SCCC Meeting Minutes 1.20.26
Basalt Library

Board members: David Chase, Sierra Flanagan, Martha Ferguson, Judy Frey, Jen Rupert, Jill Sabella, Pete McBride, Michael Kinsley

Board members on Zoom: Ned Andrews, Chris Collins

Guest: Jeffrey Woodruff, County Commissioner

CONSENT AGENDA
David moved to approve the Minutes of 12.17.25. Michael seconded. All in favor.

The Treasurer's Report showed a total in all funds of $21,152.14, with $14,094.14 in the Unrestricted Fund; $3,058 in the Dark Skies/WildSky Fund; and $4,000 in the Restricted Water Studies Fund.

ELECTION SLATE UPDATE & OFFICERS
Board members currently are: Ned Andrews, Sierra Flanagan, Jill Sabella, David Chase, Martha Ferguson, Judy Frey, Chris Collins, Jen Ruppert, and Stephanie Heineken. Jill moved to accept these members and Martha seconded. All in favor.
Sierra moved to accept four additional members who were previously on the Board - Michael Kinsley, Forrest Thomas, Pete McBride and Johno McBride. Martha seconded. All in favor.

As to officers: Ned and Sierra will co-chair together the president and vice president positions; Forrest will remain Treasurer; and Jill will remain Secretary.

BUDGET AND FUNDRAISING
It was agreed the accounting format needs tuning up for better clarification of monies and expenses in the different funds. Martha and Jill will confer with Kim Clinco, the accountant. The report will continue to be made quarterly and Forrest's responsibilities will be reviewed. Jeffrey commented that the County will be gifting $1,800 to all caucuses as its annual gift, three times what was preciously done. Sierra said that fundraising should be a priority this year and Martha offered to lead that effort and in more creative ways. She suggested approaches like combining Dark Skies educational events with fundraising, and even events like the annual spring roadside cleanup could have a matching fund campaign. Sierra also stressed that the Board needs to be more mindful in the future about spending money, and that any expense over $500 needs board approval.

VISION 2050 COMMENTS
Jeffrey stressed that the Caucus send their comments - which were drafted in November 2025 - to the BOCC as soon as possible since some of the new ideas are not currently in the 2050 plan.

Jeffrey spoke on the three largest issues in the 2050 draft: water, wolves and wildlife crossings/ connectivity. It's important for us to get our comments to the P&Z because they are the deciding group.
Pete talked about how the Colorado River water issues are in a state of chaos among the involved mountain and desert states. There are no agreements, only discord. We are in the third decade of drought and potentially the driest in history. We are in either a "drought or in an extreme drought", and that Gov. Polis wants to take decision-making away from the localities

and give it to big business. We are currently at 56% of local snowpack and even if we get any large amounts of snow this spring, when it melts it will run off rather than sink in.
Ned added that there's too much evaporation (10%) in Lake Powell and Lake Meade, and that most often the hydroelectric dam industry claims there's more water that actually exists in order to get more funds to build dams.

COLORADO WILDFIRE RESILIENCY CODE

David briefed us that the County and Caucuses will be needing to comply with a state Colorado Wildfire Resiliency Code that was first adopted by the state in July 2025. The updated codes will go into effect late April or early May for new building permits and land use applications and will regulate compliance with state standards and booster local protections where needed, with a guide for defensible space and structure hardening. However, the code has not yet been sent out publicly, so at this time we wait for more information, but compliance will be mandatory, or fine applied. The severe water shortages are making these stringent codes necessary to help control wildfire possibilities.
But for now any new construction or remodel will have to follow the code since it will be added to county building codes and land use codes for parcels 35 acres of less, except ag buildings. Nicole Rebeck-Stout, deputy director of Pitkin County Community Development is the person to address any questions/info to.

Jen stressed that we need to make the entire RF valley community aware of the coming wildfire danger - to protect homes and conserve water in any way possible. Sierra suggested the Caucus do publicity and host a talk at the library. Jeffrey talked about the reclading of home exteriors using materials like metal and a fiber cement for wildfire resistance exteriors.

NEW BUSINESS

The Dark Skies final approval had a few delays and clarifications to make, but on February 5th the final approval should be made. Martha said the dark skies effect is making a difference to the planet and our local area. David said when the final approval is given to us, we should do some major publicity and tie it to fundraising. Also the two mandatory educational presentations should have fundraising aspects.

Jen moved to adjourn. Pete seconded. All in favor.