



COMMISSIONERS Corner

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

Rich Cimino | District 1
Merrit Linke | District 2
Randy George | District 3



Photo courtesy *Nina Wood & Grand Gazette.*

In this issue:

Kawuneeche Valley Restoration, Board Business

Manager's Update, 2023 Budget, WRC Update | Page 2

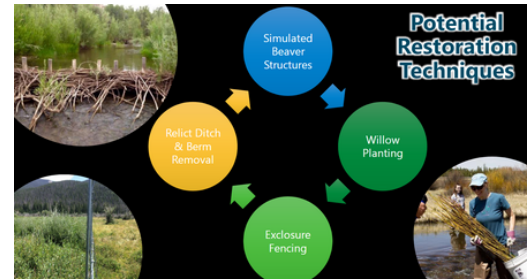
Additional Business, Community Development, IS Update | Page 3

KAWUNEECHE VALLEY RESTORATION

Water Quality Specialist **Kayli Foulk** gave a presentation regarding the Kawuneeche Valley Ecosystem Restoration Collaborative (KVERC).

The willowed areas of the valley have been heavily grazed by ungulates (moose and elk), to the detriment of the beaver population.

KVERC's mission is to implement restoration activities to help balance the ecosystem, increase the area's fire and drought resiliency, along with improving down-stream water quality. *Click here to view the full presentation.*



As part of the presentation, Commissioners approved a letter of support to the Colorado River Water Conservation District for KVERC to seek an Community Funding Partnership Accelerator Grant funding to fund survey data analysis and design drawings.

BOARD BUSINESS

Board of Health

A concerned citizen requested to meet with the Board of Health, which will be scheduled sometime in August.

Board & Committee Representation

With the recent appointment of Commissioner George to the BOCC, Commissioners are reviewing representation on regional and statewide boards and committees.

Winter Park Horseman's Association Invitation

The Winter Park Horseman's Association invited Commissioners to attend the July 30 High Country Stampede Rodeo and Appreciation Night / Country Dance, and graciously donated tickets for staff to attend the event. Commissioners thanked the Association for their generosity.



COMMISSIONERS CALENDAR

July 20 | CCI Wildfire Matters Committee (Denver)

July 20 | BOCC Bi-Annual Update to Town of Kremmling

July 21-24 | NACo Annual Conference (Aurora)

July 21 | LEPC meeting (Snow Mtn Ranch)

July 21 | AGNC Legislative Call

July 21 | Housing Needs Assessment Presentation (River Run)

July 21 | Peak Health Alliance Executive Committee (Conference Call)

July 22 | KVERC Field Tour (RMNP)

July 25 | Colorado Basin Roundtable (Zoom)

Click here to view the BOCC's full calendar.



988 is confidential, free, and available 24/7/365, connecting those experiencing a mental health, substance use, or suicidal crisis with trained crisis counselors.

Access is available through every land line, cell phone, and voice-over internet device in the United States and call services are available in Spanish, along with interpretation services in over 150 languages.

MANAGER'S UPDATE

County Manager **Ed Moyer**

- The Tabernash Meadows Water & Sanitation District has been working with property owners in old town Tabernash that would like central water only - which would require the District to expand its boundaries. The properties would pay their district mill levies for water only. Twelve properties are proposing inclusion into the District; Commissioners approved a letter to the District concurring with the expansion with conditions. Exhibit A (inclusion map) will be provided by the District.
- Contracts presented for janitorial services at the Judicial and Public Health buildings were approved as presented. Like Road & Bridge and other departments, the County's maintenance department is significantly understaffed, requiring the County to seek contract help for these services.
- A letter of support to the Colorado River Water Conservation District for Grand County Irrigated Land Company's Vail Ditch Conservation and Efficiency Project application for a Community Funding Partnership Accelerator Grant was approved as presented.
- The Business Correspondence Policy was approved as presented.
- Health Insurance Committee: Assessor **Tom Weydert** will be replacing Clerk & Recorder **Sara Rosene** on the committee.
- The Town of Winter Park has expressed an interest in taking part in discussions with DOLA regarding the Moffat Tunnel upcoming lease renewal.
- The Fraser River Valley Housing Partnership (FRVHP) Board of Directors will be hosting a meeting for elected officials of entities included in the IGA on Thursday to review the draft updated Housing Needs Assessment.
- Approximately 300 hours are needed to fully implement Acella building permit software. BOCC provided direction to move forward with a contract with [s]Cube to implement Acella. The software would allow for online submittals of building permits, and eventually the online submitting of plans.
- Windy Gap Connectivity Channel:
 - Colorado's U.S. Senators and Representative notified the County that NRCS authorized the project and approved funding. Once NRCS signs the construction agreement, Northern Water will issue a notice to proceed for the contractor.
- Manager will be attending the Grand Places 2050 meeting Thursday morning.

2023 BUDGET

As part of the 2023 budget process, each County department is giving brief Workshop presentations to the BOCC in July and early August to provide them with a high-level overview of their requests and needs going in to 2023. This week's presentations included:

CSU Extension

- Staff admin changes will have a small impact on the 2023 budget. Supplies and vehicle maintenance budgets are also anticipated to increase.

Human Resources

- Personnel expenses are anticipated to increase with cost-of-living increases. Grand County currently has 291 total active employees, including 42 election judges, part-time and full-time employees. There are currently more than 50 vacant positions.

Community Development

- 2022 year-to-date revenues and building permits were discussed. Recommendations will be made regarding Short Term Rental fees and the current tracking platform.

Treasurer's Office

- Foreclosures are anticipated to increase in 2022. The Treasurer intends to budget for furniture replacements and laptop replacements per IS's schedule.

Office of Emergency Management

- OEM will continue looking for grant funding opportunities, which - like in 2022 - may require matches from the County. Additional funds may be requested for the Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

Economic Development

- Director will continue to pursue grant funding opportunities, and doesn't anticipate significant budget changes year-over-year.

WRC UPDATE

Jeremy Kennell with the Wireless Research Center gave an update regarding the creation of digital training centers in Grand County.



DigitalBridge will provide free digital skills training, job pairing, and access to the Digital BPO to Grand County residents using the Grand County Library District's building and other County facilities. [Click here to view the full presentation.](#)

The MONDAY MILE

Join us Mondays at 12:15 outside the Admin Building in Hot Sulphur for a one mile walk. And if you're not based in Sulphur, hit the trail (or pavement) and send us your selfies!

A 30-minute walk, 3 times a week can help:

- Decrease stress
- Boost energy
- Ease joint pain
- Strengthen your heart
- Boost immune function

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

Accounting

Vouchers and wire payments presented for payment by Finance Director **Curtis Lange** were approved as presented.

Road & Bridge

Grand County Road & Bridge is soliciting bids for snow removal contracts for the 2022/23 winter season. R&B Superintendent **Chris Baer** requested direction regarding strategic use of contractors to assist with snow removal, as Road & Bridge remains significantly understaffed.

Discussions with contractors to date have been that they would be assigned a specific route and parameters for plowing based on their equipment and their own staffing levels. Commissioners acknowledged that this is an unorthodox - but necessary - plan, and supported Mr. Baer moving forward discussing terms with contractors.

Commissioners and County Manager would like to thank Road & Bridge operators for their work last winter, and reiterated that this action is not a reflection of the team's abilities, but is simply due to depleted staffing levels.

Emergency Medical Services

Chief **Robert Good** announced that **Deputy Chief Allen Pulliam** will be retiring this summer, and introduced **Captain Austin Wingate**, who will be appointed Deputy Chief effective August 30.

Chief Good also announced that EMS has been awarded and additional \$11,000 grants for staff continuing education. Year-to-date, EMS has been awarded more than \$330,000 in grant funding.

Sheriff's Office

Grand County **Sheriff Brett Schroetlin** updated Commissioners regarding fire restrictions: While we have experienced several small lightning strike wildland fires, conditions have proved that we are not favorable for fire spread. At this time, the scientific matrix indicates that the amount of moisture precludes fire restrictions at this time.

Sheriff Schroetlin also presented an amended contract with eForce Software, downgrading services for a term of one year to a Category B license. The contract was approved as presented.

Community Development

Community Development Director **Kristen Manguso** gave an update regarding the Cornerstone concrete batch plant. The plant's owner has complied with all conditions set forth by the BOCC, and the Special Use Permit will be presented for signature at an upcoming meeting.

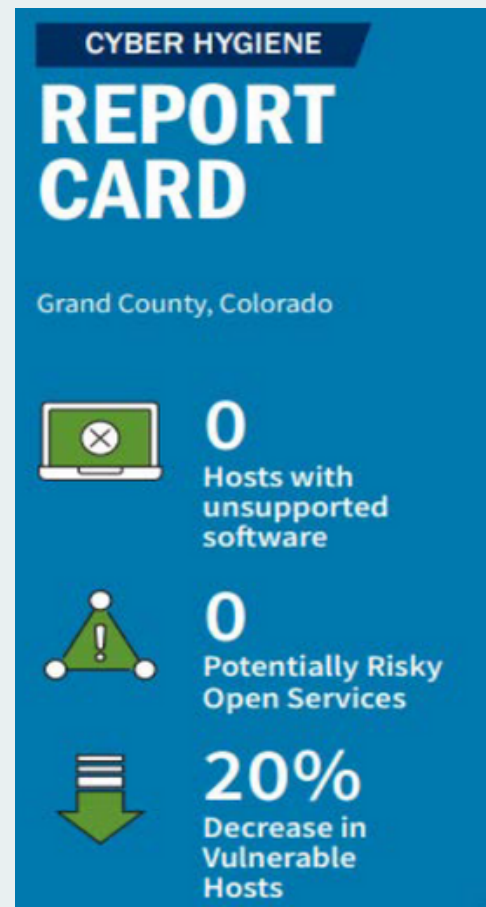
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Resolution 2021-9-40, Grand Gravel Special Use Permit Renewal | Approved.

INFO SYSTEMS UPDATE

Chief Information Security Officer and Information Systems Director **Thomas Johnson** gave a quarterly update:

- Ticket volumes have continued to rise as projects and deployments take place, and overall satisfaction remains high.
- Mr. Johnson encouraged department heads with questions or concerns about how new security measures may be impacting business to contact him to discuss.
- Simulated phishing attempts indicate that the County continues to be consistently above the industry average.
- About 50% of employees have completed the required annual cybersecurity training. **ALL EMPLOYEES: Please remember to complete your cybersecurity training if you have not yet done so.**
- Patching continues to remove legacy/unsupported platforms from computers to reduce the County's exposure to external vulnerabilities.



IS reminds everyone to
Stop, Look & Think
Don't be fooled.

If an email seems strange, ask questions before opening or clicking links and attachments.