

Attachment A
Meeting Summary
Regional Building Decarbonization Oversight Committee
Friday, April 11, 2025
Virtual Meeting Only – Hosted on Zoom

Members (or Voting Alternates) Present:

Steve Barr (Chair)	City of Littleton
Doug Rex	Denver Regional Council of Governments
Richard Kondo (Vice-Chair)	City of Northglenn
Nicole Speer	City of Boulder
Emily Baer (Alternate)	Town of Erie
Stephen Shepherd	Building Owners and Managers Association
Andrew Holder	Xcel Energy
Christian Willis	Colorado Energy Office
Shere Walker-Ravenell	Black Parents United Foundation
Stephen Douglas	Commerce City
Randy Drennan	Rocky Mountain Mechanical Contractors Association

Additional Alternates Present:

Ron Papsdorf (Alternate)	Denver Regional Council of Governments
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Public: None

DRCOG staff: Cam Kennedy, Robert Spotts, Chris Selk, Clay McCombe, Mac Prather, Greg Miao

Call to Order

Chair Steve Barr called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

Public Comment

Director Emily Baer inquired about a status update for the program. Mr. Robert Spotts replied that the CPRG program is now getting support from EPA headquarters. Federal funds are available to DRCOG and other CPRG awardees. DRCOG's first semi-annual report is due at the end of the month, and staff are nearing completion of that report. Selections are being made for multiple vendors. Additionally, the marketing services award has switched from Suple to Karsh Hagan. Lastly, additional staff will officially start on the CPRG team later this month.

Chair Barr asked why Suple had been replaced with Karsh Hagan. Ms. Chris Selk replied that Suple had concerns about paying for media buys upfront. Federally funded projects like CPRG are structured in a way that appears different from how Suple

imagined they would be. Karsh Hagan by contrast is willing to work within the parameters that DRCOG has been given.

Director Christian Willis inquired how DRCOG is tackling quality assurance requirements since candidly the EPA requirements appear to be quite challenging. Mr. Spotts replied that DRCOG's Quality Management Plan was approved by the EPA yesterday. It was a month-long process, but the staff was very efficient at working on revisions. Mr. Spotts suggested scheduling meetings with the EPA's Q&A team to ensure plans can get across the finish line.

Chair Barr asked that since the EPA has begun changing terms and conditions for grants awarded after specific dates, how is DRCOG going to respond? Mr. Spotts replied that the EPA has been unclear whether any project amendment or work plan modification could potentially put the CPRG program in jeopardy of cancellation. In response, DRCOG met with other CRPG awardees, lawyers, and environmental resource networks yesterday to have a candid conversation on how to handle the changing circumstances.

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The summary was accepted.

Discussion Items

Building Policy Collaborative Jurisdictional Support Grant Program

Greg Miao, Building Policy Program Manager, discussed that the Jurisdictional Support Program consists of \$34.8 million for sub-awards to DRCOG's member governments to increase staff capacity and provide other resources to help local governments achieve pollution reductions through implementing high-performance building policy, improving processes, and achieving high compliance rates. Staff have engaged with stakeholders to develop a proposed program structure that consists of DRCOG administering sub-awards to member governments through a formula grants program.

Director Stephen Douglas inquired if the jurisdictions have been involved in the process of determining funding amounts. Mr. Miao replied that there has been a great deal of outreach, and two upcoming meetings will present grant updates, so everyone remains on the same page.

Chair Barr inquired if staff have considered using singular capital projects as potential drivers. Specifically in terms of smaller municipalities and jurisdictions that are focused on particular priorities rather than broad-based policy changes. Mr. Miao stated that is not a concept the working group identified to drive policy change.

Director Emily Baer asked if the growth and projection predictions are the same as the data that jurisdictions have found. Mr. Robert Spotts replied that DRCOG's forecasts

are occasionally different from forecasts that jurisdictions have made for themselves due to the fact DRCOG is tied to the State Demographer's forecasting model.

Director Nicole Speer asked if there were enough responses from municipalities to feel comfort regarding the funding amounts and were differences in comfort with the current formula based on size or growth projections. Mr. Miao replied that DRCOG received 20 jurisdictional responses and while responses were not broken down by jurisdictions, the cumulative score was 4.5 out of 5. Indicating that by consensus jurisdictions are happy with the funding amounts.

Director Speer inquired that with federal priority changes, has DRCOG prepared for alternative ways to frame criteria. Mr. Miao replied that staff have had conversations with federal partners and might use metrics such as job growth or economic strength to address those concerns.

Chair Barr asked if the lowest tier of \$50,000 could potentially become \$100,000 since the current amount is possibly not viable to get contractor or consultant support and might not motivate smaller communities to make an application. Mr. Miao stated that staff did work deliberately to select distribution amounts that would prioritize participation in the goals of the grant and utilize the funding for the greatest regional benefit. Director Ron Papsdorf added there are opportunities for some smaller jurisdictions to combine their funds and coordinate on work through one contractor to assist them that will serve all of them and they can work with their county to assist in ways such as building inspections and associated work.

Incentive Program Considerations

Mac Prather, Incentives, Advising and Disadvantaged Communities Program Manager, informed the committee that staff is completing the evaluation of proposals for the administration of its Incentive and Energy Advising Program and will soon move into the detailed design of program offerings. The presentation addressed critical background information to level-set on typical user experiences and key considerations for program design decisions. The following topics will be addressed, and a discussion from all committee members is welcome to help reach a common understanding and generate ideas for DRCOG's staff and vendors during detailed program design.

Director Randy Drennan stated some contractors have had to tear out heat pump systems after installation either because they aren't effective at heating and cooling or they're inefficient from a utility and cost standpoint. It's vital to ensure this program isn't in the heat pump installation business but focuses instead on supporting diverse solutions to benefit people in the region, especially lower-income communities. Mr. Prather stated staff are working to transform buildings and keep operational costs low. This can be demonstrated by using the Energy Advising Service which will provide transparency when discussing heat pump conversion. The focus is on saving people money and providing cleaner air in their homes, not incentivizing equipment.

Director Douglas asked if DRCOG has been following a bill in Colorado's General Assembly that focuses on investor-owned utilities. Mr. Prather stated while he isn't aware of the exact bill in the legislature, he is familiar with the concept of on-bill financing which allows homeowners to use low financing rates to save on energy bills.

Director Douglas mentioned that while heat pump conversation is challenging, due to the increase in the usage of electricity, solar panels could be used to offset the increase in kilowatts being used and asked if perhaps those efforts could be promoted together. Mr. Prather reiterated the importance of quality installation of cold climate heat pumps and DRCOG is working with partners including Xcel Energy and the Collective Clean Energy Fund to collaborate on creating a reliable contractor list to ensure the contractors are fully trained and heat pump installations will pass scrutiny and testing.

Directors Shere Walker-Ravenell, Speer, and Willis had additional questions and were encouraged to put their messages in the chat so staff could answer those questions after the meeting.

Next Meeting – May 9, 2025

Adjournment

There were no additional comments, and the meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.