebecca Dickson
Becky English
Jenny Kedward
Gary Lindstrom
Myrna Poticha
Steve Welter
Maggie Pedersen

Others present:

Peggy Malchow Sass, Chapter Secretary
Robyn Fugett, Chapter Director
Katie Case, Chapter Coordinator
Dave Hawley, Outings Chair
Tony Ruckel, Legal Committee
Roger Singer, Southwest Office, for Session II
Mark Collier, Treasurer, for Session V
Alan Apt, PCG
Eric Levine, PCG

2. Corrections and Approval of January 2008 Ex Comm minutes

It was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes, with the correction of the motion in item 11 to read: "It was moved, seconded, and passed that we urge Xcel to close the Valmont *and Cherokee* power plants."

3. Modification and Approval of Agenda

It was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the agenda as presented by the Chair, with the modification that the discussion of the proposed Roan Plateau would be conducted in executive session.

4. Report on Online Polls

Ex Comm votes:

Contract with Joe Santerella for Steel Mill Air Permit review: Approved January 21, 2009, with 14 affirmative votes, and one at-large member and four group delegates not voting.

Oil and Gas Rules Endorsement: Approved February 2, 2009, with 12 affirmative votes and two At-Large members and five group delegates not voting.

Administrative Committee votes:

Early endorsement of Ft. Collins City Councilman Ben Manvel and Kelly Ohlson: Approved February 2009, with three affirmative votes and two not participating.

Endorsing three candidates (Steve Szabo, Roger Alexander, Jan Peterson) for the Poudre Valley Rural Electric Association (PVREA) board of directors Approved February 21, 2009, with three affirmative votes and two not participating.

Endorsement of Mike Galvin for the Intermountain Rural Electric Association (IREA) Board election: Approved March 7, 2009, with three affirmative votes and two not participating.

Appointment of Dave Hawley as the new RMC Outings Chair: Approved March 11, 2009, with five affirmative votes.

Endorsement of Dale Lockwood for Fort Collins' City Council District 3: Approved March 13, 2009, with five affirmative votes.

Endorsement of Tim Griggs for Fort Collins Mayor: Approved March 23, 2009, with four affirmative votes.

SESSION I – PRIMARY BUSINESS

5. Appointment of Election Committee

The relevant section of the Bylaws provides:

4.4 Election Committee. An Election Committee of at least three Chapter members, at least one not an ExCom member, shall be appointed annually by the ExCom prior to the scheduled date of mailing of ballots. No candidates may serve on the Election Committee. The Election Committee shall cause the ballots to be prepared and mailed, and shall count the returned ballots. Challenges of the conduct of candidates or their campaigns shall be referred to the Election Committee. Decisions of the Election Committee may be appealed to the ExCom.

It was moved, seconded, and passed to appoint JoLynn Jarboe as Chair of the Election Committee, with JoLynn to recruit two additional members, who would then be approved by the Ex Comm.

6. Appointment of Nominating Committee

The relevant provision of the Bylaws provides:

4.2 Nominating Committee. A Nominating Committee (NomCom) of at least three Chapter members, at least one not an ExCom member, none of whom may be a candidate, shall be appointed annually by the ExCom not later than four months before the designated closing date of the election. Sufficient opportunity shall be given for Chapter members to submit names for consideration by the NomCom. The NomCom shall attempt to nominate at least two more candidates than the number of ExCom members to be elected, and shall report the nominees' names to the ExCom at least two weeks before the deadline for submission of nomination petitions and five weeks before the scheduled mailing of the ballots. Nominees shall be Chapter members who give their consent. If the NomCom chooses not to nominate a willing candidate, the NomCom shall promptly inform that candidate of the opportunity to seek Nomination by petition.

It was moved, seconded, and passed to appoint Bill Roettker as chair of the Nominating Committee, with Kirby Hughes and Peggy Malchow Sass as members of the committee.

7. Appointment and Confirmation of Members of the Administrative Committee

The resignation of Mike Mueller as a member of the Administrative Committee was accepted by the Ex Comm. To fill the vacancy left by the resignation and to clarify and confirm action taken at the January Ex Comm meeting with respect to membership on the Administrative Committee, it was moved, seconded, and passed that the members of the Admin Committee are the Chapter Chair, the Chapter Vice Chair, the Chapter Conservation Chair (with Kirk Cunningham, Conservation Co-Chair, as the Co-Chair designated to sit on the Administrative Committee), Maggie Pedersen, and Myrna Poticha.

8. Approval of New Conservation Committee Members

It was moved, seconded, and passed to approve Todd Sanford as Wilderness Chair, and to support the Conservation Co-Chairs' appointment of Jason Wells as an Issue Specialist for Great Outdoors Colorado.

9. Roan Plateau Settlement

The Ex Comm went into executive session for a report on and discussion of a proposed settlement position. Then in open session it was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the settlement position on the Roan Plateau litigation presented by counsel, with a request that counsel investigate the possibility of the Sierra Club's continued involvement as a cooperative agency in the environmental assessment process.

SESSION II – ORGANIZATIONAL

10. New Chapter Coordinator

Robyn introduced Katie Case, our new Chapter Coordinator, and provided a brief background on her qualifications.

11. New Outings Chair

Dave Hawley was introduced as our new Chapter Outings Chair. Dave gave a presentation about his objectives and plans for the Chapter Outings Program.

12. Chapter Report and Q&A:

Robyn reported on staff activities for the first three months of the year, which have included volunteer recruitment and development, lobbying at the Legislature (including the successful use of Convio for action alerts to members), and the March Appeal. A request was made by a group delegate that information for the March Appeal be provided to groups in a timelier manner, so that groups who use the March Appeal to raise money have time to do so. Robyn mentioned some new developments at the office, especially the re-location of Jonah Fruchter of the Western Regional Office to our office.

13. Presentation on how HELEN can help your group

Katie Case gave on presentation on HELEN, which is a powerful online database allowing us to retrieve targeted information and contact potential volunteers with an expressed interest. Everyone can use it, but everyone needs to input information in order for it to be useful. Information on HELEN needs to be complete, accurate, and current.

SESSION III – CHAPTER TRAINING

14. State of the Chapter Assessment

Robyn and Katie facilitated a group exercise to evaluate the Chapter in four general areas:

- Advance the Club's mission
- Effective governance and fiduciary oversight
- Provide service to members, supporters, and the public
- Building local resources

SESSION V – FINANCIAL MATTERS

15. Treasurer's/Financial Report

Mark Collier discussed the Balance Sheet and the Budget vs. Actual Statement so that we could see our current financial picture. He highlighted the following areas:

- We've received about \$4,200 so far this year in the "National Deferred Giving (c4)" category. We had budgeted to receive nothing, as national was supposed to have eliminated that category in 2009.
- Jonah Fruchter is moving into the office space formerly occupied by the Latina Initiative and will pay us the same rent, so we are still on track to bring in the budgeted amount for "Rental Income" this year.
- The March Appeal expenses appear to have come in significantly under budget (\$3,836 actual vs. a budgeted amount of \$8,300). Mark has requested that Robyn and Katie verify that all the bills have been paid and are categorized correctly.

- We decided to subscribe to the Convio service at a cost of \$600 per quarter. We did not budget any money for that purpose. The Executive Committee needs to vote on this change to the FY 2009 budget.
- The amount budgeted for the web server for 2009 was based on the assumption that volunteers would help move the Chapter's web site to a cheaper server by April 1, so that we'd make one quarterly payment at the old rate, then drop to a much cheaper rate for the rest of the year. Unfortunately, the volunteer effort has not materialized and we are on track to keep spending \$750 per quarter for our server until that change can be made.
- Our Sierra Club Foundation account continues to see a build-up of c3 funds, while we spend more c4 money on normal operations than we receive each year, a situation we obviously cannot sustain.

SESSION VI – CONSERVATION MATTERS

16. Conservation Report

Kirby Hughes, Conservation Co-Chair, reported that the Conservation Committee is working on its priorities for effective communication and training. Kirby provided updates on the status of mining, oil, and gas matters the committee has been working on, particularly the passage of HB-1292. Kirk Cunningham and Myrna Poticha wrote letters for and testified at the Cherry Creek Reservoir water quality hearing, Kirk and Ross Vincent are working on the Water Sentinels program, and Mike Mueller is reviewing the EIS for the Chatfield water allocation. 250,000 additional acres in Colorado received wilderness protection under the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009.

17. Cool Colorado Update

Becky English reported on the progress of the Cool Cities campaign. Myrna Poticha reported on finding sponsorship for the resolution, getting the resolution passed in the Legislature, and holding the press conference. Katie has prepared a CD Tool Kit for Cool Colorado (and the CD also includes an updated Ex Comm Tool Kit).

18. Population Campaign

Kelly McNicholas gave a presentation on the Sierra Club's Global Population and Environment Program. Population and consumption both affect the environment, including global climate change, forest destruction, and water use. The Club's program is based on the premise that population needs to be addressed globally with family planning and sex education programs. The program's slogan is: "The fate of the world is in your hands . . . and in your pants."

SESSION VII - GROUP & SECTION & CCL REPORTS

19. Legislative Report

Gary Lindstrom reported on activity of the Legislative Committee to date during the 2009 legislative session. Robyn pointed out that the Legislative Committee often uses the issue chairs on the Conservation Committee as resources for input on bills.

19. Western Regional Office (formerly Southwestern Regional Office) Report

Roger Singer said that there is no longer a Southwest Region, as regions have been reconfigured to only three in the US: Eastern, Heartland, and Western. The consolidation reflects the fact that Sierra Club as a whole needs to implement cost-cutting measures everywhere. Although restricted funds are reasonably healthy, those funds must be used for specified purposes and not for general club operations. So staff is now spending more time on specific programs and less time on general conservation work.

20. Group Reports

Group Reports were omitted in the interest of time. Group Reports have been distributed on the Ex Comm listserv.

FINAL BUSINESS

21. Final Announcements

The next Ex Comm meeting will be July 11-12, 2009, and will be hosted by Trappers Lake Group in Steamboat Springs. The October meeting is scheduled to be hosted by Mount Evans Group, but that location has not been confirmed; further information will be coming.

Greg Casini has put together a chairs training available online to be offered over a period of weeks. It is available to all Chapter Chairs and group chairs. More information will be coming about signing up for it.

The Chapter is seeking someone to videotape the training in July. Please call Katie at 303-861-8819 at the office if you are able to help.

22. Adjournment

It was moved, seconded, and passed to adjourn.