



COMMISSIONERS Corner

News & Updates from Grand County's Board of County Commissioners



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COUNTY ROAD 522 UPDATE

County Engineer **Tim Gagnon** gave a presentation to respond to residents' questions about the proposed County Road 522 / Fraser Valley Parkway project, and review next steps.

Commissioner Merrit Linke opened the discussion with a statement clarifying that the term "parkway" is a misconception. What is being proposed and discussed is a two-lane dirt County road. The route would not be an alternate to U.S. Hwy 40, but rather would serve as a local traffic artery to service the area's subdivisions.

Gagnon's presentation began with a brief history of the project - which began in the early 2000s with a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Wetland Permit application which stated the benefits as alleviating traffic congestion, safety and emergency response.

Since the wetland permit and right-of-way acquisition application process started nearly 20 years ago, two new developments have surfaced that are directly adjacent to the County Road 522 corridor. Gagnon noted the new developments will likely put additional pressure on existing infrastructure.

The presentation included a cost/benefit comparison between U.S. Hwy 40 and the proposed county road, and also the soft costs of doing nothing. Also covered were traffic analysis and answers to specific questions posed by area residents. Gagnon also took questions from the public who participated in person and via WebEx.

A motion for the County Manager to move forward with Task 2 Cultural Survey and perform a field inventory, which would require permission from landowners to access their property, not to exceed \$6,000, was approved.

To view the presentation: Click the **Agendas & Meetings** icon on the County's website homepage (www.co.grand.co.us), and select the July 13, 2021 County Commissioner agenda. To listen to a recording of the discussion: Click **Listen to Meetings** on the homepage, and select the Audio link next to the July 13 meeting.

*Thank
you!*

Road & Bridge Equipment Operator **Russ Bateman** and Juvenile Services Director **Kelly Friesen** were recognized for **25 years of service** to the County.

Bateman lives in the Kremmling area with his wife, and enjoys camping, hunting and being out great outdoors. (He wasn't available for a photo with Commissioner Linke.)

Daughter of late County Manager Lurline Underbrink Curran, Friesen was born in Grand County and raised with a deep love and respect for community service. She began her career with Road & Bridge, and when the Juvenile Services department was created in 2005, was appointed its Director. Friesen lives in Granby with her husband, six daughters, horses, dogs and cats.



Meeting minutes, support materials
and full audio are available at:
co.grand.co.us/AgendaCenter
co.grand.co.us/Archive

FIRE RECOVERY UPDATE

Emergency Manager **Joel Cochran** and Recovery Manager **Alyssa Ingles** gave an update about Southern Baptist Disaster Relief's work to date, and hazard tree removal:

- 28 debris removal jobs are 100% complete; 14 jobs remain and 6 new jobs have been identified
 - Availability of roll-off dumpsters has become a concern; SBDR has stated all debris removal work could be completed by the end of July, pending availability of roll-offs
 - Removal of hazardous trees is not in SBDR's scope of work; some have been removed in order to place dumpsters and keep volunteers safe
- OEM has been working with Road & Bridge and the Wildfire Council to identify areas of concern and mark hazardous trees for removal
 - The U.S. Forest Service flagged trees for removal, and crews from Grand Fire have been working to cut the trees flagged
 - OEM has had conversations with Team Rubicon regarding the potential of a large-scale tree removal project in September or October
 - OEM is gathering preliminary cost estimates for hazard tree removal

EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROJECT UPDATE

Assistant County Manager **Micah Benson** and Water Quality Specialist **Katherine Morris** gave an update about the efforts being made to intercept debris in waterways:

- Floating booms were placed at the east end of Grand Lake to intercept floating debris swept into the lake by heavy rainstorms
 - Two more booms will be installed at Willow Creek Reservoir (more than 90 percent of the Willow Creek watershed suffered damage in the East Troublesome Fire)
- Seeding and mulching projects are beginning this week in Area A, for which Northern Water is the sponsor
 - Material is being distributed using helicopters, much like how water is scooped and dumped on fires
- Project designs for the Drowsy Water and Smith Creek drainages are underway
- Teams have met with the Bureau of Land Management to initiate permitting and development of agreements



Save the Date **Monday, July 26 | 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. | Heckert Pavilion**
1025 Grand Ave., Grand Lake

Emergency Watershed partners are hosting a Watershed Recovery Town Hall to provide fire recovery updates and answer questions about the program status.



BUDGET WORKSHOPS: Public Health, CSU Extension, IS, Veteran's Services

In a previous BOCC meeting, Finance Director **Curtis Lange** asked Commissioners to host Workshops with each department prior to developing the 2022 budget. The purpose of the Workshops is for department heads to provide a high-level overview of changes they seek to make in their 2022 budgets.

Public Health

- Director **Abbie Baker** stated that she does not anticipate any significant changes for 2022
- Personnel costs may increase with cost of living increases, but no new positions are planned at this time; personnel hired to fill COVID needs may shift to other departmental duties as needed

CSU Extension

- Extension Director **Oliva Clark** stated she would like to fully fund the office's administrative position, and that funds will be needed for roof repair on the extension hall building and for vehicle maintenance
- Discussions are currently taking place regarding fee increases for use of all County facilities, including the fairgrounds

Information Systems

- IT Director & CISO **Thomas Johnson** stated he doesn't anticipate an increase in staff level, but would like to increase monetary investment in cyber-security and connectivity tools, including WiFi and a VPN for all County facilities

Veteran's Services

- Officer **Duane Dailey** stated he doesn't anticipate any changes in 2022; State funding for Veteran's Services is anticipated to remain the same in 2022

MANAGER'S UPDATE

County Manager **Ed Moyer**'s update included:

- Water update:
 - The Cameo call is on, and additional releases are being made from Green Mountain Reservoir and Williams Fork Reservoir. We may be approaching an artificial "peak" flow on the Colorado River at the Kremmling gage in mid-July due to the call. CPW lifted a voluntary fishing closure following the Cameo call.
 - Talking with US Fish & Wildlife Service on timing of 5412.5 AF pool release from Granby Reservoir; goal is to release 35 cfs on August 1 to maintain the current minimum flow of 75 cfs when the minimum flow decreases to 40 cfs. Keeping an eye on the stream temps on the Colorado River, between Windy Gap and the Williams Fork confluence, and might consider an earlier request of 5412.5 AF pool water.
- A resolution regarding the Fraser Pump & Pipeline Project (WPRA) is being prepared; bids and construction documents are being reviewed.
- The 2022 budget letter was sent last week:
 - The deadline for departments to submit their budgets is August 27
 - The Manager's Office and Finance will begin meeting with departments August 31-September 3; department heads need to contact the Manager's Office to schedule their budget review meeting
- Upcoming Agenda items:
 - EMS will provide a ballot initiative update July 20
 - A series of workshops to discuss Short Term Rentals will take place July 27 and August 10, ahead of the August 24 annual review.
 - A workshop to discuss American Rescue Plan funding is tentatively scheduled for July 27

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS...

- Weekly vouchers and wire payments were approved with no discussion. Finance Director **Curtis Lange** also noted that the County received an additional \$50,000 in CARES Act funds from the State, and that the County has been reimbursed by The Grand Foundation for survey work performed in the East Troublesome Fire region.
- Clerk & Recorder **Sara Rosene** reported that as of June 30, year-to-date revenue is 22% higher in 2021 than 2020, and also increased over 2019. The number of transactions performed by the department has increased, as has the average value of vehicles being registered.
- Human Services Director **Deb Ruttenberg** presented five CORE services contracts for approval along with an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) to continue participation in the Northwest Colorado Regional Collaborative for economic security programs; all were approved with no discussion.
- Assistant County Manager **Micah Benson** presented a contract with Project Resource Studios to perform marketing work related to drought education. (A grant from the Sonoran Institute in the amount of \$10,000 was previously accepted to pay for the marketing contract.)
- Sheriff **Brett Schroetlin** gave a recommendation to remain in Stage 2 Fire Restrictions; Commissioners agreed with his recommendation, and requested additional messaging from Public Information Officers regarding propane vs. wood fires.
- Treasurer **Frank DeLay** provided reports for the month ending June 30. Highlights included:
 - As of June 30, 94% of the 2020 taxes were paid. The office issued approximately 1,775 delinquency notices on July 1.
 - DeLay's request for approval to publish the semi-annual tax payments report was approved with no discussion.
- Appraiser **Larry Banman** gave a report on behalf of Assessor **Tom Weydert** of the Total Assessed Value of All Taxable Property in Grand County. The report included 2021 values of actual and assessed properties, and is available via the website. To access Support Documents:
 - Click Agendas & Minutes on the homepage (www.co.grand.co.us)
 - Select July 13, 2021 under County Commissioners
 - Click the blue "Click Here to Access Agenda Item Support Documents" link, and navigate to the 2021/July/July 13 2021 folder
- County Attorney **Christopher Leahy** is participating in discussions with the State regarding the distribution of settlement funds to counties following the announcement of a national settlement with Johnson & Johnson and three opioid distributors.
- **Following staff presentation and public comments, the public hearing regarding a Special Use Permit for Byers Peak Properties LLC Mobile Concrete Plant was continued. The continuation hearing is set for August 3 at 1 p.m.**

WRC: DIGITAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Economic Development Coordinator **DiAnn Butler** and representatives from the Wireless Research Center (WRC) presented a revised proposal for a digital workforce development center in the amount of \$60,000. (This was WRC's third presentation to Commissioners.) The motion to approve the request from WRC and enter into the services contract funded out of the Economic Development budget was approved 2-to-1.