

August 10, 2023 REAP Minutes

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Kirk Holwell, at 12:04 pm.

Meeting Attendance

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|-----------------|---------------------|
| Becky Zierer | Doug Claussen |
| Kirk Holwell | Kevin Hougen |
| Tom Turrell | Carrie Bonds |
| Ethan Rouse | Scott Thomas |
| Donna Sus | Debra Deines |
| Greg Thompson | Lucas Workman |
| Holly Swain | Michael Papaianopol |
| Kip Cheroutes | Peyton Dillingham |
| Isis Rojas | Ian Foose |
| Sherry James | Gary May |
| Nathan Sumner | Steven Hayes |
| Sydney Oberdorf | |

Attending through TEAMS

Jep Seman
Nichole Harrell

Approval of Minutes

The July 13th minutes were approved as submitted.

Chairman's Report

Nothing to report

Program

Scott Thomas, Byers High School Social Studies teacher & coach for the Knowledge Bowl Team, gave a brief talk about the Knowledge Bowl Team. This is the 5th year for Thomas at Byers H.S. They have started a group for Middle School in addition to the High School team for a total of 15 students. The school has helped with purchasing a buzzer system for the team. The original 2 students who started with Knowledge Bowl were present, Michael Papaianopol & Sydney Oberdorf. The team has qualified for State & Nationals 2 years in a row & compete in meets around the I-70 corridor & eastern Colorado. The National competition was in New Orleans this year where 40 teams from all over the country competed. Knowledge Bowl questions cover a wide variety of topics. There are pre-determined questions that the students can study for. Knowledge Bowl prepares the students to perform under pressure, helps with their confidence & how to work as a team. The school helps fund the program & the team holds fundraising events to pay for their expenses. The events are attended by a large cross section of the community & the main spaghetti dinner event makes \$3,000-\$4,000 through donations. They offer several different types of events to help raise funds & try not to compete with other school clubs & groups with fundraising. Grants seem to be difficult to find to match funds earned, & Scott has little time to submit grants because he is very busy with teaching. The culture created by the Knowledge Bowl Team helps students perform better on college entrance tests & to get into the Gifted & Talented program. Advertising for the meets & fundraisers is done through FaceBook & the I-70 Scout.

Michael & Sydney have been in Knowledge Bowl since the 7th grade & are thankful for the experience it has provided for them. Because of Knowledge Bowl, Michael wants to pursue a career in pediatric medicine. Sydney is interested in pursuing a career in forensic medicine. They both have a curiosity for learning & do a lot of reading which prepares them for the meets. Being on the team has helped them network with other students & develop a cultural awareness. When in New Orleans, Michael was very interested in the architecture & Sydney liked the historical parts of the city.

Following the presentation from Scott, Michael & Sydney, 3 teams were formed to play a mock Knowledge Bowl with meeting attendees & the students.

Executive Director's Report

Kip applauded the working stoplight in Bennett which REAP played a part in getting installed. The State determined that Byers Water & Sanitation District is ineligible for a grant to make water construction improvements due to the median household income. The State is now currently reviewing how the determination was made & if there were errors making the BWSD in fact eligible.

Deer Trail trustees approved a marketing plan developed by REAP for their soon to be installed EV charging station which will be operational by the end of September. REAP will stimulate economics for the small businesses near the station & organize an event for the first EV charge.

Arapahoe County is conducting a fiber study which REAP will participate in by being on the advisory committee. The study will start in the fall & anyone who has a need or knows of a need for fiber optics is encouraged to reach out to the County. REAP is also involved with a water study which is halfway completed as well as an EV roll out plan.

The September meeting speaker will be Arapahoe County Commissioner, Jeff Baker. He will be speaking about policies for Arapahoe County open space & the status of road & bridge repair post-flooding.

October will be a larger REAP meeting with invites to DNR & other water stakeholders to discuss/explore aquifers, water laws, impacts & water preservation.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:08 pm.