



# Grand County

Colorado

FEBRUARY 8, 2022

## COMMISSIONERS Corner

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



Fresh February corduroy courtesy of **Winter Park Resort**.

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## COMMISSIONERS CALENDAR

**Feb 10** | Utility Coordinating Committee

**Feb 10** | Colorado Dept. of Transportation,  
Transportation Planning Regions  
Meeting

**Feb 11** | Colorado Counties, Inc. (CCI)  
Legislative Briefing

**Feb 12-16** | National Association of Counties  
(NACo) Legislative Conference,  
Washington, D.C.

**Feb 17-18** | Club20 Winter Policy Committee  
Meetings, Grand Junction

**Feb 17** | CCI Steering Committee Meetings

**Feb 17** | NACo West Region Regular  
Conference Call

[Click here to view the BOCC's full calendar.](#)

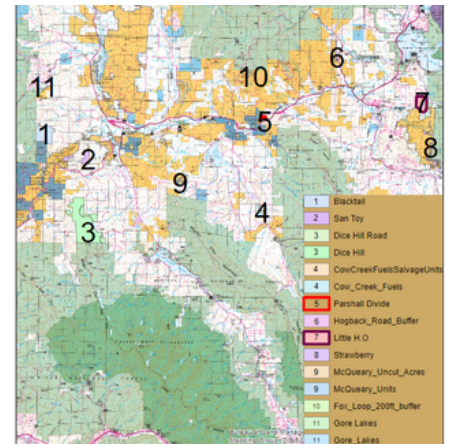


## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Newly appointed BLM Kremmling Field Office Acting Field Manager **Kyle Hensley** provided an update on several topics:

- **Blue Valley Land Exchange** - The Title Opinion is currently in legal review at the Federal level. Upon receiving approval of the Title Opinion by the State, BLM's current District Manager will make a final decision, opening a 45-day public comment period.
- **Wolford Mountain Special Recreation Management Area Draft Road Agreement** - The BLM is actively monitoring usage on Wolford Mountain, and will be proposing different plans for managing seasonal gates that would allow the public extended access to the recreational areas.
- **Three-Year Planned Fuels Reduction Projects** - BLM and the U.S. Forest Service are anticipating increased funding through the Infrastructure Act to perform fuel reduction projects in areas identified as high risk for wildfires.

Mr. Hensley also discussed the **Greater Sage-Grouse Management Plan**. The most recent plan was finalized in 2019, and the BLM has been instructed to update the plan again. The BOCC opted not to issue an opinion on the proposed plan update, pending additional information.



KFO Fuels Treatments 2022-2023

## BOARD BUSINESS

- **Senate Bill 22-029, Concerning Water Speculation in the State** (of Colorado). The bill is complex, but is aimed at prohibiting a purchaser of agricultural water rights that are represented by shares in a mutual ditch company from engaging in investment water speculation. The bill has been introduced by its sponsors to the current legislative session. Commissioners are reviewing the draft bill, and stated they want learn more regarding the Colorado River District's position prior to taking a position.
- Commissioners approved an out-of-state travel request by **Commissioner Cimino** to attend the National Association of Counties Legislative Conference February 12-16 in Washington D.C. Conference fees will be reimbursed by CCI; the County will bear some travel expenses.

# MANAGER'S UPDATE

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

- Nonprofit river conservation organization American Whitewater contacted the County Manager regarding the group's plans to advance proposed legislation related to designated recreation reaches of river and creating a legal mechanism to shepherd water to a recreational reach without it being a Recreational In-Channel Diversion (RICD) and building a whitewater park, etc. More information will be provided as the bill develops.
- Windy Gap Connectivity Project: Public Notices were posted on the County website, in the newspaper and in post offices and libraries regarding the public meeting and comment period for the Draft Watershed Plan and Environmental Assessment (Plan-EA) for the Colorado River Headwaters Connectivity Project (Project) within the Windy Gap Watershed in Grand County, Colorado. The Public Meeting will be held at 6 p.m. on February 22 at the Grand Fire Station in Granby. Click here for additional details.
- County Road 522: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and project consulting parties (Landowners, Grand County, State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Grand County Historical Association, and other interested parties) are finalizing comments regarding adverse effects and mitigation. A draft MOA, which will memorialize effects and mitigation, will be presented to the BOCC for review.
  - Pole Creek Valley Homeowners Association had previously requested a meeting with Commissioners to discuss CR 522 and its impacts. The meeting is tentatively scheduled as a Workshop on the BOCC's February 22 Agenda. BOCC concurred to having this workshop prior to any MOA review.
  - County Manager will be presenting a letter for the BOCC's consideration next week, requesting USACE extension of the County's 404 permit.
- Manager presented a letter and Resolution to partner with Grand Foundation to apply for and distribute the 2021/22 Colorado Opportunity Scholarship (COSI) Matching Fund Scholarship. Both the letter and Resolution were approved as presented with no discussion.
- Manager reported on the ongoing meetings he and Housing Authority Operations Manager **Sheena Darland** are attending with Winter Park, Fraser and Granby on the formation of a Multi-Jurisdictional Housing Authority in preparation for the March 7 meeting between said town boards, town councils, and County Commissioners of each entity concerning the topic.
- Manager discussed the proposed SB22-029 water speculation bill. BOCC directed the Manager to contact the Colorado River District regarding their position on the bill and their proposed amendments.
- Assistant County Manager **Micah Benson** along with Airport Supervisor **Josh Schroeder** presented updated requirements for hangar liability insurance. For four years, liability insurance required by the State was \$1.1 million; Commissioners previously approved requiring hangar lessees to carry \$1 million in liability insurance - waiving the \$100,000. The State's liability requirements were recently increased to \$1.2 million. Commissioners provided direction to continue requiring hangar lessees to carry \$1 million and waive the \$200,000.

## EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION | WELCOME & THANK YOU!

**WELCOME** to the following employees who joined the County in January:

**Grant Maki**, Emergency Medical Services  
**Conor McCarthy**, Emergency Medical Services  
**Taylor Lewis**, Emergency Medical Services  
**Erik Campbell**, Emergency Medical Services  
**Francesca Daniels**, Emergency Medical Services  
**Billy Harms**, Road & Bridge (Part-Time)  
**Helen Dubas**, Road & Bridge / Natural Resources

Grand County has openings in nearly every department. From law enforcement to social work to mechanics, **we need you!**  
To learn more about specific job openings and the benefits of working for Grand County, visit [www.co.grand.co.us/Jobs](http://www.co.grand.co.us/Jobs).

**THANK YOU** to employees celebrated anniversaries this month. **Thank you for your service to our County!**

**Cynthia Cappello**, Attorney's Office - 1 Year  
**David Buckley**, Road & Bridge - 1 Year  
**Alyssa Ingles**, Office of Emergency Management - 1 Year  
**Jessica Bertram**, Human Services - 1 Year  
**Todd Wilson**, Sheriff's Office - 1 Year  
**Jeff Bauckman**, Sheriff's Office - 7 Years  
**Brad Geist**, Road & Bridge - 7 Years  
**Kelly Oxley**, Sheriff's Office - 7 Years  
**Dustin Barbee**, Sheriff's Office - 8 Years  
**Chad Yurich**, Sheriff's Office - 10 Years  
**Michael Meindl**, Road & Bridge - 27 Years  
**Bob Florquist, II**, Court Security - 28 Years

# ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

## Accounting

- Weekly vouchers and wire payments presented by Finance Director **Curtis Lange** were approved as presented.

## Clerk & Recorder

Clerk & Recorder **Sara Rosene** gave a monthly report: January revenues in both recording and motor vehicle are down significantly from 2021. Most vehicle registration transactions are for used (vs. new) vehicles; real estate transactions also trended downward during the month of January.

## Veteran Services

Veteran Services Officer **Duane Dailey** presented an application for the Veteran Assistance Grant for fiscal year 2022; the application was approved as presented.

## Road & Bridge

R&B Superintendent **Chris Baer** presented a contract with Mountain States Snow Cat to provide snowplow services on County Road 83 in the evenings and overnight when R&B crews are unavailable. (Devil's Thumb Ranch approached the County asking if the Ranch can compensate Mountain States for the services provided.) The contract was approved to be signed outside of meeting.

## Airports

Airports Supervisor **Josh Schroeder** presented three items for approval:

- Ground Lease for Kremmling Airport FBO Grand River Aviation - **approved as presented**
- Commercial amendments for 2021 and 2022 - **approved as presented**



## Office of Emergency Management

Emergency Manager **Joel Cochran** presented a recommendation to update Grand County's Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). Updating the CWPP would include incorporating individual annexes for each of the County's Fire Districts. Mr. Cochran proposed hiring a qualified contractor to prepare the CWPP, with an estimated budget of \$120,000 to be funded by grants and contributions from Fire Districts. The estimated expense to Grand County for updating the CWPP is \$10-15,000. Commissioners provided direction to move forward with the process as presented.

## Grand County Housing Authority

Sitting as the Housing Authority Board, Commissioners approved an application for Exemption of Affordable Housing Transfer Fee for an applicant at Ranches at Devil's Thumb presented by Operations Manager **Sheena Darland**.



## Grand County Public Health

GCPH Director **Abbie Baker** gave a COVID update: The technical issues with Grand County's COVID dashboard have been resolved. Case rates have dropped dramatically, consistent with the State's trend. The County has zero current hospitalizations, and active outbreaks are expected to resolve in the next several weeks.

Discussion is taking place at the State CDPHE level regarding de-mobilizing COVID response, which could include mobile vaccine distribution and mobile test sites. [Click here to view a 9News story on the response changes.](#)

Travel and employment testing required by the State and Federal government are remaining in place at this time.

## Grand County Treasurer

Treasurer **Frank DeLay** gave an update on the County's funds and investments, along with property tax collection.

Through February 3, a total of \$5.5 million of property tax collections has been received, which represents about 8.7% of total taxes due.

It is anticipated that the Fed will increase interest rates between three and seven times throughout 2022.

Commissioners requested a workshop to discuss investment strategy next steps (COPs) related to future projects.

## **First Reading | Proposed Amended Prevention of Environmental Blight Ordinance #6**

The second reading of the Ordinance is scheduled for February 22, 2022 at 9:45 a.m. [Click here to read the ordinance.](#)

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### **Public Hearing: Amendments to the Grand County Zoning Regulations, Section 14.8 Short Term Rental**

Community Development Director Robert Davis and Short Term Rental Coordinator Christian Hornbaker presented proposed changes to Section 14.8 of zoning regulations related to Short Term Rentals.

Changes included:

- Short Term Rental Permits are required to be obtained on an annual basis **that will run from January 1 to December 31.**
- Primary and secondary local contacts may be contacted annually to verify their information.

**The Amendments were approved as amended.**