

**Attachment A**  
**Meeting Summary**  
**Power Ahead Colorado Oversight Committee**  
**Friday, December 12, 2025**  
**Virtual Meeting Only – Hosted on Zoom**

**Members (or Voting Alternates) Present:**

Nicole Speer	City of Boulder
Emily Baer (Alternate)	Town of Erie
Richard Kondo (Chair)	City of Northglenn
Andrew Holder	Xcel Energy
Doug Rex	Denver Regional Council of Governments
Shere Walker-Ravenell	Black Parents United Foundation
Sharnell Smith (Alternate)	Black Parents United Foundation
Steve Douglas	Commerce City

**Public:** Desmond Kirwan, Scott Hackel

**DRCOG staff:** Chris Selk, Cam Kennedy, Devon Reifsneider, Clay McCombe, Fernando Briones, Greg Miao, Andy Birkey, Mac Prather, Robert Spotts, Emily Loker

**Call to Order**

Chair Richard Kondo called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**November 14, 2025 Power Ahead Colorado Oversight Committee Summary**

The summary was accepted.

**Discussion Item**

*Innovation Pilot Program Updates*

Mac Prather, Incentives, Advising and Low-Income Communities Program Manager, introduced Desmond Kirwan from the Vermont Energy Investment Corporation, commonly known as VEIC, who discussed that DRCOG's \$6 million Innovation Pilot Grant Program will award average subgrants of \$200,000 to support community-driven innovations and small business-led projects. The goals are to:

- Demonstrate scalable solutions to persistent market barriers.
- Inform decarbonization decision-making with public data, analysis, and case studies.
- Support entrepreneurial approaches and underserved communities in adopting clean technologies.

Director Shere Walker-Ravenell inquired how this program will meet communities where they are, as referenced in the presentation. Desmond responded that Power Ahead Colorado has an ongoing engagement initiative, focusing on connecting with community-based organizations to ensure that as many valuable voices as possible are brought to the table.

Chair Kondo echoed a comment from last month's meeting and stated his hope for a demonstrator model that could help make this initiative feel more real for people, so it doesn't remain an abstract concept but instead has something physical to help build public confidence. Mac Prather replied that there is a possibility of doing some demonstration projects in a community building that could look essentially like a home tour to give people a real-world experience when it comes to heat pumps and similar technologies.

Director Steve Douglas mentioned that in Commerce City, a lot of homes were built in the 1940s and 1950s and don't have the capability of upgrading with this 2020s technology of electrification and heat pumps, so how will we ensure those residents are not left behind? Desmond replied that there is not a "one size fits all" approach to this program, and there are ways to ensure that this transformation with heat pumps and electrification can provide tangible benefits across the Denver Metro without leaving anyone behind.

Director Emily Baer inquired whether affordability will be factored into this, since a lot of times people have been promised great things with initiatives like this, and things haven't panned out. Desmond agreed that there is a fine line since the last thing we want to have happen is to encourage people to adopt electric technologies into their homes and then see their home expenses increase as a result. This won't be something that can be done with only a single pilot, but it will be factored throughout lessons learned on the ground to make this a reality.

## **Administrative Items**

### *Member Comment/Other Matters*

Chair Kondo noted that a new Vice Chair is still needed for this committee and encouraged those who are also members of the DRCOG Board to reach out if interested, so they can assume the role.

Next Meeting – February 13, 2026

## **Adjournment**

There were no additional comments, and the meeting adjourned at 11:04 a.m.