



COMMISSIONERS Corner

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



Photo courtesy Magli Escobedo,
Public Health WIC Educator and Medical Translator

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Final agendas are posted by the Friday
ahead of Tuesday BOCC meetings at:
www.co.grand.co.us/AgendaCenter

COLORADO RIVER DISTRICT UPDATE

Representing the Colorado River District, board member **Mike Ritschard** gave the BOCC an update of water supply conditions for the Colorado River Basin, its sub-basins and related River District water enterprise operations.

Discussion included the District's work with the Natural Resources Anti-Speculation Task Force, and the disparity of land with water rights, and land without water rights.

Mr. Ritschard will be scheduling a second meeting with the BOCC to discuss Demand Management.



Aerial image of the Colorado and Blue
rivers near Kremmling courtesy the
Denver Post.

SHORT-TERM RENTAL WORK GROUP

Community Development Director **Robert Davis** updated the BOCC on the work to-date of a Short-Term Rental Work Group, which is comprised of County staff, property managers, and private citizens. The Work Group has outlined three goals:

1. Bring registration compliance to at least 90% of all Short Term Rentals in unincorporated Grand County by December 31, 2021.
2. Engage in a county-wide nexus study to define the effects of Short Term Rental saturation on the Grand County community.
3. Develop a process and expectations for safety compliance:
 - a. Establish requirements for inspections of residential units being used for Short Term Rentals in unincorporated Grand County.
 - b. Incorporate proof of inspection into STR licensing process.

As of September 7, Community Development has identified 951 Short-Term Rental units operating in unincorporated Grand County. Of those, 538 are licensed and in compliance with regulations; 413 are not licensed (non-compliant with current STR regulations).

Davis is working with Granicus platform Host Compliance to update the County's contract to include the platform automatically generating and issuing warning notifications to STR owners not in compliance, which will ultimately lead to the property owners being fined.

Commissioners agreed that the ultimate goal is compliance by property owners with STR regulations, and that a moratorium on new STR licenses was not necessary at this time.

OEM DEBRIS & TREE REMOVAL UPDATE

Emergency Manager **Joel Cochran** and Recovery Manager **Alyssa Ingles** gave an update about East Troublesome Fire debris and hazardous tree removal:

- The debris removal work performed by **Southern Baptist Disaster Recovery (SBDR)** is complete. During their time helping victims of the East Troublesome Fire recover, **142** SBDR volunteers sifted and cleared **83** structures of ash, performed **130** assessments, and racked up 6,500 volunteer hours. On behalf of the entire County: We can't thank SBDR's leadership and volunteers enough for the amazing, uplifting work performed in service to our Grand community.
- **Team Rubicon** - another entirely volunteer-based organization - is arriving Thursday to help cut and clear hazardous trees from **County Road 41 into the Trail Creek neighborhood**. Team Rubicon is a veteran-based organization, and is expecting to have between 55 and 75 military veteran volunteers helping each day through the weekend.



To learn more about Team Rubicon, visit www.TeamRubiconUSA.org.

EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROJECT (EWP) UPDATE

Assistant County Manager **Micah Benson** and Water Quality Manager **Katherine Morris** provided an update about Area B EWP projects:

- The Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) increased its funding by approximately \$3.4 million, bringing the total project cost for Area B to \$6.1 million.
 - Bids for the Drowsy Water project have been received and staff is in the process of selecting a contractor; bids for the Smith Creek project are due Wednesday.
- Morris asked for approval of a Watershed Recovery Coordinator contract not to exceed \$150,000 (which is 100% funded via grant), with a contract amendment changing required insurance coverage from \$1.1 million to \$1 million. The requests were approved as presented.
- Morris presented a letter for signature documenting 2021 temporary departure from the annual plan outlined in the Grand Lake Clarity Stakeholders Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as a result of the East Troublesome Fire. The letter was approved as presented.

COMPENSATION STUDY | SUMMARY

Earlier this year, the County contracted with Evergreen Solutions, LLC to perform a classification and compensation study for all Grand County positions. The study goals were to review the current system to ensure internal equity, and study peer organizations to ensure external equity.

Over the last several months, Evergreen met with employees, performed surveys and gathered data from employees and other municipalities (no private organizations responded to Evergreen's request for compensation data). In total, Evergreen reviewed 72 jobs, and collected responses from 24 (out of 26) peer organizations.

The market comparison found that - on average - Grand County lags the market in compensation by about 10%. The study also found that employees' actual average salaries were more than 10% behind the market.

Recommendations included adopting an updated pay plan bringing the pay plan from 90 grades to 30; slotting positions into the new grades to account for internal and external equity; and adjusting employee salaries into the new market-competitive ranges.

Staff recommended bringing salaries to Market + 1 Step, which would be an average salary increase of \$6,893 (excluding Grand County EMS). Commissioners supported the recommendation, and requested three additional pieces of information: Specifically which counties and municipalities pay on average higher than Grand, and which pay lower; inclusion of private-sector pay data; the high-level number if benefits are included (financial data presented was salary only and did not include benefits). A plan document will be presented to the BOCC at a later time for formal adoption.

2022 INSURANCE OPTIONS

In addition to the salary review, HUB International gave a presentation about rate increases and plan changes for the County's medical, pharmacy, dental, vision and other insurance programs.

The review included information about regenerative treatment and the North American Specialty Hospital (NASH), but those programs were not recommended at this time.

Commissioners approved all recommendations; communication to employees will begin later this month.

Open enrollment is scheduled for October 21 through November 15.

MANAGER'S UPDATE

County Manager **Ed Moyer** provided the following updates:

- Budget meetings with departments and the Manager's office will be complete by Friday afternoon, in preparation for budget hearings before the BOCC in October.
- Staff has received several public requests regarding a Special Use Permit for Byers Peak Properties LLC Mobile Concrete Plant. Community Development has drafted the resolution, and is waiting on final conditions to be met in order to bring the resolution before the BOCC for approval. Once approved, the resolution will be provided to the public.
- Manager Moyer presented land use agreements with the U.S. Forest Service to use the Fairgrounds and McElroy Field for the Black Mountain Fire Type 3 wildland firefighting team staging. Commissioners approved the agreement, and gave approval for the Manager to sign future land use agreements associated with fire activities.
- Regarding correspondence received from the Director of the Colorado C-PACE program: Manager Moyer has contacted the program Director inquiring about details. Commissioners gave direction for a Workshop to be scheduled to discuss the program in the future.
- Commissioners approved a letter to the U.S. Board of Geographic Names expressing opposition to changing the name of the Gore Range to the Nuchu Range.

ATTORNEY'S UPDATE

County Attorney **Christopher Leahy** provided the following updates:

- The BOCC approved a proposed amendment to the Runway Protection Zone Airport Easement that clarified the exact parameters of the easement at the end of the runway.
- Mr. Leahy presented details related to the Opioid Settlement Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) showing the process and municipalities involved to ensure settlement funds will be distributed to the communities for which they're intended.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

- Weekly vouchers and wire payments were approved with no discussion.
- Road & Bridge Superintendent **Chris Baer** requested approval of out-of-state travel for five R&B staff to travel to Moab, Utah to pick up salt in preparation for the winter season. **The request was approved.**
- Housing Authority Operations Manager **Sheena Darland** presented a contract to the BOCC sitting as the Housing Authority Board with Elevated Technologies LLC to maintain the elevator and platform lift at Silver Spruce Apartments. **Commissioners requested modifications to the contract, but approved the contract to be signed by the Chair outside of a meeting once the requested modification is made.**
- Public Health Director **Abbie Baker** asked for approval of two items. Sitting as the Board of Health, the BOCC certified that Baker is an authorized official of Public Health for Medicaid program administration purposes, and approved the extension of Dr. Selenke's involvement with Public Health related to COVID response. **Both items were approved.**
- Via email to the BOCC, Grand County **Sheriff Brett Schroetlin** recommended staying in Stage 1 Fire Restrictions, which the Commissioners supported.
- Information Systems Director and Chief Security Officer **Thomas Johnson** asked for approval to modify a services contract from requiring \$1.1 million in insurance coverage to \$1 million. **The request was approved.**
- EMS **Deputy Chief Allen Pulliam** presented Resolution No. 2021-9-1, approving Grand County EMS's renewal license to operate ambulance service within Grand County. **The Resolution was approved.**