



## *Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District*

210 West Spencer Avenue, Suite B • Gunnison, Colorado 81230  
(970) 641-6065 • www.ugrwc.org

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS** **AGENDA - REGULAR MEETING**

Monday, March 22, 2021

#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

To be an active leader in all issues affecting the water resources of the Upper Gunnison River Basin.

- 5:30 p.m. 1. Call to Order**
- 5:32 p.m. 2. Agenda Approval**
- 5:35 p.m. 3. Consent Agenda Items:** Any of the following items may be removed for discussion from the consent agenda at the request of any Board member or citizen.
- Approval of February 22, 2021 Minutes
  - Consideration of Operating Expenses
  - Consideration of Non-Operating Expenses
- 5:40 p.m. 4. Legal and Legislative Matters**
- 5:50 p.m. 5. Presentation by Ian Billick, Director of Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory**
- 6:15 p.m. 6. Break**
- 6:30 p.m. 7. General Manager and Committee Reports**
- Treasurer's Report
  - General Manager's Report
    - Action on Updated Policy on Board Committees
  - Watershed Management Planning Committee Update
  - Taylor Local User's Group Update
    - March 10 Meeting Summary
  - Basin Water Supply Information March 2021
    - Taylor Park Reservoir
    - Colorado Monthly Snowpack Summary
    - Cloudseeding
  - Upper Gunnison Water Monitoring Program Update

- Grant Committee Update
  - March 11 Meeting Summary
  - Action on Approval of Grant Committee Recommendations for 2021 Funding Awards
  - Action on Transfer of District Grant Funds to General Consulting for Engineering Support
- Education & Outreach Update
  - Memorandum on Website Renovation
  - Memorandum on Drought Campaign Action Plan
- Gunnison Basin Roundtable Update
- Scientific Endeavors
- Long Lake Stakeholders Work Group Update
- Gunnison River Festival Update

**7:30 p.m. 8. Demand Management Framework Update**

**7:45 p.m. 9. Miscellaneous Matters**

- Gunnison Energy Production - Solar Panels
- Newspapers and Other Water Articles

**7:55 p.m. 10. Citizens Comments**

**8:00 p.m. 11. Future Meetings**

**8:05 p.m. 12. Summary of Meeting Action Items**

**8:15 p.m. 13. Adjournment**

Note: This agenda is subject to change, including the addition of items or the deletion of items at any time. All times are approximate. Regular meetings, public hearings, and special meetings are recorded, and action can be taken on any item. The Board may address individual agenda items at any time or in any order to accommodate the needs of the Board and the audience. Persons with special needs due to a disability are requested to call the District at (970) 641-6065 at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.

# **AGENDA ITEM 3**

**Consent Agenda Items**

**Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District  
Regular Board Meeting Minutes  
Monday, February 22, 2021**

The Board of Directors of the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District conducted a regular meeting via Zoom video/teleconferencing on Monday, February 22, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

Board members present: Rosemary Carroll, Joellen Fonken, Rebie Hazard, Stacy McPhail, Julie Nania, Bill Nesbitt, John Perusek and Don Sabrowski.

Board members not present: Michelle Pierce and Andy Spann

Others present:

Bella Biondini, Gunnison Country Times  
Sonja Chavez, General Manager  
Cindy Dozier, Club 20  
Nancy Fishing, Concerned Citizen  
Emily Halverson, Assistant Attorney General  
Samuel Liebl, Gunnison Country Times  
John McClow, General Counsel  
Greg Peterson, Razor Creek Ranch  
Beverly Richards, Water Resource Specialist  
Bob Robbins, Concerned Citizen  
Jill Steele, Office Manager/Accountant  
Sue Uerling, Administrative Assistant

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Vice President Stacy McPhail called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**2. AGENDA APPROVAL**

**3. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

Director Bill Nesbitt requested the minutes be removed from the consent agenda items for discussion. Director Nesbitt and Director Rosemary Carrol requested that the minutes be amended at the top of page 8 (regarding grants) to read: "but the District's funding priorities may be dependent upon the types

of applications received in any given year.” Director Nesbitt also requested the minutes be amended on the top of page 15 to read “*New York Times*” article instead of “*Wall Street Journal* article.”

**Director Bill Nesbitt moved and Director Joellen Fonken seconded approval of the minutes with the amendments noted. The motion carried.**

Director Rebie Hazard requested that the Operating Expenses be removed for the Consent Agenda items for discussion. Director Hazard questioned the District’s payment of the personal cell phone bill for Water Resource Specialist Beverly Richards. General Manager Sonja Chavez said that with her promotion to Water Resource Specialist, Bev is expected to take calls outside of normal business hours and Bev will need to be available. Sonja explained that Bev’s personal phone plan works better for Bev at this time and that Bev is being reimbursed the same monthly amount as the District pays for the General Manager and General Counsel’s monthly cell phone charges. Beverly will make a full transition to the District phone plan in a couple of months.

**Director Rebie Hazard moved and Director Julia Nania seconded approval of the Operating Expenses as presented. The motion carried.**

#### **4. ELECTION OF BOARD SECRETARY**

A. Vice President Stacy McPhail reviewed the resignation letter submitted by former Secretary George Sibley and asked for nominations to fill the role of Secretary of the UGRWCD Board of Directors.

**Director Joellen Fonken nominated Director John Perusek to serve as the Secretary of the Board of Directors and the motion was seconded by Director Bill Nesbitt. Director Perusek accepted the nomination. The motion carried.**

General Manager Sonja Chavez reviewed the Board vacancy process which begins with advertising openings in April and the Board position being appointed by Judge Patrick in June each year. Since former Director George Sibley represented the City of Gunnison, Sonja spoke with the City administration about whether they wished to move forward with filling the vacancy now or waiting until June. The City was fine with coordinating with our annual process in June.

B. Vice President Stacy McPhail reviewed the Resolution commending George Sibley for his outstanding service and noted that George will be “dearly missed.”

**Director Bill Nesbitt moved and Director Rosemary Carroll seconded the motion to approve Resolution 2021-02 commending former Director and Secretary George Sibley for his outstanding service to the District and state water organizations. The motion carried.**

C. Vice President Stacy McPhail noted that with the Secretary serving as one of the authorized signors of checks for the District, Resolution 2021-03 would be required by the banks to update their records.

**Director Rebie Hazard moved and Director Bill Nesbitt seconded the adoption of Resolution 2021-03 amending the list of Directors authorized to sign checks for the District. The motion carried.**

## **5. LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE MATTERS**

General Counsel John McClow referred to his memo in the packet and noted that he has visited with Steve Anderson of the UFWUA and Steve has no concerns regarding the District’s proposed agreement with conditions for development of the hydroelectric generation facility proposed by Gunnison County Electric Association (GCEA) at the Taylor Park Dam. John has not heard back from Mike McBride with GCEA and will follow up with him.

John reported that the state legislature convened last week, but there are no water bills of interest to the District filed at this time. John will continue to monitor the sessions and will call the Legislative Committee to meet as water bills are proposed.

## **6. WATERSHED AND FOREST HEALTH**

A. Kenneth Hurst Williams with Lawrence Berkley National Laboratory gave a presentation titled “Science Updates from the Watershed SFA: Water Quality Findings Relevant to UGRWCD ‘Values & Risks’.” Ken focused primarily on Coal Creek and the Slate River and parts of the East River and Gunnison River. Ken and his staff have been taking samples several times a week to daily from Coal Creek and have found concerning high nitrogen content and other minerals in the samples. They have also found that the maximum temperature of Coal Creek has increased by an average of 2.1 degrees Celsius and the minimum temperature has increased by an average of 1.6 degrees Celsius

since 1980. Ken explained that their studies are still very much a “work in progress” in tracking possible sources for the elevated levels in Coal Creek and the Slate Rivers. Ken did point out they have not seen the same elevated levels in the East and Gunnison Rivers and said this might be due to the increased use of flood irrigation along these river corridors. Ken was asked if there could be a climatic trend affecting the levels and he answered that it is still too early in their studies to confirm the “smoking gun” of the possible sources.

B. Vice President Stacy McPhail referred to the memo she shared with the Board in the Board Packet. She said she came up with the values from the UGRWCD 2020 Mission and Values Statements. Stacy feels this framework is important for staff and contractors to use when considering grant opportunities that include both forest and watershed health components. She asked if this framework makes sense to the Board at large. Director Julie Nania said she feels it is important for the Board to assess our values first and then come up with associated risks. Julie said this will be the framework for deciding where to spend our energies and resources. Vice President McPhail encouraged attendance at committee meetings to have deeper discussions on important topics like this.

## **7. BREAK**

## **8. GENERAL MANAGER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **A. Treasurer’s Report**

Treasurer Bill Nesbitt reported that stocks continue to do well but bonds remain flat. Bill said the District has a CD coming up for renewal that was earning 2.8 percent, but he suspects we will not be able to get a rate as good as that at renewal. He will review options with Sonja for the CD when it comes up for renewal. Bill said that everything is stable for the moment and to “stay tuned.” No questions were raised.

### **B. General Manager’s Report**

General Manager Sonja Chavez referred to her memo in the Board Packet. With respect to the Spencer HOA meeting, she noted that she has signed a contract with Western Slope Foundation to address the foundation issues at the office complex when the weather allows (area under porch and concrete pad in the southwest corner. The District put down a deposit to secure a date for the work.

### **C. Upper Gunnison Board Committees**

General Manager Sonja Chavez briefly reviewed the Standing Committees and said that since former Director George Sibley was active on several of the committees, it will be necessary to find replacements for him. Vice President Stacy McPhail noted that since three board members must be present at committee meetings to take action, it is really important for Board members to attend the meetings.

General Manager Sonja Chavez reported that currently there is not a description for the Watershed Management Planning Committee in the Board committees' policy.

**Director Rebie Hazard moved and Director Rosemary Carroll seconded to direct General Counsel John McCloy to draft a description of the Watershed Management Planning Committee for the committees' policy document. The motion carried.**

General Manager Sonja Chavez noted that the "Administrative Committee" title is not clear that this committee deals with water issues and not office or organizational administration.

**Director Joellen Fonken moved and Director Julie Nania seconded to add the word "water" to the Administrative Committee title so that it will now be called the "Water Administrative Committee." The motion carried.**

Director John Perusek asked if the Board needs to fill the committee vacancies created by former Director George Sibley's resignation at tonight's meeting. General Manager Sonja Chavez said that it was not necessary at this time, but if a Board member wants to get more involved on any of the committees now to please let her know and that when a new Director is appointed as George's replacement, she hopes this person will fill some of the vacancies.

Vice President Stacy McPhail pointed out that the Watershed Management Planning Committee especially could use more help. Director Rosemary Carroll offered to fill in on the WMP committee at least until George's replacement is appointed. Rosemary stated that she will need to see how committee meetings work out with her work schedule before she can commit to serving on the WMP long term.

It was pointed out that Director Joellen Fonken should be listed on the Standing Committees roster as chair of the Grant Committee.



Director Don Sabrowski would like to be added to the Projects Committee.

#### **D. Watershed Management Planning Committee**

General Manager Sonja Chavez referred to the WMP memo in the Board Packet for complete details but said the District has just sent in a semi-annual WMP report to the Colorado Water Conservation District and hopes to provide reports more frequently, June and December each year. In addition, Sonja reported:

As part of the WMP process, Wilson Water Group is reaching out to all valley municipalities about what use needs.

A Watershed and Forest Health Sub-group has been established by the District. Dan Omasta of Trout Unlimited is leading the effort as a WMP coordinator. Ashley Hom from the US Forest Service is also working with the WMP on this effort. A sub-group of technical experts is meeting first to establish the state of our knowledge and the status of work done to date so that we can bring that information to a larger sub-group. The District's goal is to determine where we can collaborate with federal land management agencies in our forested systems to maintain or improve watershed health.

With respect to the \$180,000 grant awarded to the District from the CWCB Watershed Restoration Program for the *Upper Gunnison Water, Forest and Range Resiliency Project*, Sonja noted that this grant leveraged funding already budgeted in 2021 by the District on related studies and projects which allows the us to expand planned projects within our forested systems to have greatest landscape level, environmental and natural resource benefits.

Sonja reported that there will be a meeting with engineer Craig Ullman from Applegate Group this Thursday, February 25 at 1 p.m. to review the Ohio Creek sub-basin. Since this will be an in-person meeting, Sonja asked that Board members let her know ASAP if they plan to attend so that she can plan for Covid-19 social distancing protocol.

Sonja reported that she hopes to wrap up the grant application to the Colorado River District Partnership Project Funding Program by next week for the Single Point of Diversion Project. Since a requirement of the application is letters of support from the county, Sonja will reach out to the Gunnison BOCC for letter. She will also bring Kathleen Curry (Colorado River District Board Member representative for Gunnison County).

The next WMP meeting is on March 8 at 1:30 PM.

### **E. Grant Committee Update**

Water Resource Specialist said that the virtual informational training went over very well with eight people in attendance. To date, two grant applications have been received. The deadline for applications is Friday, February 26 at 5 PM. General Manager Sonja Chavez said that due to its success, the informational training session will be something we start offering annually.

### **F. Education Committee Update**

Water Resource Specialist Bev Richards reported that staff is very pleased with the AV system upgrade in the Board Room, particularly how easy it is to use. In addition, Bev said a revised outline of our website framework is being finalized with web designer Rob Strickland in order to make some changes to the backbone of the website which will make navigation easier and will make it easier for staff to maintain. As soon as the outline is complete, Rob will provide us with an estimate on what his charges will be to make the changes and train staff in the use of Elementor software.

Administrative Assistant Sue Uerling said that the District has received a number of potential drought slogans from the public, Directors and the staff. The list of slogans has been shared with the Education Committee and staff. Sue asked that anyone on the committee who has not voted yet, to please do so. Sue will tally the votes and share the winning slogan(s) with the entire Board.

General Manager said the recent WaterSmart meeting was very helpful in terms of where to focus our energy with regard to outdoor water use. Sonja said the municipalities said they might be able to help curb lawn watering with permanent residents but that many of the second homeowners use property managers to oversee their lawn irrigation.

### **G. Basin Water Supply Information**

Water Resource Specialist Bev Richards reported that it is still dry and looks to stay dry over the next several weeks. Snowpack has improved to 88 percent of average. The entire western half of the United States is experiencing drought conditions. Currently, the soil is testing dry to a depth of about six inches, so even with a normal snowpack, the runoff will likely soak into the soil before

hitting the streams. Cloud seeding has continued but they were not able to seed as much as they had budgeted for due to high avalanche danger. Director Rosemary Carroll reported that she has talked to a number of skiers in Crested Butte who think that runoff will be good because they are seeing a higher snowpack recently. It was discussed that the District should use social media and radio spots to get the word out about the true conditions of snowpack and runoff outcomes based on the drought.

## **H. Scientific Endeavors Report**

Director Rosemary Carroll reported that many of the scientific studies are currently in between seasons. She commended Ken Williams for the presentation he did on water quality. Rosemary said they would also be looking more into the effects of higher temperatures on water quality. Rosemary said there is an effort to move their radar station from the Vail/CBMR ski area closer to Coal Creek. General Manager Sonja Chavez said that she has not gotten a response from Vern Tharp of Western States Water Partnership about the possibility of doppler radar being installed in the basin. Director Carroll said she would reach out to him again. With regard to other scientific research and efforts going on in the valley, Sonja wondered how best to organize and facilitate collaborate among the various groups to share data and outcomes.

## **I. Long Lake Stakeholders Work Group Update**

Director Rosemary Carroll reported that the group just had their initial kick off meeting and plan to meet about once a month or so. The first meeting focused on getting stakeholders to come up with goals for Long Lake and review the pressures Long Lake has experienced recently. In the short-term, goals for Long Lake included investigating new trails sustainability, signage for private property, parking and trash removal.

## **J. Gunnison River Festival Update**

Director Joellen Fonken reported the dates of June 11 and 12<sup>th</sup> have been set for the 2021 River Festival. She has submitted a permit request to the US Forest Service for downriver trials on Taylor River on June 11<sup>th</sup> and has discussed Covid-19 restrictions with public health. Because of Covid restrictions, there will not be big public gatherings either day and the festival will focus more on athleticism the first day and general educational, family-friendly events throughout the festival. Vendors will not have booths at the White Water Park this year. Joellen is happy to have hired Matt Sawyer, a

Masters student at Western who worked as an intern with the District in the past, to help with the festival.

## **9. DEMAND MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK DISCUSSION**

General Manager Sonja Chavez reviewed the memo, press release and a previous memo related to Demand Management included in the Board Packet and asked the Board if they feel ready to draft a statement of understanding so that everyone in the District is able to speak about Demand Management with one voice. Sonja said that she has been asked several times about the District's position and that it would be great to have a statement prepared that everyone can use. She also noted the importance of a statement of understanding in that it can serve as a chapter in the Watershed Management Plan. There was a lot of discussion about the District's readiness to take on this task. Director Fonken noted her limited understanding of demand management and the potential benefits of having a statement. The consensus was that staff should work on a draft of the statement of understanding of demand management which will be reviewed by the Board at a future meeting.

General Counsel John McClow said the Colorado Water Conservation Board will conduct a workshop on March 2nd on "Demand Management Feasibility Investigation" as part of their Phase 2 work effort and that the public is invited. A link for this meeting will be provided to the Directors.

## **10. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS**

### **A. District Payment of Expenses Process**

General Manager Sonja Chavez reported that there have been some issues with getting bills paid in a timely fashion since the District's practice has been to wait to pay bills until after operating and non-operating expenses have been approved by the Directors at each Board meeting. Sonja said that the budget is now much more detailed than in the past and that the Board has already approved the line item expenditures when the budget is adopted, so she does not see the need to review each invoice prior to them being paid. Nor does the District's financial policy require this. Sonja said she would always bring forward to the Directors any expenditures that are not clearly spelled out in the budget or that are out of the norm of what is expected. Sonja asked if the Directors were comfortable with this proposed practice so that payments can be made in a timelier fashion. No one raised any concerns.

Sonja also suggested that the District get into the practice of having checks cut every Friday and then have one of the authorized signors come into the office on the following Monday or Tuesday to sign the checks. Sonja suggested that one of the check signors be assigned to a particular month so that this duty doesn't fall solely on any single Board member. Those officers in attendance authorized to sign checks for the District agreed to this suggestion.

## **B. Gunnison Energy Production – Solar Panels**

Directors were referred to the report in the Board Packet.

## **C. Newspaper and other Water Articles**

Director Bill Nesbitt asked that any articles included in the Board Packet that do not already have the date of publication printed on them to please handwrite the date on the article. Staff will do so.

## **11. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Greg Peterson with Razor Ranch asked if the District plans any further use of the information collected with the Harvey Economics study. General Manager Sonja Chavez stated that Ed Harvey has presented the results of the study to a number of groups and the District will utilize information to further discussions about Demand Management. Mr. Peterson also asked if the District felt that at some point the state will institute some sort of non-voluntary Demand Management program of water rights holders due to drought conditions. Will it become an emergency situation? General Counsel John McClow responded by saying that modeling by the River District, the State and the Bureau of Reclamation indicate that there will not be a significant risk of a Compact deficit for at least seven years, even in a worst-case scenario, so John feels there is some time for those in our District to prepare, but indicated we shouldn't drag our feet. General Manager Sonja Chavez offered to visit with Mr. Peterson more about these issues if he wishes.

## **12. FUTURE MEETINGS**

Vice President Stacy McPhail referenced the list of upcoming meetings.

## **13. SUMMARY OF MEETING ACTION ITEMS**

The summary of action items was noted as follows:

**General Counsel John McClow will draft a description and mission statement for the Watershed Management Planning Committee for inclusion in the Board Committees Policies.**

**General Counsel John McClow and General Manager Sonja Chavez will jointly develop a draft statement of understanding of the District's understanding on Demand Management.**

**General Manager Sonja Chavez will develop a message on snowpack and the lingering drought conditions as part of the Education and Outreach message, which will be shared on the District's social media sources and through radio advertisements.**

**General Manager Sonja Chavez will direct staff to update the Standing Committees records to reflect the changes made at the meeting tonight.**

**Sonja will also coordinate with Treasurer Bill Nesbitt when the District's CD comes up for renewal in March to investigate options for this investment.**

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

Vice President Stacy McPhail adjourned the regular board meeting at 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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John Perusek, Secretary

APPROVED:

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Stacy McPhail, Vice President

**Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District**

**Budget Summary 2021**

	February	Year to Date	2021 Budget	% Received or Expended	\$ Remaining in Budget
<b>Revenues</b>					
General property	\$ 39,267	\$ 41,650	\$ 1,347,248	3.09%	\$ 1,305,598
Specific Ownership	7,745	15,421	65,000	23.73%	49,579
Pen. & Interest on Taxes	0	7	3,300	0.21%	3,293
Interest on Investments	70	175	52,500	0.33%	52,325
Water Quality Monitoring	-	-	-	-	-
Lake San Cristobal Water Activity Enterprise	-	-	12,268	0.00%	12,268
Gunnison County	-	-	12,815	0.00%	12,815
National Park Service	-	-	7,839	0.00%	7,839
Skyland Metro District	-	-	1,393	0.00%	1,393
<b>Total Water Quality Monitoring</b>	-	-	34,315	0.00%	34,315
Aspinall Water Sales	-	-	19,885	0.00%	19,885
Aspinall Augmentation Late Fee	-	-	-	-	-
Aspinall Unit Admin Fee	1,010	1,010	-	-	(1,010)
Aspinall Water Sales - Other	3,717	3,717	-	-	(3,717)
<b>Total Aspinall Water Sales</b>	4,727	4,727	19,885	23.77%	15,158
Cloud Seeding Program - Passthrough	23,750	23,750	93,750	25.33%	70,000
Wet Meadows Project - Passthrough	-	-	388,000	0.00%	388,000
Watershed Management Planning - Passthrough	29,104	29,104	174,000	16.73%	144,896
Miscellaneous	1,170	2,649	1,000	264.90%	(1,649)
Unspent Funds from Previous Year	-	-	32,325	0.00%	32,325
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$ 105,833</b>	<b>\$ 117,483</b>	<b>\$ 2,211,323</b>	<b>5.31%</b>	<b>\$ 2,093,840</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>					
GRF Expenses to Reimburse	5,000.00	5,000.00	-	-	-
Operating	-	-	-	-	-
Administrative Salaries	\$ 26,303	\$ 52,606	\$ 315,635	16.67%	\$ 263,029
Staff Salaries	12,018	24,277	154,061	15.76%	129,784
Payroll Taxes	3,047	6,112	36,495	16.75%	30,383
Employee Benefits	-	-	-	-	-
Medical Insurance	2,999	8,173	34,425	23.74%	26,252
Colorado Retirement Association	2,523	2,523	31,002	8.14%	28,479
Workers Comp. Ins.	540	540	5,000	10.80%	4,460
Gen. Counsel CLE & Memberships	309	309	3,000	10.29%	2,691
Gen. Manager CE & Memberships	-	-	2,000	0.00%	2,000
Staff Development and Training	-	-	4,000	0.00%	4,000
Employee Benefits - Other	-	2,523	-	-	(2,523)
<b>Total Employee Benefits</b>	6,370	14,068	79,427	17.71%	65,359
Public Outreach	-	-	-	-	-
Website Updates	-	-	1,000	0.00%	1,000
Public Education/Advertising	180	385	12,000	3.21%	11,615
Gunnison River Festival Support	7,500	7,500	7,500	100.00%	0
Mini-Grants	-	189	2,000	9.45%	1,811
Youth Conservation Corps Support	-	-	6,500	0.00%	6,500
Social Media	4	4	5,000	0.09%	4,996
<b>Total Public Outreach</b>	7,684	8,078	34,000	23.76%	25,922
Audit and Accounting	-	-	7,500	0.00%	7,500
Utilities and Assoc. Dues	-	-	-	-	-
Condo Association Dues	550	1,100	6,600	16.67%	5,500
Utilities	408	1,137	2,196	51.78%	1,059
Office Cleaning	-	-	4,600	0.00%	4,600
Utilities and Assoc. Dues - Other	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Utilities and Assoc. Dues</b>	958	2,237	13,396	16.70%	11,159
Bonding and Insurance	-	-	-	-	-
Board of Directors' Bond	-	-	110	0.00%	110
Gen. Liab/Pub. Off/ Exc. Liab.	-	-	8,168	0.00%	8,168
AD&D	-	-	1,595	0.00%	1,595
Bonding for Persons with Access to Funds	401	401	401	100.00%	0
Bonding and Insurance - Other	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Bonding and Insurance</b>	401	401	10,274	3.90%	9,873
Office Telephone	40	272	7,110	3.82%	6,838
Office Equipment	-	-	-	-	-
Furniture	-	-	1,000	0.00%	1,000
Computer Purchase	-	-	4,000	0.00%	4,000
IT Support/Computer Repair	400	579	5,800	9.98%	5,221
Other Equipment	-	80	5,000	1.60%	4,920
Board Room A/V Upgrade	15,638	15,638	20,000	78.19%	4,362
Copier Expenses	597	840	4,380	19.18%	3,540
Office Equipment - Other	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Office Equipment</b>	16,635	17,137	40,180	42.65%	23,043

**Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District**

**Budget Summary 2021**

	February	Year to Date	2021 Budget	% Received or Expended	\$ Remaining in Budget
<b>Legal Publication</b>	360	680	6,000	11.33%	5,320
<b>Admin. Travel &amp; Exp.</b>	-	-	22,000	0.00%	22,000
<b>Office Expenses</b>					
Spencer Ave. Reimbursable			-		
Office Supplies	126	2,095	3,100	67.58%	1,005
Consumable Supplies	11	11	1,200	0.92%	1,189
Publications & Subscriptions	12	12	1,500	0.80%	1,488
Computer, Internet, LexisNexis	1,284	2,414	6,250	38.62%	3,836
Software	130	823	4,800	17.15%	3,977
Office Expenses - Other	118	118			
<b>Total Office Expenses</b>	1,681	5,472	16,850	32.48%	11,378
<b>Postage</b>	22	22	1,500	1.48%	1,478
<b>BOD Expenses</b>					
Travel Reimbursement	-	-	10,000	0.00%	10,000
BOD Discretionary Fund	-	-	2,000	0.00%	2,000
BOD Expenses - Other	-	-			
<b>Total BOD Expenses</b>	-	-	12,000	0.00%	12,000
<b>Meeting Expenses</b>	116	116	3,500	3.32%	3,384
WAE - Meeting Expenses	-	-			
Meeting Expenses - Other	-	-			
<b>Total Meeting Expenses</b>	116	116	3,500	3.32%	3,384
<b>County Treasurers' Fees</b>	1,560	1,672	42,466	3.94%	40,794
<b>Board of Directors' Fees</b>	800	1,800	13,520	13.31%	11,720
LSCWAE BOD Meeting Fees	-	-			
Board of Directors' Fees - Other	-	-			
<b>Total Board of Directors' Fees</b>	800	1,800	13,520	13.31%	11,720
<b>BOD Mileage</b>	-	-	2,200	0.00%	2,200
<b>Org. Memberships &amp; Dues</b>					
Colorado Water Congress Dues	-	2,251	2,060	109.27%	(191)
Colorado Water Congress State Affairs	-	500	400	125.00%	(100)
Colorado Water Congress Federal Affairs	-	-	200	0.00%	200
NWCCOG-QQ Dues	530	530	530	100.00%	0
Water Education Colorado	-	-	500	0.00%	500
Special District Assoc. of Colo	-	-	1,650	0.00%	1,650
Employers Council	-	-	925	0.00%	925
Weather Modification Association	-	500	300	166.67%	(200)
Org. Memberships & Dues - Other	-	500	-		(500)
<b>Total Org. Memberships &amp; Dues</b>	530	4,281	6,565	65.21%	2,284
<b>Manager's Discretionary</b>	178	178	3,000	5.94%	2,822
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	\$ 78,703	\$ 139,410	\$ 357,983	38.94%	\$ 218,573
<b>Non-operating</b>					
<b>General Consulting - General Engineering Support</b>	\$ -		\$ 15,000	0.00%	\$ 15,000
<b>Recreational In-Channel Diversion - Webcam Mainten</b>	-		1,000	0.00%	1,000
<b>Taylor Park Projects - UVUWA</b>	-		6,377	0.00%	6,377
<b>LSC Admin Fee on Base Units</b>	-		13,464	0.00%	13,464
<b>Basin Augmentation Program - Subordination Report</b>	-		9,000	0.00%	9,000
<b>Building Expenses - Repair &amp; Maintenance</b>	1,270	1,270	1,000	127.04%	(270)
<b>Aspinall Water Costs</b>	-		17,326	0.00%	17,326
Regional Water Supply Prog.					
Grant Program	2,848	21,080	200,000	10.54%	178,920
Enhancing Resiliency Riparian (Wet Meadows)		5,333	418,000	1.28%	412,667
NRCS					-
CPW Wetlands Grant					-
BLM Coop. Agree. L17AC00255					-
USFS PA-2 17-PA-11020407-00					-
NFWF Phase II	9,466	9,466			(9,466)
Enhancing Resiliency Riparian - Other	333	333			(333)
<b>Total Enhancing Resiliency Riparian</b>	9,799	15,133	418,000	3.62%	402,867
<b>Cloudseeding</b>			118,000	0.00%	118,000
Irwin Remote Generator	1,684	8,879			(8,879)
Cloud Seeding Pass Through	12,688	54,750			(54,750)
Cloudseeding - Other					-
<b>Total Cloudseeding</b>	14,372	63,629	118,000	53.92%	54,371
Taylor River Watershed Modeling	-	-	40,000	0.00%	40,000
Selenium Long-Term Trend Monitoring	-	-	10,000	0.00%	10,000
Regional Water Supply Prog. - Other	-	-			-
<b>Total Regional Water Supply Prog.</b>	27,019	99,842	786,000	12.70%	686,158



**Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District**

**Budget Summary 2021**

	February	Year to Date	2021 Budget	% Received or Expended	\$ Remaining in Budget
<i>Basinwide Planning</i>		-			-
Watershed Management Planning		-			-
Watershed M P In-Kind		-			-
WMP Phase 2 Task 6		-			-
WMP Phase 2 Task 3		-			-
WMP Phase 2 Task 1		-			-
CWCB PO 2019-2891	4,242	4,962			(4,962)
WMP Phase 1 Task 4		-			-
Watershed Management Planning - Other	4,232	5,591			(5,591)
Total Watershed Management Planning	8,474	10,553	175,000	6.03%	164,447
Watershed Mgmt Pln Implementati	-	-	50,000	0.00%	50,000
RMBL Weather Monitoring Network	-	-	5,000	0.00%	5,000
Basinwide Planning - Other	-	9,000			(9,000)
<b>Total Basinwide Planning</b>	8,474	19,553	230,000	8.50%	210,447
<i>Water Quality Monitoring</i>		-			-
Streamflow Gaging	-	28,211	51,416	54.87%	23,205
Water Quality Monitoring	-	10,434	58,000	17.99%	47,566
Agency Pass Through Funds	-		34,315	0.00%	34,315
Watershed Stakeholder Support	10,000		20,000	0.00%	20,000
City of Gunnison Hazardous Waste Collection	-	-	2,000	0.00%	2,000
<b>Total Water Quality Monitoring</b>	10,000	48,645	165,731	29.35%	117,086
<b>Endangered Fish Recov Prog</b>		-	3,000	0.00%	3,000
<b>Spencer Avenue Reserve Contrib.</b>		-	-		-
<b>TOTAL NON-OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	\$ 46,763	\$ 169,311	\$ 1,247,898	13.57%	\$ 1,078,587
Contingency			\$ 24,000	0.00%	\$ 24,000
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	\$ 125,466	\$ 308,721	\$ 1,629,881	18.94%	\$ 1,321,160
<b>REVENUES OVER/(UNDER) EXPENDITURES</b>	\$ (19,633)	\$ (191,237)	\$ 581,442	-32.89%	

**UGRWCD & UGRWAE BANK BALANCES, INTEREST RATES, MATURITY DATES**

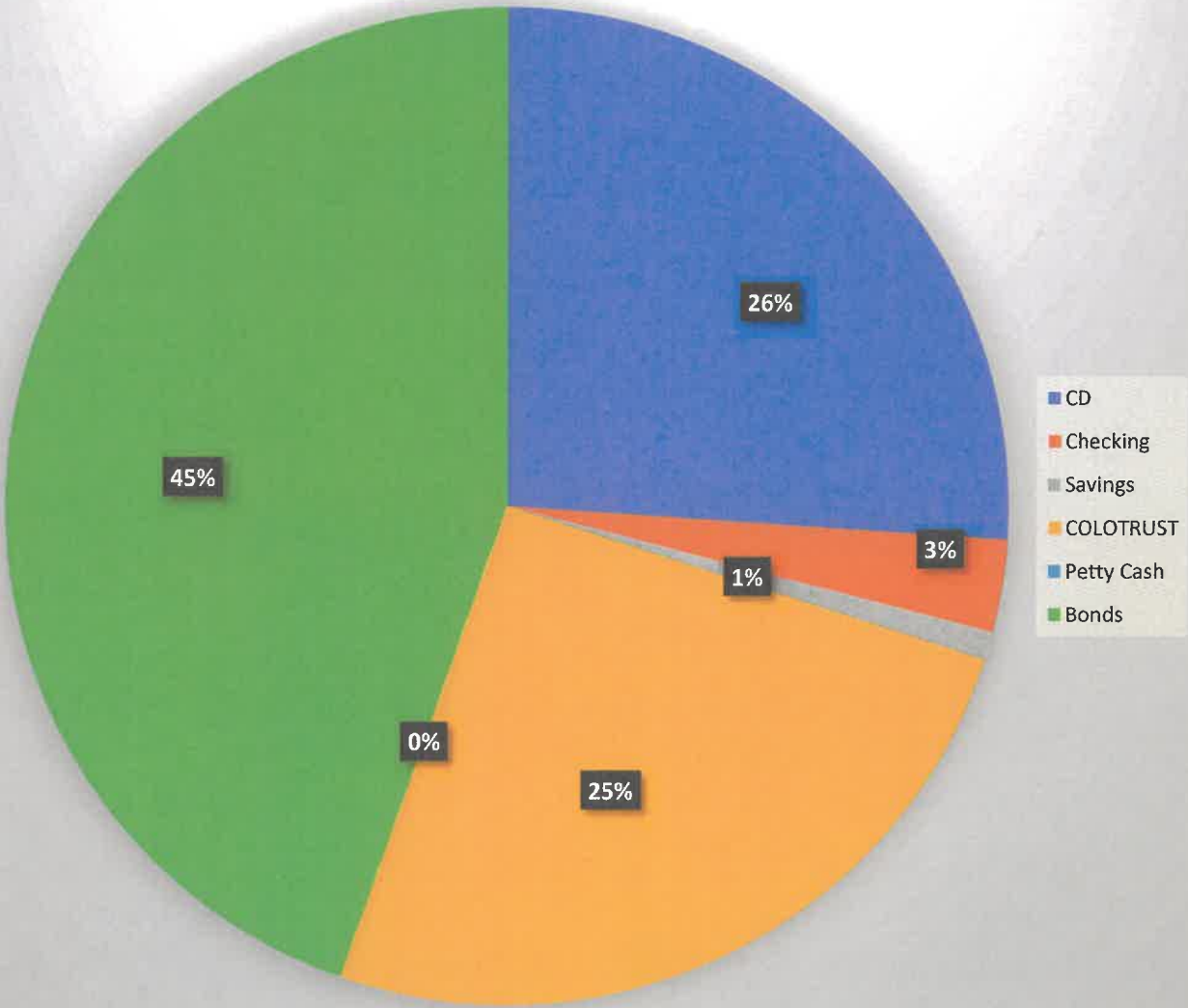
UGRWCD General Ledger # and Account Name	Balance 2/28/2021	Interest Rate	Maturity Date	Date Callable	Total UGRWCD and UGRWAE Deposits by Bank	
					COLOTRUST	\$ 1,130,754.15
					Bank of the West	239,336.23
1420 Community Banks of Colo. CD	51,564.17	0.40%	9/26/2022		Community Banks of Colo.	243,299.88
1400 Gunnison Savings & Loan CD	107,939.69	1.75%	8/10/2022		Gunnison Savings & Loan	256,567.53
1390 Comm. Banks of Colo. CD Lake City	101,735.71	0.15%	2/20/2022		Gunnison Bank & Trust	240,030.60
1510 Wells Fargo CD through Sigma	150,132.00	1.90%	2/28/2025		Wells Fargo	150,132.00
1410 Bank of the West CD	105,038.19	0.35%	12/22/2022		Sigma Financial	1,988,980.06
1470 Mountain View Bank CD	104,669.04	1.51%	9/19/2021		Guaranty Bank	101,312.00
1520 Gunnison Bank & Trust CD	200,000.00	1.90%	2/26/2025		Petty Cash	100.00
Sigma Bond 13 (US Treas. Note) CUSIP 912828SF8	399,980.00	2.00%	2/15/2022	2/15/2022	JP Morgan Chase	-
1460 Guaranty Bank CD through Sigma	101,312.00	2.80%	3/1/2021		Mountain View Bank	104,669.04
					<b>TOTAL ALL BANKS</b>	<b>\$ 4,455,181.49</b>
1490 GS&L CD	148,627.84	2.05%	10/18/2024			
Sigma Bond 17 (FHLB) CUSIP 3130 AHDS 9	200,000.00	1.68%	10/18/2023	10/18/2021		
Sigma 22 Merrick Bank CUSIP 59013KLR5	249,000.00	0.35%	12/30/2024			
Sigma 19 (Pac. Western CD) CUSIP 69506 YRJ O	245,000.00	1.20%	4/17/2023			
Sigma Bond 20 (FHLB) CUSIP 3130 AJLA 5	550,000.00	0.75%	5/19/2028	5/19/2021		
Sigma Bond 21 (Fed Farm) CUSIP 3133 EL3P7	345,000.00	0.53%	8/12/2025			
1530 Community Banks of Colo. CD	90,000.00	0.95%	6/20/2022			
1011 Bank of the West Checking	40,069.17	0.01%	N/A			
1295 COLOTRUST PLUS+	848,022.36	0.071%	N/A			
1290 COLOTRUST PRIME	243,138.11	0.026%	N/A			
Sigma Money Market Account	0.06		N/A			
1540 GB&T - Spencer Avenue Reserve	40,030.60	0.15%	N/A			
Petty Cash	100.00	N/A	N/A			
<b>TOTAL UGRWCD</b>	<b>\$ 4,321,358.94</b>					

UGRWAE Account Name	Balance 2/28/2021	Interest Rate	Maturity Date
Bank of the West Checking	\$ 94,228.87	N/A	N/A
COLOTRUST PLUS+	39,593.68	0.0710%	N/A
<b>TOTAL UGRWAE</b>	<b>\$ 133,822.55</b>		
<b>TOTAL UGRWCD + UGRWAE</b>	<b>\$ 4,455,181.49</b>		

**UGRWCD & UGRWAE INVESTMENTS BY TYPE**

CD	26%	\$ 1,161,018.64
Checking	3%	134,298.04
Savings	1%	40,030.66
COLOTRUST	25%	1,130,754.15
Petty Cash	0%	100.00
Bonds	45%	\$ 1,988,980.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$ 4,455,181.49</b>

**UGRWCD + UGRWAE INVESTMENTS BY TYPE**



# Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District

## Operating Expenses for Approval

3/15/2021

Name	Account	Amount
Anthem	Employee Benefits	\$ 250.14
Atmos Energy	Utilities	94.61
Atmos Energy	Utilities	100.94
BankCard Center	Various	1,087.68
Beverly Richards	Staff Salary	3,304.88
Business Leasing Solutions	Office Equipment - Copier	242.89
Colorado Employers Benefit Trust	Employee Benefits - Health Insurance	2,169.35
City of Gunnison Finance	Utilities	142.30
City of Gunnison Finance	Utilities	107.72
Crested Butte News	Public Outreach = \$125.00 Legal Publication = \$162.72	262.72
EFTPS	Payroll Taxes	9,443.90
GL Computers	Computer Repair/Service - Monthly	400.00
Great West Retirement	Employee Benefits	7,971.77
Gunnison Country Publications	Public Outreach = \$80.00 Legal Publication = \$146.49	226.49
J&K Services, Inc.	Office Cleaning	870.00
Jill Steele	Staff Salary	3,487.86
Jill Steele	Employee Benefits	274.13
John McCLOW	Administrative Salary	9,713.73
John McCLOW	Employee Benefits	202.40
LexisNexis	Office Expense - LexisNexis	564.69
Microsoft	Microsoft Office Software	100.00
Nationwide	Bonding & Insurance	401.00

3/15/2021

## Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District Operating Expenses for Approval

Name	Account	Amount
Pinnacol Assurance	Workers' Compensation Insurance	540.00
Silver World Publishing	Public Outreach = \$80.00,      Legal Publication = \$170.00	250.00
Sonja Chavez	Administrative Salary	6,609.82
Spencer Avenue Business Park	Condo Dues	550.00
Sue Uerling	Staff Salary	2,076.22
The Paper Clip	Office Supplies = \$218.84 Office Equipment = \$79.95	291.92
United Healthcare	Employee Benefits	102.60
Verizon	Office Telephone	181.16
<b>Total Operating Expenses Payable</b>		<b>\$ 52,020.92</b>

**Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District**  
**Non-Operating Expenses for Approval**

3/15/2021

Name	Account	Amount
Applegate Group	Watershed Management Planning	\$ 7,359.00
Colorado Trout Unlimited	Watershed Management Planning	607.50
Crested Butte Land Trust	Watershed Management Planning	21,359.47
Crested Butte South	Grant Program	2,847.83
Rignet, Inc.	Cloud Seeding - Irwin Remote	58.04
Hartman Brothers	Cloud Seeding - Irwin Remote	26.18
Tomichi Creek Eco Systems Services	Wet Meadows - Expense Reimb.	4,465.94
Tomichi Creek Eco Systems Services	Wet Meadows Coordinator Salary	5,333.33
<b>Non-Operating Expenses Payable</b>		<b>\$ 42,057.29</b>

## Invoice Memorandum

Date: February 24, 2021		AG Job No.: 20-123	
To:	Upper Gunnison Water Conservancy District, Sonja Chavez <a href="mailto:schavez@ugrwc.org">schavez@ugrwc.org</a>	From:	Craig Ullmann Applegate Group, Inc. 1490 W. 121 <sup>st</sup> Avenue, Suite 100 Denver, CO 80234
<b>SUBJECT:</b> Invoice for Gunnison and Tomichi Valley/ John D. Outcalt Ditch Study		Cc:	

Attached please find our invoice for professional consulting services provided for the period of December 5, 2020 through January 29, 2021 in the amount of **\$7,359.00**.

Additional detail regarding this invoice and the project budget is shown in the table below:

Project Task	Current Invoice	Invoice to date
Site Visit/Data Gathering		\$ 1,333.08
Survey	\$ 2,851.75	\$ 6,098.93
Hydraulic Model	\$ 3,487.25	\$ 9,856.75
Design .	\$ 1,020.00	\$ 3,782.50
Construction Plans & Specifications		\$ 1,287.25
	<b>Total \$ 7,359.00</b>	\$ 22,358.51
	Orig Budget	\$ 15,000.00
	SOW Amend. #1 - Design	\$ 8,500.00
	<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>\$ 23,500.00</b>
	Budget Remaining	\$ 1,141.49
Construction Services	\$ -	\$ -

SOW Amend. #1 - Const \$ 4,200.00  
Budget Remaining \$ 4,200.00

A description of services provided during this period is listed below:

- Additional Survey of river required for 2D model
- Preparing 2D hydraulic model of river reach and GTVAD.
- Additional design of proposed improvements including new spillway design, gravel wing extension and raise for GTVAD.
- Modeling various options requested by ditch owners

Date Rec. 2-26-21 Adm. Ckd. [Signature]  
 Mgr. Appr. SRC Amt. Appr. \$7,359-  
 Bd. Appr. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Bd. Initials \_\_\_\_\_  
 Pd. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Ckd# \_\_\_\_\_  
 Account(s) all WMP = 3679.50  
CWCB PO 2019-2891 = 3679.50

**Applegate Group, Inc.**

1490 West 121st Ave  
Suite 100  
Denver, CO 80234

**Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy  
District**

210 W. Spencer Avenue  
Suite B  
Gunnison, CO 81230

**INVOICE**

No. 51303  
02/24/2021

**Gunnison & Tomichi Valley Ditch**

20-123.001

Contract

For Services Rendered Through 1/29/2021

**2 - Survey**

**Outside Services**

Payee	Invoice	Unit Rate	Qty	Markup	Amount
Del-Mont Consultants, Inc.	SUR-01921	2,592.50	1.00	1.10	\$2,851.75

**Total Outside for 2**

**\$2,851.75**

**Total Charges for 2**

**\$2,851.75**

**3 - Hydraulic Model**

**Professional Services**

Employee	Hours	Rate	Amount
Breindel, David	.25	125.00	\$31.25
Desiderio, Tyler J	32.00	108.00	\$3,456.00

**Total Professional Services for 3**

**\$3,487.25**

**Total Charges for 3**

**\$3,487.25**

**4 - Design**

**Professional Services**

Employee	Hours	Rate	Amount
Ullmann, Craig	6.00	170.00	\$1,020.00

**Total Professional Services for 4**

**\$1,020.00**

**Total Charges for 4**

**\$1,020.00**

**Invoice Amount**

**\$7,359.00**



Date Rec. 3-3-21 Adm. Ckd. [Signature]  
 Mgr. Appr. [Signature] Amt. Appr. 6607.50  
 Bd. Appr. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Bd. Initials \_\_\_\_\_  
 Pd. Date 3-10 Clk# \_\_\_\_\_  
 Account(s) 2140

# INVOICE

Colorado Trout Unlimited

1536 Wynkoop Street, Suite 320  
 Denver, CO 80202  
 P: (303) 440-2937

INVOICE #: 11  
 INVOICE DATE: March 3, 2021  
 PERFORMANCE PERIOD: 2/1/2021 – 2/28/2021

PROJECT CONTRACT/CONSULTANT #: Dan Omasta

TO:  
 Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District  
 210 Spencer Ave # B  
 Gunnison, CO 81230

Contract #UG2020-003

DATE	DESCRIPTION	Quantity	Rate Per Hour	In-Kind	Paid
2/1/21	Task 7: Coordination	2	45.00	45.00	45.00
2/2/21	Task 1: Recreation Summary Report	2	45.00	45.00	45.00
2/5/21	Task 7: Coordination Meeting	1	45.00		45.00
2/8/21	Task 2: Creel Survey Development	1	45.00	45.00	
	Task 7: GWMP Coordination Mtg.	2	45.00	45.00	45.00
2/9/21	Task 3: Forest Health Stakeholder Mapping/Planning	1	45.00		45.00
2/10/21	Task 1: Recreation Summary Report	1	45.00	45.00	
2/11/21	Task 3: Watershed Health Meetings/Planning	2	45.00	45.00	45.00
2/15/21	Task 1: Recreation Summary Report	3	45.00	67.50	67.50
2/18/21	Task 1: Recreation Summary Report	4	45.00	90.00	90.00
	Task 2: AW Report Review	1	45.00		45.00
2/19/21	Task 2: Creel Survey Development	1	45.00		45.00
2/23/21	Task 2: Creel Survey Development	2	45.00	90.00	
	Task 7: Coordination Meeting	2	45.00	90.00	
2/24/21	Task 2: Creel Survey Development	1	45.00		45.00

2/25/21	Task 1: Recreation Summary & Stakeholder Meeting	1	45.00		45.00
	Task 2: AW Report Review and Meeting	1	45.00	45.00	
	<b>TOTAL (incl. mileage)</b>	<b>28</b>		<b>\$652.50</b>	<b>\$607.50</b>

**Task 1 – Recreation Outreach/Report \$495.00**  
**Task 2 – Recreation Use Surveys \$315.00**  
**Task 3 – Watershed Health Outreach/Cord. \$135.00**  
**Task 4 – Watershed Health Report/Analysis \$0.00**  
**Task 7 – Coordination \$315.00**

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**Total \$1,260.00**  
**Breakdown \$607.50 (Paid) Approved to pay (bill full amount to CWCB PO#2019-2891)**  
**\$652.50 (In-Kind Services)**

Please make all checks payable to: Colorado Trout Unlimited

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District  
Reimbursement Request Template

Date: 3/5/21

Project Name: Slate River Working Group

UGRWCD Contract Number: UG20220-024

Reimbursement Request Amount: \$ 21,359.47

Project Performance Period: March 2020 - November 2020

Contact Name: Peter Horgan

Check Payable To: Crested Butte Land Trust

Contact Phone: (970) 349-1206

Contact Email: peter@cblandtrust.org

**PROJECT DELIVERABLES:**

- Project completion report including a description of project, photographs of both work in progress and the completed Project (please include brief description of what we are seeing with each photo);

**Difficulties Encountered / Corrective Action:**

Problem(s) / Changes: 1) The agricultural & property boundary signage has not been installed yet. 2) Some budget items did not get completed for  
Resolution / Corrective Action Plan & Schedule: Various reasons.

The agricultural & property boundary signage will be installed prior to the 2021 floating season.

By submittal of this reimbursement request and supporting documentation of expenditures, Contractee attests to the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District that all items listed under *Project Deliverables* have been completed, all amounts due and payable for the Funded Work have been paid or, alternatively will be paid with the funds advanced by the District in response to this Request for Payment, and that all work done on the Funded Work has been completed in a good and workmanlike manner.

Contractee Signature & Date:



3/5/21

Upper Gunnison Administrative Staff Approval & Date: Beverly Richards 3/5/2021

Date Rec. \_\_\_\_\_ Adm. Ckd. \_\_\_\_\_  
Mgr. Appr. ORC Amt. Appr. \$21,359.47  
Bd. Appr. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Bd. Initials \_\_\_\_\_  
Pd. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Ck'd \_\_\_\_\_  
Account(s) \_\_\_\_\_

## WARRANTY

This Warranty is provided by Crested Butte Land Trust (Grantee) to the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District in support of a request for payment of the Slate River Working Group Project described in *EXHIBIT A* attached hereto (Project).

Grantee represents and warrants that the Project is complete and that all amounts due and payable for the Funded Work have been paid or that such amounts will be paid with the funds advanced to Grantee by the District in response to the Request for Payment.

Grantee further represents and warrants that all work done on the Funded Work has been completed in a good and workmanlike manner and in accordance with the specifications contained in *EXHIBIT A*.



1.14.2021

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Jake Jones, Executive Director

## Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District Grant Reimbursement Request

**Date:** February 23, 2021  
**Project Name:** Crested Butte South Property Owners Association  
Water Efficiency Project-Phase I  
**UGRWCD Contract Number:** N/A-grant was awarded in 2019

**Reimbursement Request Amount:** \$2,847.83

**Match Provided:** \$13,245.00

**Project Performance Period:** April 4, 2019-Feb 1, 2021

Date Rec.	_____	Adm. Ckd.	_____
Mgr. Appr.	_____	Amt. Appr.	_____
Bd. Appr. Date	_____	Bd. Initials	_____
Pd. Date	_____	Ckt#	_____
Account(s)	_____		

**Applicant/Payee Name:** Sue Wallace

**Check Payable To:** Crested Butte South Property Owners Association (POA)

**Applicant Address:** 61 Teocalli Road, Crested Butte CO 81224

**Applicant Phone:** 970-349-1162    **Applicant Email:** compliance@cbsouth.net

### **-Project Description and Deliverables**

The Crested Butte South Property Owners Association Water Efficiency Project-Phase I was the first of a multi-year (but not necessarily consecutive) program for upgrading irrigation equipment at Red Mountain Park and other common irrigated areas. Irrigation water used by the POA for Red Mountain Park and common areas has never been metered, as the POA does not pay Metro for this water. Now, with six new water meters purchased and ready to be read starting in May 2021, the POA can begin documenting its irrigation water consumption to establish a 2021 baseline, and to help determine the operational cost-benefit of irrigation efficiency upgrades to these areas as they are implemented.

In addition, professional evaluations were conducted in the summer of 2019 on the POA's irrigation systems and on the condition of all trees at Red Mountain Park and common areas.

Deliverables are numbered and described below, and narrative addressing *Difficulties Encountered* and *Corrective Actions Taken* correspond to the same number under each of these headings. Actions and accomplishments include:

1. One 1" meter was installed inside the fire hall garage at Sunset Hall in September of 2019. It will be read at least once monthly during each irrigation season starting in May 2021, and once monthly during the hockey season when ice is made and maintained from December through March.

2. Two 3" meters were installed at Red Mountain Park in 2020. These meters are located inside the below-grade service access areas at (1) Teocalli Road and Packer Way, and (2) on the northeast side of the hockey rink. Every year, these meters will be installed in mid-May at the start of the irrigation season and removed in September or October at the end of the irrigation season to protect them from frost damage.
3. Two 1.5" meters were installed at two common areas in 2020: (1) the irrigated entrance to CB South at Teocalli Road and Elcho Avenue, and (2) at the POA Office at 61 Teocalli Road. Every year, these meters will be installed in mid-May at the start of the irrigation season and removed in September or October at the end of the irrigation season to protect them from frost damage.
4. One ¾" meter was installed at Packer Way and Cascadilla Street on the northeast end of Red Mountain Park. Every year, this meter will be installed in mid-May at the start of the irrigation season and removed in September or October at the end of the irrigation season to protect it from frost damage.
5. Earthscapes, LLC was hired to perform an audit of the POA's irrigation systems at Red Mountain Park and other common irrigated areas, such as those adjacent to the POA office at 61 Teocalli Road, and along Teocalli Road, Elcho Avenue, and Cement Creek Road. The audit provided a thorough inventory of zones, irrigation schedules, types of irrigation delivery and controllers, and an estimate of annual irrigation water consumption.
6. Old Growth Tree Service out of Eagle, CO, performed a certified arborist's assessment of the trees at Red Mountain Park and common areas irrigated and maintained by the POA. The assessment provided information about best irrigation practices and schedules, irrigation system deficiencies to be addressed, and identification of risks from and remedies for trees that are either posing a hazard or a harbor for disease.
7. A review of POA landscaping requirements and regulations for more water-conserving opportunities was included as an initial deliverable but was not completed. The POA manager plans to ask the Design Review Committee to review these regulations in 2021 and make recommendations on acceptable and cost-effective design revisions that would support water conservation.
8. A review of Crested Butte South Metropolitan District's irrigation restrictions resulted in revisions that identified allowable (necessary sanitation/cleaning of exterior items like a vehicle or a boat) and non-allowable exterior water uses (using hose water to clear hardscapes of dirt and debris, irrigation system inefficiencies, run-off) and updated the process and penalties for violations.
9. A public education and outreach campaign to increase awareness of low-cost/no-cost conservation strategies for landscaping planning and design, soil preparation and amendment, encouraging drought-resistant plant growth was included as an initial deliverable but not completed because we prioritized the meter installation over the public outreach when faced with higher, unanticipated installation costs.

**Difficulties Encountered and Corrective Action Taken:**

1. Being able to get a plumbing contractor scheduled was very difficult during the summer of 2019 due to a construction boom and shortage of contractors available.
2. Being able to get a plumbing contractor scheduled was very difficult during the summer of 2020 due to a construction boom and shortage of contractors available. In addition, when the service boxes were

opened at the start of the irrigation season, damage and vandalism was discovered. POA personnel were stretched thin to repair the damage and ready the service boxes for the plumbing contractor. Once the contractor was able to start this project, he noticed that additional repairs were necessary to complete the meter installation, and these repairs were not part of the original scope of work.

3. See 2 above.

4. See 2 above.

7. The POA Manager felt that the Design Review Committee (DRC) was best suited to review the landscape requirements. As a volunteer committee, DRC was heavily tasked with design review projects in 2019 and 2020. The POA Manager will ask the DRC to incorporate this review into its work plan for the spring/summer 2021.

9. Due to the need to shift budget resources for the additional plumbing work cited in 2, 3, and 4 above, we were not able to deliver the public education and outreach effort.

**By submittal of this reimbursement request and supporting documentation of expenditures, Applicant attests to the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District that all items listed under *Project Deliverables* have been completed, all amounts due and payable for the Funded Work have been paid or, alternatively will be paid with the funds advanced by the District in response to this Request for Payment, and that all work done on the Funded Work has been completed in a good and workmanlike manner.**

Applicant/Payee Signature & Date: Sue Wallace 2.23.21

Upper Gunnison Administrative Staff Signature & Date: Beverly Richards 2/25/21



**Invoice**            **202102\_472**  
**Date**                **28 February, 2021**  
**Account**            **C201008**

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy  
District  
210 W. Spencer Ave  
Suite B  
Gunnison, CO 81230  
United States

Remittance should be mailed to:  
RigNet, Inc.  
P. O. BOX 941629  
Houston, TX 77094  
Phone: +1 281 674 0683  
Email: ar@rig.net

**Airtime Period**    **1 Feb - 28 Feb 2021**

### Summary

Total Airtime and Fees this Period	USD	58.04
<b>Total Amount This Invoice</b>	<b>USD</b>	<b>58.04</b>

Terms:    Net 30

Please include Invoice Number and Account Number with your payment

For Wire Transfers, please remit to:  
Bank Name: Bank of America  
Acct Name: RigNet, Inc.  
Account No: 488025116355  
SWIFT # BOFAUS3NABA  
Routing # 026009593ABA  
ACH# 111000025

Date Rec. \_\_\_\_\_ Adm. Ckd. \_\_\_\_\_  
Mgr. Appr. SRC Amt. Appr. 58.04  
Bd. Appr. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Bd. Initials \_\_\_\_\_  
Pd. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Clk# \_\_\_\_\_  
Account(s) \_\_\_\_\_

### Summary per Product

Product	Charge Type	Amount (USD)
OrbCommIDP	Subscription Fee	33.00
OrbCommIDP	Airtime	23.09
OrbCommIDP	Other	1.95
<b>Total for OrbCommIDP</b>		<b>58.04</b>



**Total charges (excl tax) for this invoice**

**58.04**



### Hartman Brothers, Inc.

524 North First Street  
 Montrose, CO 81401  
 Tel.: (970) 240-8535  
 Fax: (970) 249-6875



<b>Sold To:</b> UPPER GUNNISON RIVER WATER CON 210 WEST SPENCER AVE., SUITE B GUNNISON, CO, 81230	<b>Shipped To:</b>
--	--------------------

#### CYLINDER RENTAL INVOICE

CUSTOMER No.	CUSTOMER P.O. No.	PERIOD	INVOICE DATE			INVOICE No.	PAGE
			Y-Y	M-M	D-D		
M05447		02/01-02/28	2021	02	28	339517	1
DESCRIPTION	DATE M-M D-D	CYLINDER STATEMENT	CONTRACT	CHARGE	RATE	AMOUNT	T.T.Y.P.E.
NITROGEN 60CF	02 28	3					
28 days		3		0	0	3	
Total				84	0.300	25.20	XD
				84			

Date Rec. _____	Adm. Ck# _____
Mgr. Appr. <u>SRL</u>	Amt. Appr. <u>\$26.18</u>
Bd. Appr. Date _____	Bd. Initials _____
Pd. Date _____	Clt# _____
Account(s) _____	

TERMS	TYPE:	SUB-TOTAL	
NET 30 DAYS	S - DEMORRAGE		25.20
	L - MONTH END	SALES TAX	0.98
	D - DAILY	TOTAL	26.18
	F - FREE		
	H - HIGHEST		
VALUE OF CYLINDER INVENTORY ON HAND	0.00		

THIS INVOICE IS PAYABLE IN FULL UPON RECEIPT.  
 CYLINDERS ARE RENTED AND REMAIN THE PROPERTY  
 OF THE SELLER.

**Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District**  
2021 Expense Report and Request for Reimbursement

Date Rec. 2/21/21 Adm. Ckd. [Signature]  
 Mgr. Appr. [Signature] Amt. Appr. \$4,465.94  
 Bd. Appr. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Bd. Initials [Signature]  
 Pd. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Ckd. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Account(s) Wet Meadows  
- NFWF Phase II

Name: Paul Jones

Position: Wet Meadow Coordinator

\$0.560

Date	Business Purpose	Travel		Meals	Hotel	Other Expenses	
		Miles	Reimbursement			Amount	Explanation
2/16/2021	Soil Moisture Monitors (NFWF Phase II)		\$ -			\$4,465.94	
			-				
			-				
			-				
			-				
			-				
			-				
			-				
			-				
			-				
			-				
			-				
			-				
			-				
			-				
			-				
			-				
Totals:		0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,465.94	
<b>Total Reimbursement:</b>						<b>\$4,465.94</b>	

[Signature] Paul Jones 2/21/2021  
 Signature Date

# **AGENDA ITEM 4**

**Legal and Legislative Matters**

# **AGENDA ITEM 5**

**RMBL Presentation**

**AGENDA ITEM 6**  
**BREAK**

# **AGENDA ITEM 7**

**General Manager and Committee Reports**

# **AGENDA ITEM 7**

## **Treasurer's Report**



## MEMORANDUM



**TO:** UGRWCD Board Members  
**FROM:** Sonja Chavez, General Manager  
**DATE:** March 15, 2021  
**SUBJECT:** General Manager's Report

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### **I. Board Committee Policies**

**Background:** At the District's February regular board meeting, staff identified the need to update the Board's Committee Policies to include a description of the Watershed Management Planning Committee. Please see General Counsel's Updated Policy on Board Committees that follows.

**Board Action:** Adoption of the Updated Policy on Board Committees with the Watershed Management Planning Committee description provided by General Counsel.

**II. Watershed Management Planning** – Please see attached Memorandum and meeting minutes.

**III. Taylor Local Users Group (TLUG) Update** – Please see attached Memorandum and meeting summary.

**IV. Basin Water Supply Information** – Please see attached Memorandum from Beverly Richards.

### **V. Water Monitoring Update:**

- As described in the TLUG Update, the installation and Operation and Maintenance (O&M) expenses for Texas and Willow Creek will be covered by the U.S. Geological Survey under the NGWOS Program in 2021.
- All Upper Gunnison gauges that currently monitor stream temperature will now also monitor for specific conductance under NGWOS.
- High priority gauges in the Colorado River Basin in Colorado like the Gunnison River near Gunnison gauge which have continuous monitoring and enhanced five port systems that can also monitor for pH, DO, and turbidity. These constituents are important for evaluating stream health.
- In addition, the General Manager approved the USGS recommendation to move the current temperature monitor which sits on the Gunnison River Whitewater Park gauge to the nearby Gunnison River near Gunnison gauge so that USGS can install a five port monitoring system as well in a less publicly used area. Because of the very close proximity of these two gauges, Whitewater Park recreationist can still very accurately determine what stream temperatures will be like at the Park.

- Finally, as discussed at our last meeting, with Western Colorado University's notification that they would not be participating in the 2021 Upper Gunnison Basin Water Monitoring Agreement and covering expenses related to the Tomichi Creek Below Cochetopa water-quality monitoring site, the UGRWCD will be absorbing the cost (\$10,088/year). While this represents an increase to the District's 2021 contribution to the USGS Joint Funding Agreement (JFA), we can easily absorb the cost in 2021 given that USGS NGWOS is paying for expenses associated with the Texas and Willow Creek gauges (\$58,000 budget decrease). For future years, it does mean we should plan for a regular \$10K+ increase to our District contribution to the monitoring program. The revised USGS JFA is attached for your information.

**V. Grant Committee** – Please see attached Memorandum, meeting summary, and recommended 2021 District Grant Program funding recommendations.

**Board Action:**

- Board approval of \$177,721 in District Grant Funds for 2021 projects.
- Board approval of transfer of \$30,000 from available District Grant Funds to the Non- Operating Budget, General Consulting Line Item 37 for Engineering Support for 2021 grant projects.

**VI. Education Committee** – No meeting. Please see attached staff Memorandum from Beverly Richards, Water Resource Specialist and Sue Uerling, Admin. Assistant.

**VII. Gunnison Basin Roundtable Update** – Verbal Update from Director Nania.

**VIII. Wet Meadows Project Update** – No update this month. Continued planning and fund raising.

**IX. Scientific Endeavors** – Verbal update from Director Carroll.

**X. Crested Butte Land Trust Long Lake (a.k.a. Meridian Lake) Stakeholder Work Group** – Verbal update from Director Carroll.

**XI. Gunnison River Festival** – Verbal update from Director Fonken.

## **Board Committees**

**Revised**

Adopted at the March 22, 2021 Regular Board meeting

The Board of Directors, by motion adopted by a majority of the entire board, may, from time-to-time, designate among its members such committees as the board deems desirable. Each committee consists of not more than five board members plus designated staff with such power and authority, to the extent permitted by law, as may be provided in such motion. Committees shall serve at the pleasure of the board. Unless specifically delegated authority by the board, committees have no authority to take formal action on behalf of the District, but instead recommend actions and policies to the board for its consideration. (*UGRWCD Bylaws*, Article I, Section 6, Nov. 25, 2002). With the exception of the Finance Committee, committee members select a chair for the committee.

Committees are authorized to gather information, explore options and report to the full board. Committees shall report regularly to the board on their activities and progress, making recommendations to be considered for action at any regular or special meeting. In instances where action is authorized and taken by a committee, draft minutes of that meeting will be circulated to the full board with the next regular board meeting minutes. The Committee will approve such minutes at the first regular board meeting following the Committee meeting where action was taken. Approved Committee meeting minutes will be posted and available to the public in the same fashion as regular approved board minutes.

Notice of all meetings of committees of the board shall be posted in the designated public place within the boundaries of the District no less than forty-eight hours prior to the holding of the meeting. Notice of all meetings of committees of the board shall be given to the Board of Directors no less than forty-eight hours prior to the holding of the meeting. (*UGRWCD Bylaws*, Article II, Section 5, Nov. 25, 2002). Any Director may attend committee meetings, but only appointed committee members may vote on recommendations of the committee. Attendance at committee meetings by electronic means is governed by the board's policy regarding electronic participation in board and committee meetings.

Committees may call upon the District staff for assistance in compiling information, refining recommendations and presenting information to the full board. Committees must inform the board when significant staff time will be needed to complete any requested task. The board will approve such expenditures, both in terms of staff time and financial resources, as it

determines to be needed.

Committees in need of professional services from the District's contract engineers or from other outside consultants, shall request approval of the board for the purpose and cost of such assistance.

Any Committee may meet in Executive Session pursuant to the criteria set forth by law.

The board will reauthorize committees at its Annual Meeting each June. As of the **June 2020** Annual Meeting, the District has the following standing committees established for the purposes outlined below.

#### Water Administration Committee

The purpose of this committee is to assist the board and its constituents with issues related to the administration of water rights within the basin, as well as policy issues of the Division of Water Resources, Bureau of Reclamation and other entities involved with water administration that could impact the District or its constituents.

#### Executive Committee

This committee is made up of the officers of the board: the President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary. The committee has been charged with the development of administrative policy, such as electronic communications and board-staff interaction. This committee handles reviews and salary recommendations of management level staff.

#### Finance Committee

This committee assists District staff with budget, audit, investment strategies, and other District financial issues and advises the board on those matters. The chair of this committee is the District Treasurer. This committee may be utilized to investigate the formation of a Water Activity Enterprise.

#### Legislative Committee

This committee is responsible for reviewing and tracking proposed legislation. The committee recommends to the board positions on legislation. The committee is authorized to take a position on legislative matters that cannot be brought to the board in a timely manner. This authorization must be renewed annually.

### Project Committee

This committee is responsible for reviewing and evaluating the feasibility of potential projects determined by the board to have potential for accomplishing the District's goals and making recommendations to the full board regarding those projects.

The Committee's primary goal should be to identify, evaluate feasibility, and implement projects that protect or enhance private and public water ways and uses in the Upper Gunnison Basin. (Mission statement approved July 19, 2019).

### Education Committee

This committee is responsible for gathering information and exploring options to accomplish the District's goal of pursuing education of and input from constituents within the District on the value of basin water resources, including development of an outreach program promoting the District and its activities, and directing the Action Items associated with 2016 Goal 7.

### Grant Committee

This committee is responsible for reviewing applications for funding under the District's Grant Program, consistent with board grant policies, and for making recommendations regarding approval of applications to the full board.

### Watershed Management Planning Committee

The Watershed Management Planning Committee will develop a Watershed Management Plan that will provide a blueprint for actions that will improve water security for all water uses in the Upper Gunnison Basin, by protecting existing uses, meeting user shortages, and maintaining healthy riverine ecosystems in the face of future demands and climate uncertainty.

## MEMORANDUM



**TO:** UGRWCD Board Members  
**FROM:** Sonja Chavez, General Manager  
**DATE:** March 12, 2021  
**SUBJECT:** Watershed Management Planning

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### **I. Watershed Management Planning**

**Background:** Since 2017, the District has been conducting comprehensive and community driven watershed and stream management planning within the Upper Gunnison basin. The purpose is to protect and improve existing and future water uses within the basin. Following are updates related to those efforts since our February 22, 2021 Board of Directors (BOD) regular meeting.

#### **Updates:**

- A. *Recreational Assessments:* Needs assessment for the Taylor and Gunnison Rivers and refinement of a draft Boatable Days Tool have been completed. Verification of the tool with key stakeholders is being conducted and a presentation was made to the Taylor Local Users Group (TLUG) on 03-10-21.
- B. *Angling Assessment:* The final report has been drafted and verification of stakeholder input is being conducted at this time. A presentation was made to the TLUG on 03-10-21.
- C. *Municipal Assessments:* Underway through Wilson Water Group (WWG). Initial interviews have been conducted, data and planning efforts of other municipal entities are being reviewed. The General Manager is exploring the establishment of a Municipal Work Group to help facilitate conversations within the Upper Gunnison Community around municipal water uses and on-going needs. Through conversations with Director Nania, it's possible this group may convene through the Watersmart group. More information will be provided as information becomes available.
- D. *A UGRWCD Watershed and Forest Health Sub-Group:* Established by the District and will focus on identification of potential activities that support our District mission and values and mitigate potential risk to those watershed values. This WMP efforts is being coordinated by Dan Omasta of Colorado TU through a Memorandum of Agreement with the District. The General Manager is providing project oversight.
- E. *Agricultural Assessments:* The General Manager, Jesse Kruthaupt (WMP Ag Coordinator), Director McPhail, and Craig Ullman (Applegate Group) met to go over the Ohio Creek ditch systems and issues in detail and then followed up with a field tour. The District is working on developing a consulting agreement with Applegate and will issue work via Task Orders. In other words, Task Order No. 1 will focus on system optimization planning

in the Ohio Creek sub-basin for a specified amount of funding while Task Order No. 2 might be general engineering support for infrastructure assessments throughout the basin.

- F. *Phase 2 Draft Report Develop (Ohio Creek)*: During the WMP Coordinators meeting we continued to refine the draft report template for the Taylor Basin and assigned different sections to the WMP Team. Preliminary draft sections are anticipated the end of March.

## **II. Upper Gunnison District Application for Funding Through the Colorado River District Partnership Project Funding Program (Ballot Issue 7A Approved by Voters) - Outcalt No.2 and Gunnison Tomichi Valley Association Ditch: Single Point of Diversion**

*Summary*: This project renamed the *2021 Upper Gunnison River Restoration & Irrigation Infrastructure Improvement Project* is a result of outreach conducted through the WMP project. A copy of the funding application is attached along with all letters of support received to date. Our funding request to the Partnership program is for \$47,241 and is matched with \$75,179 of cash from landowner/water right holders, awards made through our District Grant Program, and WMP Grant from the Colorado Water Conservation Board. In addition, landowners are contributing \$23,980 of materials and in-kind services (labor and equipment) to the project. The Upper Gunnison District is acting as the fiscal agent and project manager. We will enter into agreements with water right holders and a construction firm to construct the project. Ownership of the infrastructure and all long-term operation and maintenance remains with the water right holders. Construction inspections will be done by Applegate Group (Craig Ullman, P.E.) throughout the project (including a final project inspection).

*Pre-Application Process*: On March 9<sup>th</sup>, District staff, water right holders (Esty Ranch LLC: Cheryl Hill and Allen Roper; Bar Slash Bar Ranch LLLP, Burt Guerrieri; Guerrieri Land & Cattle, Inc., Burt Guerrieri), Trout Unlimited (Jesse Kruthaupt), Applegate Group (Craig Ullman, P.E.), and Gunnison County Representative to the Colorado River District (Kathleen Curry) participated in a pre-application remote conference meeting with the Colorado River Water Conservancy District (Dave Kanzer and Brendon Langenhuizen). The consultation went very well and there were no substantive comments made for any changes to our application and we were given a big thumbs up. Our next steps include a presentation and request for letter of support from the Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) on Tuesday morning, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Our project is ‘shovel ready’, hits all five funding categories, has multiple water resource benefits, and has demonstrated a strong commitment from the water right holders and entire project team and has significant community support. We plan to submit to the Colorado River District immediately following receipt of the letter of support from the Gunnison BOCC.

If funded, the Upper Gunnison District will be only the second entity to receive funding from the program. The Windy Gap Bypass Project was the first entity to receive a \$1M award which happened almost immediately after the Program was adopted by the River District Board. We would be the first constituent to be given an award utilizing their new funding program process.



## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** UGRWCD Board Members

**FROM:** Watershed Management Planning Committee

**DATE:** March 8, 2021

**SUBJECT:** Watershed Management Planning Committee Meeting Summary

A meeting of the committee was held on February 8, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

Stacy McPhail, Michelle Pierce, Rosemary Carroll, Julie Nania, Jesse Kruthaupt, Dan Omasta, Ian Breckheimer (RMBL), Sonja Chavez, John McCLOW, Beverly Richards, and Sue Uerling were in attendance. Andy Spann was absent.

Agenda topics included a summary of the coordinator check-in meeting, summary of Forest and Watershed Health technical partners meeting, and updates about Agricultural Engineering contract status. Ian Breckheimer from RMBL presented on work they are doing in the area of basin mapping. As a result of these discussions the following action and discussion items were identified:

### **Action and Discussion Items**

- Staff will continue to work on completing the Lake Fork deliverables.
- WMP Team will work with Ian Breckheimer and RMBL to discern what available mapping data can be used for the WMP process.
- Dan Omasta will provide a debriefing of the technical subgroup meeting held to discuss existing available data as it relates to identification of zones of concern in the watershed and forest health initiative.
- The Forest and Watershed Health subgroup will develop metrics for areas of concern with a water nexus.
- Kestrel Kunz will continue developing the whitewater recreational use summary report as well as make suggested changes to the Boatable Days Web Tool.
- WMP Team will provide an update of the WMP process to the Taylor Local Users Group on March 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Sonja Chavez and Jesse Kruthaupt will continue to develop the contract and task orders for the engineering work to be done by Applegate Engineering.

**Next Meeting**

Coordinator Bi-weekly Check-In Meeting – March 15, 2021 – 1:00 p.m.

Watershed Management Planning Committee – April 12, 2021 – 1:30 p.m.

All meetings will be held via Zoom teleconferencing until further notice.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

## MEMORANDUM



**TO:** UGRWCD Board Members  
**FROM:** Director Don Sabrowski  
General Manager Sonja Chavez  
**DATE:** March 12, 2021  
**SUBJECT:** Taylor Local Users Group Update

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The Taylor Local Users Group met on March 10, 2021 (10am to 12pm) for its first meeting of the 2021 Water Year. The draft meeting summary and the March 1 forecasted Taylor Operations Plan have been provided in your packets as well.

### **Key Take-Aways:**

- According to the Colorado Basin River Forecast Center, Taylor Reservoir is at 72% of average (border of a 'dry' and 'average' year) therefore based upon this early forecast there is no plan for an early spring release.
- At this early time in the season, there were no specific requests for flows from TLUG representatives. They did state that given inflow projections they will likely try to be conservative with releases and take advantage of spring peak flows as much as possible in order to preserve storage for June and July. They will consider flow requests at the April meeting.
- The General Manager indicated that the Upper Gunnison Board of Directors is very aware of the potential need to purchase Aspinall Unit water in order to forestall a Gunnison Tunnel call on the river. She will be reaching out to the Uncompahgre Valley Water Users about the upcoming year and potential to work together to try to support all our producers and minimize negative impacts to the greatest extent possible.
- USGS announced that our request for the Next General Water Observing System (NGWOS) program to cover the installation and annual operation and maintenance (O&M) of the Texas and Willow Creek gauges in the amount of \$58,000 was approved for 2021. This represents a \$58,000 savings to the District in budget year 2021. It is very likely that USGS can continue to cover annual O&M expenses beyond 2021 in the amount of approximately \$22,000/year, but as we all understand, it is dependent upon congressional appropriation and may be subject to changes in administration.
- The seasonal Texas and Willow Creek gauges will be installed in April and data will be generated April through October. Ryan Birdsey offered to help check the Willow Creek gauge regularly for beaver dams which can impact readings. There are no alternate sites on Willow Creek so if it becomes burdensome, the District has offered to consider hiring an individual or intern who can help perform these services regularly.
- Presentations on the WMP process for the Taylor Basin and the Boatable Days Web Tool were also given.

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** UGRWCD Board Members

**FROM:** Taylor Local Users Group (TLUG)

**DATE:** March 10, 2021

**SUBJECT:** Taylor Local Users Group Meeting Minutes

A TLUG meeting was held on March 10, 2020 via Zoom video/teleconference. Attending the meeting were the following TLUG members:

Ryan Birdsey, representative for flat water recreation interests  
Ernie Cockrell, representative for Taylor Placer  
Pete Dunda, representative for property owners  
Roark Kiklevich, representative for wade fishing interests  
Don Sabrowski, UGRWCD Board representative and TLUG Chair  
Mark Schumacher, representative for whitewater recreation interests  
Andy Spann, representative for irrigation interests

Also present: Steve Anders (USGS); Rory Birdsey; Patrick Blackdale (Three Rivers Resort Outfitting); Ryan Christianson (BOR); Erik Knight (BOR); Jesse Kruthaupt (Trout Unlimited); Kestrel Kunz (American Whitewater); Dan Omasta (CO Trout Unlimited); Dirk Schumacher (Three Rivers Resort); and Sonja Chavez, Beverly Richards, Jill Steele and Sue Uerling (all UGRWCD).

Chair Don Sabrowski called the meeting to order and announced the three representatives reappointed to TLUG for 2021 as follows: Roark Kiklevich, Andy Spann, and Pete Dunda. Chairman Sabrowski thanked these representatives for their continued service.

The meeting summary from the August 19, 2020 meeting was included in the meeting materials. There were no comments about or changes to this summary.

Erik Knight of the Bureau of Reclamation provided an update on Taylor River Operations. According to the Colorado River Forecast Center, the Taylor Reservoir is at 72 percent of average, which is on the border of the “dry” and “average” categories. As of the meeting date, there is no plan for any early spring releases. Erik said January was a particularly bad month for snow accumulation and while February was better, it was still below average. As of the first of March, the basin is at 50 percent of the weighted average of snow

accumulation. He's hoping the snow forecasted for this coming weekend will help bring up this percentage.

Chairman Sabrowski asked Erik if the new gages were installed at Texas and Willow Creek, how would this data affect the volume forecast model. Erik replied that these gages would help provide more accurate daily flow, but since the CRBFC bases their models on 30-years of historical data, it would be a period of time before the data from these gages might affect the volume forecast model. General Manager Sonja Chavez also indicated it takes time to develop rating curves before the newly installed gage readings would be accurate. Steve Anders from the USGS said that they would want to take measurements at lower flows when the gages are first installed (April) and then again during higher flows (May and June) to develop some preliminary readings, which will then be projected on their website. Steve did say there may need to be some minor alterations to the new gages to ensure accuracy.

- Chair Don Sabrowski asked TLUG members for any flow requests. Andy Spann said that he thinks irrigators would like to be as conservative as possible based on the present forecast models. He said that due to the large margin of error we saw last year in the model, he prefers a conservative approach (i.e. reduce releases the end of April thru May in order to get more water June through July 15). He is not making a formal recommendation at this time as it is a bit too early. Andy asked Sonja if she knows if the Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association (UVWUA) has any plans for calling in the event of a short water year. Sonja said she has not spoken to Steve Anderson but would give him a call. She also noted that the Uncompahgre Valley was in D4 drought conditions almost all of last year so it could be a tough year.
- Mark Schumacher agreed that it was a little premature to make any requests at this time, but he would like to address this again at the April meeting.
- Roark Kiklevich agreed with Andy and Mark and said that if necessary, he would like to hold back some water for use later in the summer if conditions stay the same. He's hoping this big storm system off the coast will make it here.
- Pete Dunda agreed with the others on waiting for now on requests but said it would detrimental to basin water users if there was a call from UVWUA.
- Ryan Birdsey agreed that a conservative approach was the best course of action and noted that Snotel reports look good for the East River by not Taylor.
- Ernie Cockrell agreed with a conservative approach for now and offered that some cuts in April might be considered. Ernie asked Andy Spann how that might affect irrigation. Andy said there are some irrigators who do turn on their ditches in April, but that if cutting water in April saved

some for later, this might be helpful. Andy wondered if there were concerns around fishery impacts. Andy asked Erik Knight if he could calculate the storage benefits associated with possibly keeping April releases at 83 cfs? Erik ran the calculations and said that it would mean a gain of about 700 acre-feet.

General Manager Sonja Chavez reported that the Upper Gunnison Board of Directors has discussed the potential to have to purchase Aspinall Unit water this year to forestall a call from the Uncompahgre which impacts junior water rights to the Gunnison Tunnel.

Steve Anders (USGS) reported that he has done some reconnaissance on the installation of new gages at Texas and Willow Creek and it appears there are some gageable sections on both. He said that these gages would run seasonally from April through October. Steve is working with the Jon Hare of the Forest Service (USFS) to obtain permission for the gages. The USFS is supportive but would like to do a site inspection once the snow melts. Steve is hopeful this can be completed in April. With regard to funding for the gages, Steve indicated that Sonja's timing in requesting the gages was fortuitous. USGS has a new initiative, *the Next Generation Water Observing System (NGWOS)*, where they are trying to get a better handle on stream flow quality and quantity, and part of this initiative is to install more stream gages. Steve submitted the District's request for the gages to the NGWOS panel and they were approved. USGS will provide the funds to install these gages and cover initial Operation & Monitoring (O&M) costs in 2021. Steve pointed out that subsequent years were dependent upon annual congressional budget approvals and can change based upon political make-up of Congress or changes in administration. Sonja noted that this represents a cost savings of \$58,000 for the District in 2021 and if funded annually, a \$22,000 cost savings for O&M. Sonja asked Chairman Sabrowski if he was in agreement that the ongoing monitoring costs of \$22,000 should be budgeted as a precautionary measure. He agreed and will bring this before the District Board.

Steve also said that the USGS NGWOS initiative is to better understand snow, snowpack and its impact on water availability. Steve would like to have the project lead on this initiative come speak directly to the TLUG group.

Steve reported that the USGS is seeking to improve its water quality monitoring systems to include more data about the chemistry and temperature. He said the Gunnison stream gage sites that currently have temperature gages will be upgraded to get improved sensors that will provide real time measurement of specific conductance, pH, isotopes, turbidity, DOC (dissolved organic carbon). Steve would like the lead scientists involved in the initiative to speak directly to TLUG about the benefits of the new sensors.

General Manager Sonja Chavez asked Steve about possible coordination of the timing around when the USGS does their instrumentation checks, particularly later in July, which might alleviate some of the issues around gage corrections that happen after the biweekly forecasts are made. Steve said the USGS tries to visit the sites about every six weeks, with less visits in the winter due to ice. During peak, he said they try to do their checks a little more often. Sonja asked Steve how quickly their data gets to the people using the information. Steve said the data is usually available within a day or two and believes the Colorado River Forecast Center uses USGS real time data for their models. Erik said the Forecast Center uses real time data and if they have any concerns about any of the gage readings, they contact USGS right away or if USGS makes gage adjustments they are good about calling Reclamation. Steve said he would be willing to try to give us a heads-up a couple of weeks in advance. Steve expressed concerns about beavers possibly interfering with the natural flow at the stream gage proposed for installation at Willow Creek. Sonja Chavez asked Chairman Sabrowski if he was supportive of the District hiring an intern to help check the site every few days if needed? Ryan Birdsey offered that he and his family can help out with checking the gage as he said their family lives about two minutes from there.

General Manager Sonja Chavez reported that the District Board is going forward with a drought outreach campaign. As part of the campaign, the District held a contest asking for submissions of potential drought slogans. The winning slogan selected was “Water: It doesn’t grow on trees” submitted by Judy Bratcher of Lake City. Sonja hopes TLUG can help with the distribution of promotional products imprinted with the slogan and said she would have more details about the campaign at the April meeting.

Dan Omasta of Colorado Trout Unlimited has been contracted by the District to serve as the Coordinator of the Forest and Watershed Health Subgroup and Angling Recreation assessment being initiated through the Watershed Management Planning (WMP) process. Dan gave a Power Point presentation reviewing the angling assessments that have been conducted so far and talked about how these can be used to support and enhance recreational opportunities in the Taylor River Basin. Dan noted that the Angling Assessment report will be wrapped up shortly with the final report ready to be released later in March or early April 2021.

Dan also reported that the *Forest and Range Resiliency Project* will take place from 2021 through 2023 and that a key component of that effort was development of a framework for water and forest health managers to determining priority zones/areas for projects involving both watershed and forest health improvement components. As part of this project, Dan said the District has identified three main values: (1) Protection of existing beneficial uses; (2) Economic Stability, and (3) Protection of water quality and water quantity. The District has identified risks for each value as well. Last week, the

WMP met with representatives from the USFS to determine what data is available and what mapping assessments have been done to date. Dan explained that there would be more studies conducted with water users along the Taylor River to further assess areas of need. Ryan Birdsey with Taylor Park Marina said that a lot of legwork has already been conducted by the Taylor Park Adaptive Management work group that could help Dan's efforts. Dan will reach out to the AMG to review what's already been done so that there is no duplication of effort.

WMP Coordinator Jesse Kruthaupt, with the local Trout Unlimited chapter, reviewed some of the work he has been doing for the District on agricultural assessments and irrigation infrastructure projects. Although Jesse noted that there is not a lot of irrigation in the Taylor Rivers area, he encouraged the TLUG to help identify high priority areas of riparian degradation or other infrastructure issues. It was suggested that the Taylor Park cattle pool in the Texas Creek area could be an area of concern. General Manager Sonja Chavez also offered that through the District's contract with Applegate Engineering, Craig Ullman and his crew could possibly provide technical expertise to help with engineering efforts along the East and Taylor Rivers.

WMP consultant Kestrel Kunz (American Whitewater) reviewed her development of an interactive boatable days web tool that can help river users determine optimal river conditions for recreation. Kestrel demonstrated how the web tool works and asked for feedback from TLUG. She also noted that she hopes to gather more data going forward about the economic impact of recreational river users on the local economy.

Chairman Sabrowski asked if there is a way through the web tool to identify private property along the river and how stream flows can affect potential conflicts that can arise between river users and private landowners when water levels are low. Don noted that when flows are low, and boaters get hung-up there are more trespass issues and conflict. Kestrel noted that the WMP has discussed an effort to provide better signage and even a comprehensive map identifying private property along the Taylor.

Finally, General Manager Sonja Chavez shared a photo of the Gunnison River Restoration and Irrigation Improvement Project.

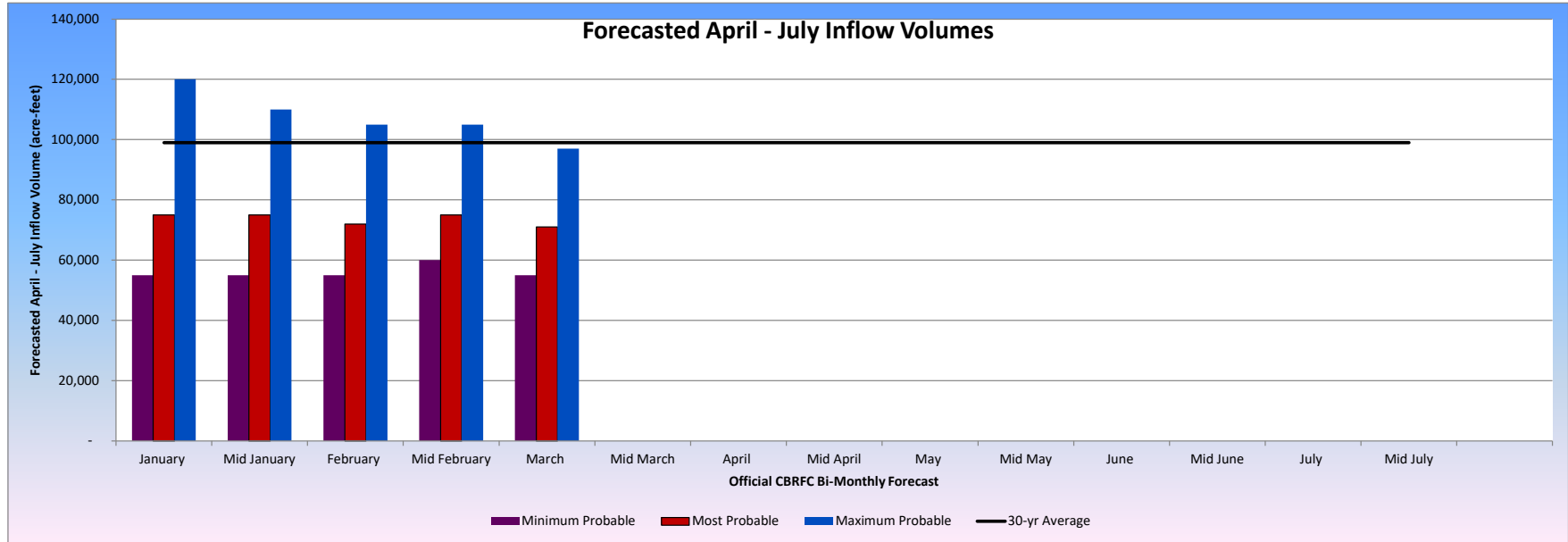
The meeting was adjourned at noon.



WY2021 CBRFC - Taylor Park Reservoir Most, Max and Min Inflow Forecasts (acre-feet)

CBRFC Forecast Issued	Monthly Inflow Volume Forecast (Acre-Feet)												April - July Forecasts					
	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September						
October	4,400	3,800	3,500															
Mid October	4,400	3,800	3,500															
November	4,300	3,800	3,500	3,200														
Mid November	4,300	4,000	3,500	3,200														
December	4,300	4,200	3,500	3,200	2,800													
Mid December	4,300	4,200	3,500	3,200	2,800													
January	4,300	4,200	3,900	3,400	2,900	3,200	6,000	20,000	34,000	15,000								
Mid January	4,300	4,200	3,900	3,400	2,900	3,200	6,000	21,000	34,000	14,000								
February	4,300	4,200	3,900	3,550	2,900	3,200	6,000	20,000	33,000	13,000								
Mid February	4,300	4,200	3,900	3,550	3,200	3,300	6,000	21,000	34,000	14,000								
March	4,300	4,200	3,900	3,550	3,200	3,400	7,000	20,000	32,000	12,000								
Mid March	4,300	4,200	3,900	3,550	3,200													
April	4,300	4,200	3,900	3,550	3,200													
Mid April	4,300	4,200	3,900	3,550	3,200													
May	4,300	4,200	3,900	3,550	3,200													
Mid May	4,300	4,200	3,900	3,550	3,200													
June	4,300	4,200	3,900	3,550	3,200													
Mid June	4,300	4,200	3,900	3,550	3,200													
July	4,300	4,200	3,900	3,550	3,200													
Mid July	4,300	4,200	3,900	3,550	3,200													
August	4,300	4,200	3,900	3,550	3,200													
Mid August	4,300	4,200	3,900	3,550	3,200													
September	4,300	4,200	3,900	3,550	3,200													
Mid September	4,300	4,200	3,900	3,550	3,200													

Most	% of Avg	Min	% of Avg	Max	% of Avg	AVG
75,000	76%	55,000	56%	120,000	121%	99,000
75,000	76%	55,000	56%	110,000	111%	99,000
72,000	73%	55,000	56%	105,000	106%	99,000
75,000	76%	60,000	61%	105,000	106%	99,000
71,000	72%	55,000	56%	97,000	98%	99,000
	0%		0%		0%	99,000
	0%		0%		0%	99,000
	0%		0%		0%	99,000
	0%		0%		0%	99,000
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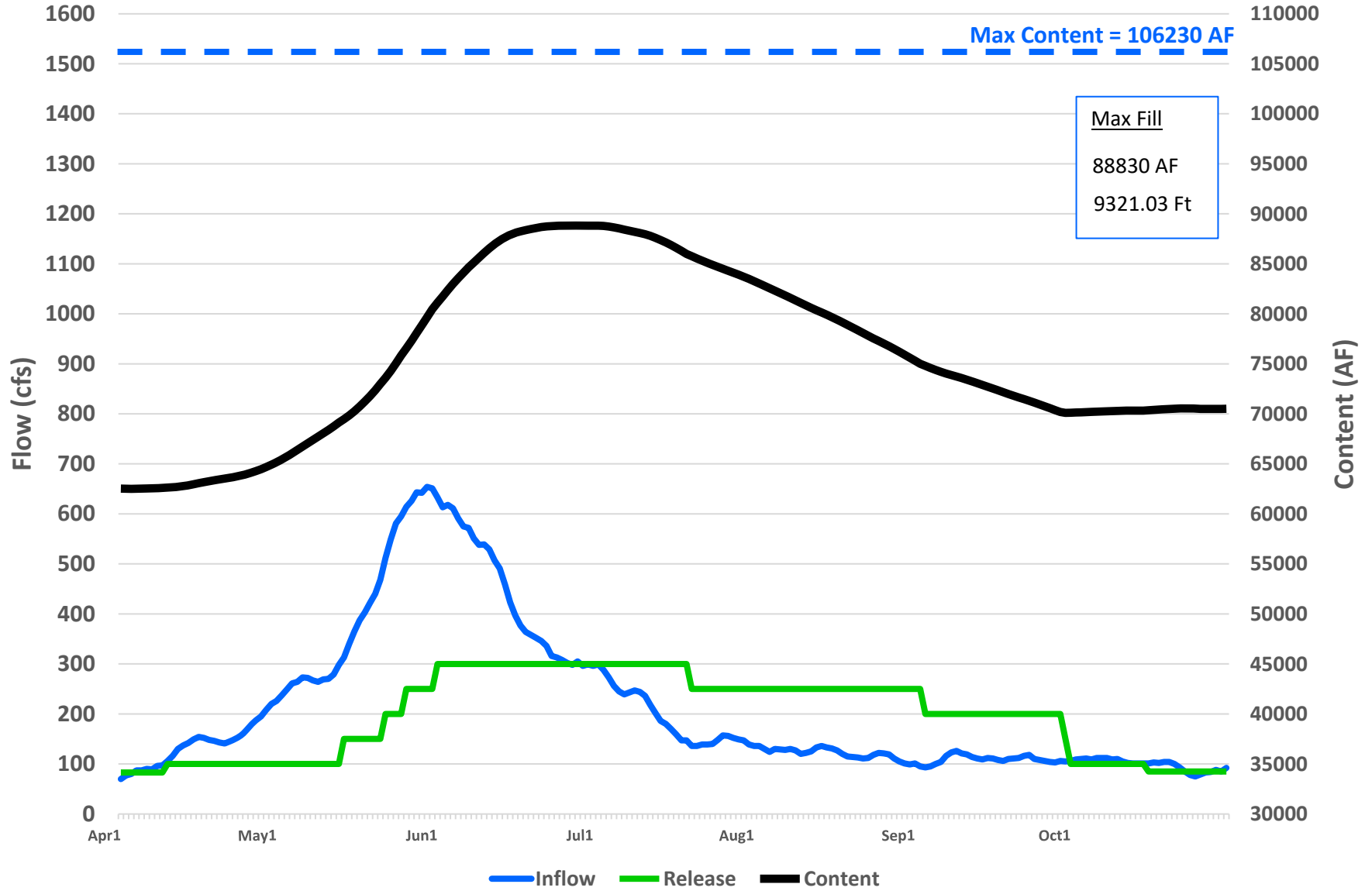


Proposed Operation  
Taylor Park Reservoir  
Mar 1st forecast = 72% (71,000) af  
March 4, 2021

<u>Month</u>	<u>Inflow ac-ft</u>	<u>Average Inflow cfs</u>	<u>Outflow ac-ft</u>	<u>Average Outflow cfs</u>	<u>EOM Content ac-ft</u>	<u>EOM Elevation ft</u>
					68,253	
Nov 1-15	2,050	69	2,470	83	67,833	9308.69
Nov 16-30	2,080	70	2,460	83	67,453	9308.45
Dec 1-15	1,810	61	2,410	81	66,853	9308.06
Dec 16-31	2,040	64	2,530	80	66,363	9307.73
Jan 1-15	1,700	57	2,340	79	65,723	9307.32
Jan 16-31	1,850	58	2,490	78	65,083	9306.89
Feb 1-15	1,870	63	2,420	81	64,533	9306.53
Feb 16-28	1,370	53	2,180	85	63,723	9306.00
Mar 1-15	1,850	62	2,480	83	63,093	9305.57
Mar 16-31	2,110	66	2,630	83	62,573	9305.22
Apr 1-15	3,080	104	2,670	90	62,983	9305.50
Apr 16-30	4,930	166	2,980	100	64,933	9306.79
May 1-15	8,100	272	3,170	107	69,863	9309.98
May 16-31	16,960	534	6,350	200	80,473	9316.36
Jun 1-15	16,360	550	8,930	300	87,903	9320.52
Jun 16-30	9,860	331	8,920	300	88,843	9321.03
Jul 1-15	7,240	243	8,930	300	87,153	9320.11
Jul 16-31	4,690	148	8,330	262	83,513	9318.09
Aug 1-15	3,850	129	7,440	250	79,923	9316.05
Aug 16-31	3,640	115	7,930	250	75,633	9313.52
Sep 1-15	3,250	109	6,150	207	72,733	9311.77
Sep 16-30	3,240	109	5,850	197	70,123	9310.15
Oct 1-15	3,190	107	2,980	100	70,333	9310.28
Oct 16-31	2,890	91	2,690	85	70,533	9310.40

preliminary

# Taylor Park Reservoir Operations Plan



**TAYLOR PARK RESERVOIR - WY2021 - ANNUAL OPERATING PLAN MONTHLY SUMMARY  
MOST PROBABLE INFLOW**

Timestep (Month)	Inflow Volume (Acre-Ft)	% of Average Inflow	Reservoir Release Volume (Acre-Ft)	Average Monthly Reservoir Release (CFS)	% of Average Reservoir Release	End of Month Reservoir Live Storage (Acre-Ft)	% of Average Live Storage	End of Month Reservoir Elevation
OCT 2019	7,388	114%	10,901	177	95%	77,062	111%	9314.37
NOV 2019	4,805	98%	6,000	101	92%	75,867	115%	9313.66
DEC 2019	5,489	121%	6,002	98	110%	75,354	113%	9313.35
JAN 2020	4,423	101%	5,803	94	118%	73,974	111%	9312.52
FEB 2020	4,312	113%	5,622	101	127%	72,664	111%	9311.72
MAR 2020	4,557	104%	6,030	98	92%	71,191	112%	9310.81
APR 2020	7,223	86%	5,832	98	58%	72,582	115%	9311.67
MAY 2020	23,581	87%	10,235	166	72%	85,928	111%	9319.44
JUN 2020	22,485	54%	16,042	270	80%	92,371	90%	9322.93
JUL 2020	7,680	39%	16,861	274	72%	83,190	86%	9317.91
AUG 2020	3,954	39%	14,301	233	75%	72,843	86%	9311.83
SEP 2020	5,493	77%	9,043	152	52%	69,293	97%	9309.62
OCT 2020	4,250	66%	5,304	86	46%	68,239	99%	9308.95
TOTALS	98,253	69%	107,076	148	75%			
Apr-Jul	60,970	63%	48,971		72%			

**WY 2021**

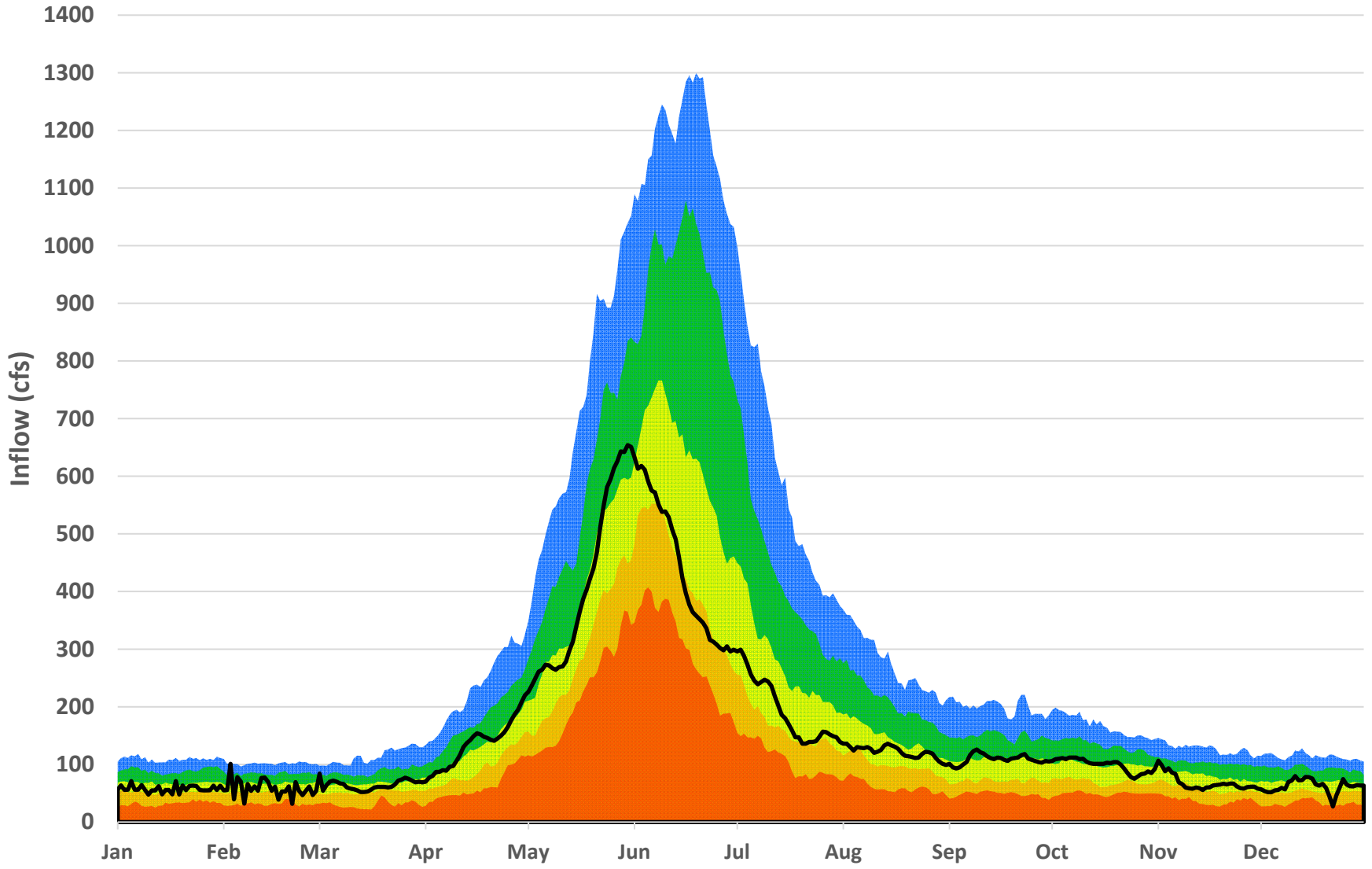
NOV 2020	4,130	84%	4,930	83	76%	67,453	102%	9308.45
DEC 2020	3,850	85%	4,940	80	90%	66,363	99%	9307.73
JAN 2021	3,550	81%	4,830	79	98%	65,083	98%	9306.89
FEB 2021	3,240	85%	4,600	83	104%	63,723	97%	9306.00
MAR 2021	3,960	90%	5,110	83	78%	62,573	98%	9305.22
APR 2021	8,010	95%	5,650	95	56%	64,933	103%	9306.79
MAY 2021	25,060	92%	9,520	155	67%	80,473	104%	9316.36
JUN 2021	26,220	63%	17,850	300	89%	88,843	87%	9321.03
JUL 2021	11,930	60%	17,260	281	74%	83,513	86%	9318.09
AUG 2021	7,490	75%	15,370	250	81%	75,633	89%	9313.52
SEP 2021	6,490	91%	12,000	202	69%	70,123	98%	9310.15
OCT 2021	6,080	94%	5,670	92	50%	70,533	102%	9310.40
TOTALS	110,010	77%	107,730	149	75%			
Apr-Jul	71,220	73%	50,280		74%			

**WY 2022**

NOV 2021	4,500	91%	5,050	85	78%	69,950	106%	9310.04
DEC 2021	4,100	91%	5,200	85	95%	68,850	103%	9309.34
JAN 2022	4,400	101%	5,200	85	106%	68,050	102%	9308.83
FEB 2022	3,800	99%	4,700	85	106%	67,150	102%	9308.25
MAR 2022	4,400	101%	5,200	85	80%	66,350	104%	9307.72
APR 2022	8,400	100%	10,000	168	99%	64,750	103%	9306.67
MAY 2022	27,000	99%	14,000	228	99%	77,750	100%	9314.78
JUN 2022	42,000	101%	20,000	336	100%	99,750	98%	9326.76
JUL 2022	20,000	101%	23,500	382	101%	96,250	99%	9324.96
AUG 2022	10,000	100%	19,000	309	100%	87,250	103%	9320.17
SEP 2022	7,000	98%	17,500	294	101%	76,750	107%	9314.19
OCT 2022	6,500	100%	11,500	187	101%	71,750	104%	9311.16
NOV 2022	5,000	102%	5,050	85	78%	71,700	108%	9311.13
DEC 2022	4,500	99%	5,200	85	95%	71,000	106%	9310.69
TOTALS	142,100	99%	140,850	195	98%			
Apr-Jul	97,400	100%	67,500		100%			

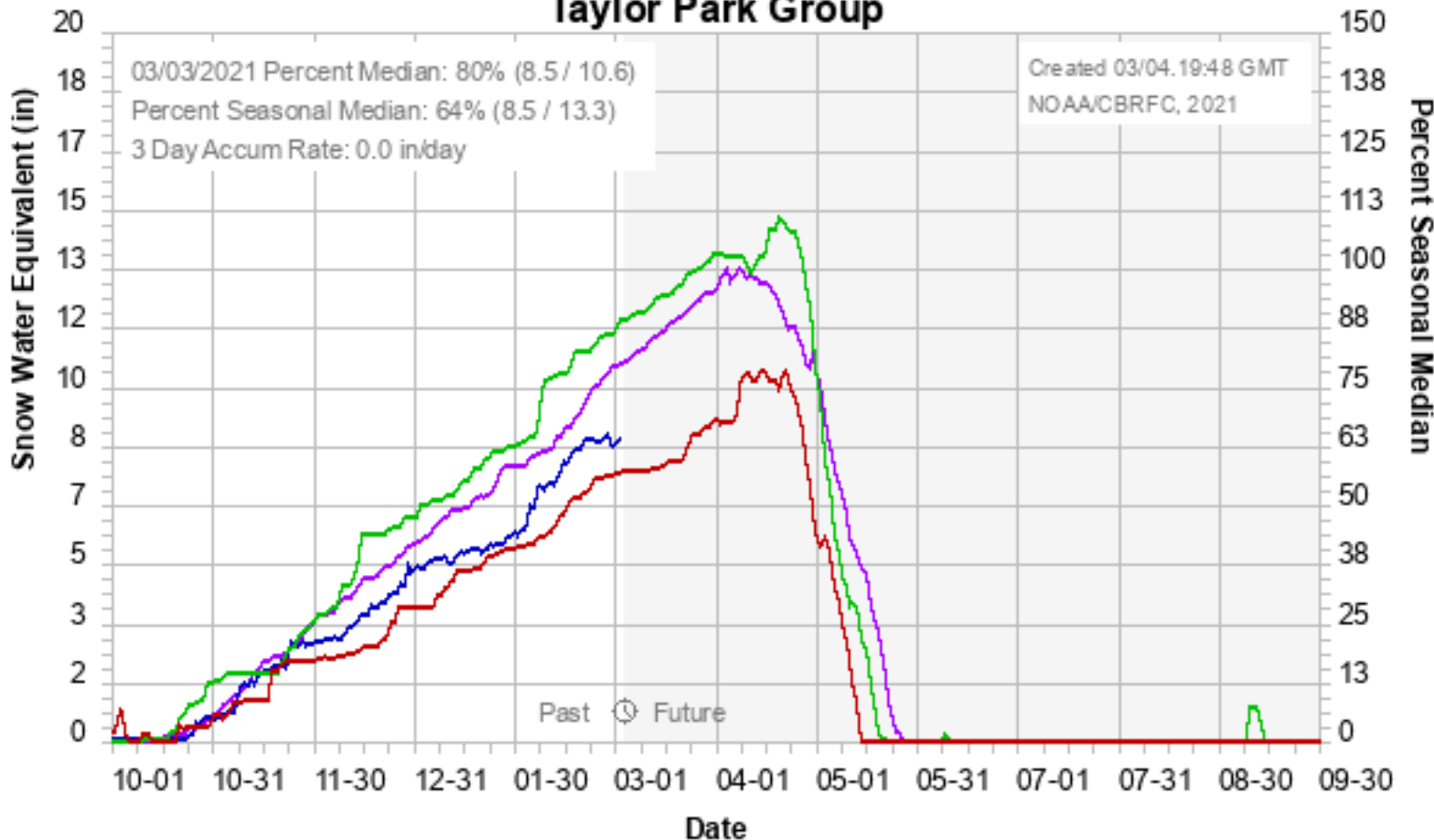
# Taylor Park Inflows

% Exceedence - Historical Inflows



■ 10% ■ 25% ■ 50% ■ 75% ■ 90% ■ 2021 Forecast Inflows

# Colorado Basin River Forecast Center Taylor Park Group



Median 1981-2010    2021    2020    2018    2019

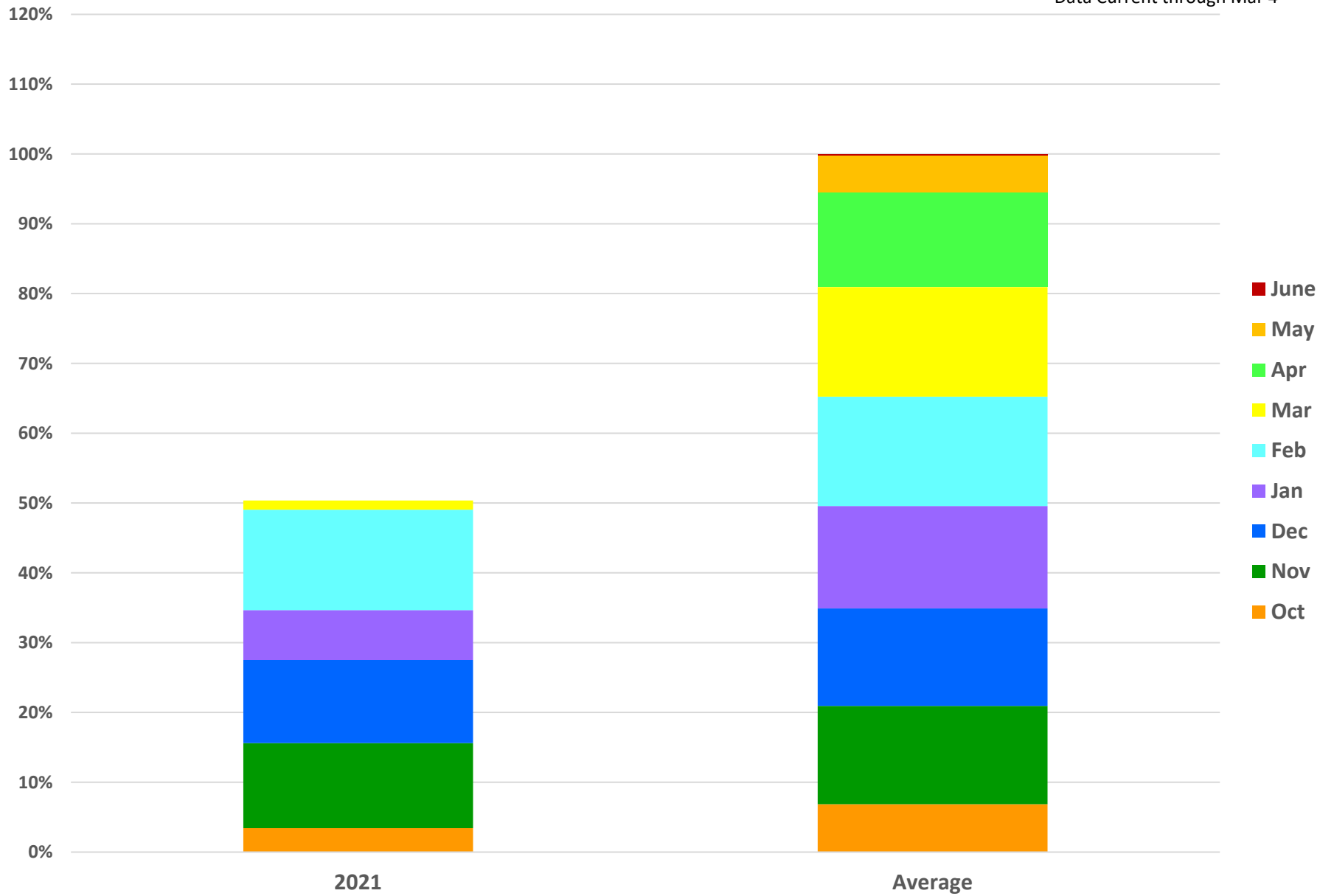
<b>Upper Gunnison Basin Monthly Snow Accumulation</b>			
		<b>Avg Month</b>	
	<b>Month SWE</b>	<b>SWE</b>	<b>% of Avg</b>
<b>Oct</b>	4.7	9.5	49%
<b>Nov</b>	16.7	19.2	87%
<b>Dec</b>	16.3	19.7	83%
<b>Jan</b>	9.8	19.5	50%
<b>Feb</b>	19.7	21.0	94%
<b>Mar</b>	#N/A	22.1	#N/A
<b>Apr</b>	#N/A	18.4	#N/A
<b>May</b>	#N/A	7.3	#N/A
<b>Current Season</b>	69.0	92.9	74%

\* monthly numbers are net SWE accumulation for each month

\* current season is net SWE accumulation to current date

# Upper Gunnison Basin Snow Accumulation

Data Current through Mar 4





## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** UGRWCD Board Members  
**FROM:** Beverly Richards, Water Resource Specialist  
**DATE:** March 10, 2021  
**SUBJECT:** Basin Water Supply Information

The information supplied as part of this memorandum will be a monthly feature and will include information about drought conditions in the basin, snowpack information from NRCS, Aspinall unit operations from the Bureau of Reclamation, Taylor Park Reservoir Storage information, and the Upper Gunnison Cloudseeding Program. This information will be increasingly important as drought conditions persist or worsen in 2021.

### **Drought Conditions:**

According to the *U.S. Drought Monitor at drought.gov*, as of March 9, 2021, 32.12% of Colorado is in severe (D2), 40.75% in Extreme (D3), and 15.89% in Exceptional (D4) drought conditions. As per the table below, this is not a significant change from the beginning of the water year, November 1, 2020, however, 15.89% of the state is now in Exceptional drought which is a 13.25% increase in area in the state.

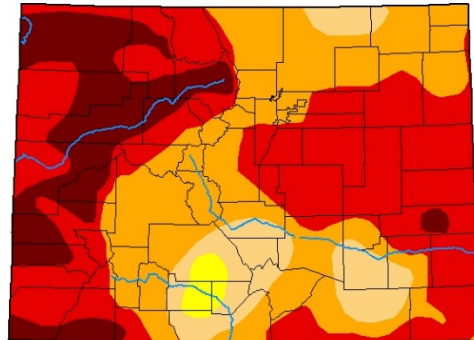
<b>Date</b>	<b>D0</b>	<b>D1</b>	<b>D2</b>	<b>D3</b>	<b>D4</b>
March 9, 2021	1.43	9.81	32.12	40.75	15.89
November 1, 2020	.72	9.93	36.47	50.24	2.64
Change	+.71	-.12	-4.35	-9.49	+13.25

*Table 1: Percent Area in Drought Categories - Colorado*

There has been a slight improvement in Gunnison County. Current condition show that 94% of Gunnison County is now in severe (D2) and 6% in extreme (D3) conditions. In contrast, the beginning of the water year showed that less than 1% of the county was in the D2 category, 91% in the D3 category, and 8% of the area was in exceptional (D4).

**U.S. Drought Monitor  
Colorado**

**March 9, 2021**  
(Released Thursday, Mar. 11, 2021)  
Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
<b>Current</b>	0.00	100.00	98.57	88.76	56.64	15.89
<b>Last Week</b> 03-02-2021	0.00	100.00	98.57	88.76	56.66	15.89
<b>3 Months Ago</b> 12-08-2020	0.00	100.00	100.00	93.71	76.17	27.60
<b>Start of Calendar Year</b> 12-29-2020	0.00	100.00	100.00	93.73	76.17	27.60
<b>Start of Water Year</b> 09-29-2020	0.00	100.00	99.29	89.35	52.88	2.64
<b>One Year Ago</b> 03-10-2020	30.09	69.91	46.88	3.30	0.00	0.00

**Intensity:**  
 None (White)      D2 Severe Drought (Yellow-Orange)  
 D0 Abnormally Dry (Yellow)      D3 Extreme Drought (Red)  
 D1 Moderate Drought (Light Orange)      D4 Exceptional Drought (Dark Red)

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

**Author:**  
Brian Fuchs  
National Drought Mitigation Center



[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

Hinsdale County is now 99% in severe (D2) conditions and 1% now in extreme (D3) conditions. In November 2020, Hinsdale County was 60% in extreme (D3) conditions, and 40% in exceptional (D4) conditions., so this is an improvement countywide. Saguache County has also improved as they are now 19% in the abnormally dry (D0) category, 39% in the moderate (D1) category, and 42% in the severe (D2) category. For Saguache County, the November numbers were 49% in the moderate category, 29% in the severe category, and 22% in the extreme category. This improvement continues to be due to precipitation in the San Juan and Sangre de Cristo mountains where the snowpack is currently at 95%. Other areas in the western part of Colorado continue to remain in either extreme or exceptional drought and the forecast is that much of the western United States will remain that way for at least the next 90 days.

In the western areas of the country, much of the region remains dry with only areas of western Montana, northern California, southwest Oregon, and northwest Washington recording above-normal precipitation. Drought on the Klamath Basin in Oregon have been declared as inflows into Upper Klamath Lake were some of the lowest in decades.

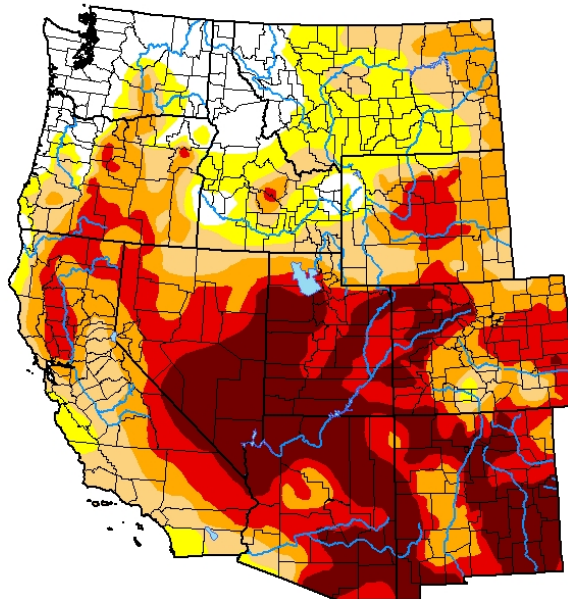
As current snow data came in for December through February, some improvements were made in those areas with good seasonal snow accumulations and where the other indicators supported it. In Montana, moderate drought was improved in the southwest and south-central portions of the state while severe drought was pushed farther to the west in the eastern portion of the state.

Wyoming had improvements to moderate, severe, and extreme drought over the northern portions of the state. The Taos region of New Mexico also had improvements to the extreme and exceptional drought based upon the good snows in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. Severe drought was pushed farther west along the California and Nevada border. North central Nevada also had some improvement to the extreme drought over the region based on the current water year data.

Despite these recent precipitation events, exceptional to extreme drought persists over the entire area: 84% of the entire state of Arizona, 81% of New Mexico, 90% of Utah, and 71% for Nevada.

# U.S. Drought Monitor West

**March 9, 2021**  
(Released Thursday, Mar. 11, 2021)  
Valid 7 a.m. EST



**Intensity:**

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

**Author:**

Brian Fuchs  
National Drought Mitigation Center

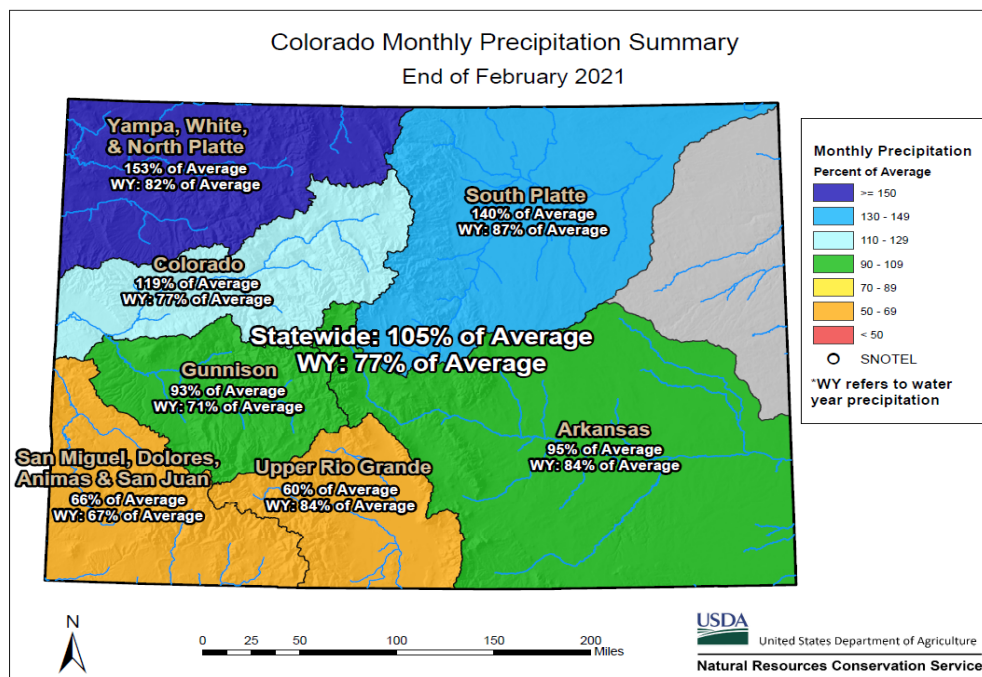


[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

*Drought Conditions in the West Region*

## Snowpack Information:

According to the NRCS news release dated March 5, 2021, recent precipitation has brought the snowpack up in some areas of the state, however, the snowpack remains at 71% of average for the water year in the entire Gunnison Basin, and to 82% of average for the Upper Gunnison Basin. The entire state of Colorado is currently at 77% of average so conditions are still dry in many areas of the state. There is still one month left in the normal snow accumulation season, so there could potentially be changes to these numbers. See the precipitation summary map below.



Reservoir storage in the Gunnison Basin is at 84% of average for the year. The reservoirs in the Upper Gunnison Basin, Taylor and Blue Mesa, are at 61% and 48% respectively. As a result of the dry conditions streamflow will likely remain low and reservoirs will see little recharge in the coming runoff season. These dry conditions have led to dry soil moisture conditions with the top two inches of the soil continuing to be very dry. Streamflow will likely work to replace this moisture and the forecast is that the streamflow in the Gunnison basin will only be 57% of average this runoff season.

### **Aspinall Unit Forecast for Operations:**

The Bureau of Reclamation provided us with the forecast for operations for the Aspinall Unit as of March 9, 2021. The report includes information about snowpack in the Upper Gunnison Basin, forecasted inflows and storage amounts in Blue Mesa Reservoir, and projected spring operations. This information reiterates the information by other sources within the state, that things are dry with some improvement but are likely to remain dry through the Spring.

- Upper Gunnison Basin Snowpack: 83%
- Blue Mesa Forecasted Inflows: 460,000 AF (68% of average)
- Blue Mesa Current Conditions: 402,926 AF Content (49% full)
- Current Blue Mesa Inflows: 400 cfs
- Projected Blue Mesa maximum fill: 560,000 AF Content (67% full)
- Projected Blue Mesa conditions as of 12/31/21: 432,000 AF (52% full)

### **Taylor Park Reservoir Storage:**

The Bureau of Reclamation provided us with the Taylor Park Reservoir update report. The proposed operations plan is based upon March 1, 2021 forecast from the Colorado River Basin Forecast Center. The forecast center is forecasting 71,000 acre-feet of runoff flowing into the reservoir which is 72% of average. This forecast would indicate that the year type is on the border of dry and average year categories and could result in the reservoir only filling to 89,000 acre-feet which is 83% full. These forecasts will be closely monitored by the Taylor Local Uses Group as well as the Bureau of Reclamation and other water users downstream. The first 2021 Taylor Local Users Group meeting was held on March 10, 2021 and no changes were made to the proposed operations plan at this time.

### **Cloudseeding Report (North American Weather Consultants):**

This report provides information about activities conducted by NAWC for February 2021. The highlights of the report are that there was a total of 398.5 hours of generator usage in February for a total of 1,127.50 hours used to cloudseed in the Upper Basin so far this year. This resulted in a snow water equivalent accumulation ranging from .1 inches to .9 inches during the seeding events, as shown in table 2. Even though this has been the case, SWE in the Gunnison Basin remains below normal, with a basin-wide (upper and lower) average of 82% of normal and an Upper Basin average of 83% of normal, see table 3 below.

Dates	SNOTEL Site					
	Schofield Pass	Park Cone	Porphyry Creek	Cochetopa Pass	Slumgullion	Idarado
February 3-4	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.4
February 5-6	0.7	0.3	0.5	0	0.1	0.1
February 9	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.1	0	0
February 13-14	0.9	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.3	0.2
February 16	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.6
February 20	0	0	0	0.1	0	0.3
February 26	0.1	0	0	0	0	0

*Table 2: SWE Accumulation for February 2021*

Measurement Site	Snow Water Equivalent (inches)		
	As of 3/12/21	Median	Percent of Median
Butte	9.8	11.7	84%
Park Cone	7.3	9.0	81%
Porphyry Creek	10.2	13.2	77%
Schofield Pass	22.1	26.6	83%
Slumgullion	10.7	11.4	94%
<b>Upper Gunnison Basin</b>			<b>83%</b>

*Table 3: Upper Gunnison Basin Snow Water Content by Site*

The cloudseeding program is scheduled to continue through April 15, 2021.

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*Think Rain or Snow!*

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# United States Department of the Interior

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
Colorado Water Science Center, Western Colorado Office  
445 W Gunnison Ave Ste 130  
Grand Junction, Colorado 81501  
(970) 628-7140

March 11, 2021

Mrs. Sonja Chavez  
General Manager  
Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District  
210 West Spencer, Suite B  
Gunnison, CO 81230

Dear Mrs. Chavez:

This letter and attached joint funding agreement supersede those developed on October 7, 2020. The District has agreed to provide additional funding for the water-quality sampling at site Tomichi Creek below Cochetopa, CO. This joint funding agreement increases the cost for the proposed program as shown below. The District also agreed to allow the USGS to relocate the water temperature sensor from USGS site Gunnison R. at Gunnison Whitewater Park to Gunnison R. near Gunnison. The relocation is scheduled to occur in July 2021. The USGS will relocate the sensor at their expense.

The proposed cost for the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to continue the operation and maintenance of the gaging stations and continuance of the water-quality monitoring program for the period January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021 is \$160,994. Of this amount, \$123,686 will be provided by the District, \$36,320 will be provided by USGS cooperative matching funds, and \$988 will be provided by the Groundwater and Streamflow Information Program (GWSIP) as listed in the table below:

UGRWCD	USGS Cooperative Matching Funds	GWSIP	Total
\$123,686	\$36,320	\$988	\$160,994

Please note that we have implemented the Prioritization Plan for Cooperatively Funded Streamgages in Colorado. In accordance with the Prioritization Plan, the ranking of the gages covered by this agreement are shown in table 2 and USGS matching funds have been applied accordingly.

Work performed with funds from this agreement will be conducted on a fixed-price basis. The results of all work under this agreement will be available for publication by the U.S. Geological Survey. **If this proposal is satisfactory, please sign and return to Meghan Patterson at [mpatterson@usgs.gov](mailto:mpatterson@usgs.gov).**

USGS policy requires us to obtain approval from our Regional Director to conduct work without a signed agreement. To assist us in complying with this policy, we request that you return the signed agreement by April 1, 2021. We appreciate whatever special effort you and others in your organization will make to respond to this request. If you have questions or concerns with this proposal, please contact me at 970-640-7130 or David Mau at 303-236-6900.

Sincerely,

Steven P. Anders  
Data Chief, Western Colorado Office  
USGS Colorado Water Science Center

**Table 1.** Upper Gunnison Basin Water-Quality Monitoring Program,  
January 2021 through December 2021

STATION NUMBER	STATION NAME	Physical and Chemical Properties <sup>1</sup>	E. coli Bacteria	Discharge Measurement <sup>2</sup>	Major Ions	Chloride	Nutrients, low level	Total Phosphorus	Trace elements	Total and diss As, Ba & Cr	Total As	Dissolved Organic Carbon	Chlorophyll	Turbidity	Suspended sediment concentration	
<b>LONG-TERM SITES</b>																
385106106571000	Slate River above Baxter Gulch <sup>3</sup>	6	6	0	4		6		6				1	4		4
09112200	East River below Cement Creek near Crested Butte	6	6				6						2			
09112500	East River at Almont	6	6				6						1			
09113980	Ohio Creek abv mouth near Gunnison	6	6				6						1			
09119000	Tomichi Creek at Gunnison	6	6		4		6		4				1	4		4
09114500	Gunnison River near Gunnison	6	6				6						1			
383103106594200	Gunnison River at County Road 32 near Gunnison	6	6	0	4		6		0				1	6		
383126106475600	Tomichi Creek below Cochetopa Creek near Parlin	6	6	6			6		4				2	4		4
09111250	Coal Creek abv McCormick Ditch @ CB <sup>3</sup>	6	6	0		0	6		6		4	4	1	4		4
381633107054700	Cebolla Creek at Powderhorn	6	6	6	4	0	6		6	6				6		6
09107000	Taylor River at Taylor Park, CO	6	6				6		4			4	1	4		4
<b>Environmental samples</b>		66	66	12	16	0	66	0	30	6	4	8	12	32		26

<sup>1</sup> Water temperature, specific conductance, dissolved oxygen, and pH are measured each sampling visit.

<sup>2</sup> Discharge measurements not required at gaged sites.

<sup>3</sup> Beginning Jan 1, 2019 samples will be collected near the gaging station. This station name and number signify the new sampling locations. Previous sampling location was 09111500 Slate River near Crested Butte, CO.

**Table 2.** Upper Gunnison Basin Streamgaging Program, cost-sharing by site and sponsor.  
January 2021 through December 2021

Sta No.	Site Name	Upper Gunnison District	Lake San Cristobal Water Activity Enterprise	Gunnison County	Hinsdale County	Town of Crested Butte	Mt. C.B. Water & Sanitation	City of Gunnison	C. B. South Metro Dist.	Colo. River District	Bureau of Land Mgt	National Park Service	Clark/Western State Coll.	Bureau of Reclamation	Total Local Cost Share	USGS Cost Share	Total Site Cost	Match Ratio	
																		% Local	% USGS
09107000	Taylor River at Taylor Park (M) <sup>1,2</sup>	\$2,024 33%								\$4,110 67%				\$9,155	\$6,134	\$3,021	\$9,155	67.0%	33.0%
385106106571000	Slate River above Baxter Gulch (M) <sup>1</sup>	\$3,067 25%		\$3,067 25%		\$3,067 25%	\$3,067 25%								\$12,268	\$6,042	\$18,310	67.0%	33.0%
09112200	East River below Cement Creek (H) <sup>1</sup>	\$5,457 50%								\$5,456 50%					\$10,913	\$7,397	\$18,310	59.6%	40.4%
09113980	Ohio Creek abv mouth near Gunnison (M) <sup>1,8</sup>	\$18,310 100%													\$18,310	\$0	\$18,310	100.0%	0.0%
09115500	Tomichi Creek at Sargents <sup>8</sup>																		
09111250	Coal Creek abv McCormick Ditch at Crested Butte (M) <sup>1,3</sup>	\$5,444 67%				\$2,735 33%									\$8,179	\$4,029	\$12,208	67.0%	33.0%
09114520	Gunnison R at Gunnison Whitewater Park (VL) <sup>4</sup>	\$7,630 100%													\$7,630	\$0	\$7,630	100.0%	0.0%
383103106594200	Gunnison River at County Rd 32 <sup>5</sup>							\$18,310 100%							\$18,310	\$0	\$18,310	100.0%	0.0%
09113500	Ohio Creek nr Baldwin <sup>5,6,7</sup>	\$9,484 100%													\$9,484	\$1,198	\$10,682	NA	NA
09123450	Lake Fork below Lake San Cristobal (M) <sup>1</sup>		\$12,268 100%												\$12,268	\$6,042	\$18,310	67.0%	33.0%
09124010	Henson Creek at Lake City <sup>5,6</sup>									\$10,682									
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$51,416</b>	<b>\$12,268</b>	<b>\$3,067</b>		<b>\$5,802</b>	<b>\$3,067</b>	<b>\$18,310</b>		<b>\$9,566</b>	<b>\$10,682</b>			<b>\$9,155</b>	<b>\$103,496</b>	<b>\$27,729</b>	<b>\$131,225</b>		
<b>Percent of Local Cost Share</b>		49.7%	11.9%	3.0%		5.6%	3.0%	17.7%		9.2%									
<b>Cost last year (2020)</b>		\$49,931	\$11,913	\$2,978		\$5,635	\$2,978	\$17,780		\$9,290	\$10,374			\$8,890					
<b>Difference from previous year</b>		\$1,485	\$355	\$89		\$167	\$89	\$530		\$276	\$308			\$265					

Prepared: August 23, 2020  
Revised:

<sup>1</sup> H, high-ranked gage, USGS match 40.4%; M, medium ranked gage, USGS match 33.0%; VL, very low ranked gage, USGS match 0.0%.

<sup>2</sup> Bureau of Reclamation funds 50% of total gage cost. UGRWCD, CRWCD, and UVWUA fund remaining cooperator cost. CRWCD bills UVWUA for their portion.

<sup>3</sup> Seasonal, period of operation April 1 to November 30 (8 mos.)

<sup>4</sup> Seasonal, period of operation May 1 to September 30 (5 mos.)

<sup>5</sup> Not yet ranked

<sup>6</sup> April 1 to October 31 (7 mos.)

<sup>7</sup> The matching funds for this task are part of the overall allocation of matching funds for the Upper Gunnison Program. The amount of this allocation is fixed.

<sup>8</sup> Beginning 2020 Ohio Creek @ mouth is funded 100% by the UGRWCD & Tomichi Creek @ Sargents is funded 100% by the USGS (GWSIP).



**Table 3.** Upper Gunnison Basin Discrete Water-Quality Monitoring Program, cost-sharing by site and sponsor.  
January 2021 through December 2021

Site Name	Upper Gunnison District	Gunnison County	Hinsdale County	Town of Crested Butte	Mt. C.B. Water & Sanitation	City of Gunnison	C. B. South Metro Dist.	Skyland Metro District	Colo. River District	Bureau of Land Mgt	National Park Service	Clark/Western State Coll.	Bureau of Reclamation	Total Local Cost Share <sup>1</sup>	USGS Cost Share	Total Site Cost	Match Ratio	
																	% Local	% USGS
385106106571000 Slate River above Baxter Gulch	\$1,773 19.0%	\$560 6.0%		\$1,797 19.3%	\$2,357 25.3%				\$2,846 30.5%					\$9,333	\$3,701	\$13,034	71.6%	28.4%
09112200 East River below Cement Creek (bacteria, periphyton)	\$2,230 28.0%	\$1,632 20.5%						\$1,393 17.5%	\$2,708 34.0%					\$7,963	\$3,158	\$11,121	71.6%	28.4%
09112500 East River at Almont	\$2,483 32.0%	\$1,512 19.5%					\$1,513 19.5%		\$2,248 29.0%					\$7,756	\$3,075	\$10,831	71.6%	28.4%
09113980 Ohio Creek abv mouth near Gunnison	\$853 11.0%	\$776 10.0%				\$4,575 59.0%			\$1,552 20.0%					\$7,756	\$3,075	\$10,831	71.6%	28.4%
09119000 Tomichi Creek at Gunnison	\$2,655 27.0%	\$1,574 16.0%				\$3,148 32.0%			\$2,459 25.0%					\$9,836	\$3,900	\$13,736	71.6%	28.4%
383103106594200 Gunnison River at Cnty Rd 32	\$601 14.0%					\$644 15.0%			\$515 12.0%		\$2,534 59.0%		\$4,968	\$4,294	\$1,703	\$5,997	71.6%	28.4%
381633107054700 Cebolla Creek at Pow derhorn	\$2,100 19.0%	\$221 2.0%	\$2,431 22.0%						\$995 9.0%		\$5,305 48.0%			\$11,052	\$4,382	\$15,434	71.6%	28.4%
09111250 Coal Creek abv McCormick Ditch @ CB	\$3,029 32.6%	\$1,561 16.8%		\$2,100 22.6%					\$2,601 28.0%					\$9,291	\$3,684	\$12,975	71.6%	28.4%
Lake Fork below Deadmans Gulch (discontinued Jan '14)																		
383126106475600 Tomichi Creek below Cochetopa	\$10,088 97.0%								\$312 3.0%					\$10,400	\$4,124	\$14,524	71.6%	28.4%
09114500 Gunnison River near Gunnison	\$2,171 28.0%	\$1,086 14.0%				\$2,560 33.0%			\$1,939 25.0%					\$7,756	\$3,075	\$10,831	71.6%	28.4%
Spring Creek at mouth (discontinued Jan '14)																		
09107000 Taylor River at Taylor Park	\$1,720 41.0%								\$2,475 59.0%				\$9,270	\$4,195	\$1,663	\$5,858	71.6%	28.4%
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$29,703</b>	<b>\$8,922</b>	<b>\$2,431</b>	<b>\$3,897</b>	<b>\$2,357</b>	<b>\$10,927</b>	<b>\$1,513</b>	<b>\$1,393</b>	<b>\$20,650</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$7,839</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$14,238</b>	<b>\$89,632</b>	<b>\$35,540</b>	<b>\$125,172</b>		
Percent of Local Cost Share	33.1%	10.0%	2.7%	4.3%	2.6%	12.2%	1.7%	1.6%	23.0%	0.0%	8.7%	0.0%						
County Road 32 Trace Metals											\$0			\$0	\$0	\$0		
Total phosphorus program				\$0	\$0									\$0	\$0	\$0		
On-line data summary	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0					
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$29,703</b>	<b>\$8,922</b>	<b>\$2,431</b>	<b>\$3,897</b>	<b>\$2,357</b>	<b>\$10,927</b>	<b>\$1,513</b>	<b>\$1,393</b>	<b>\$20,650</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$7,839</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$14,238</b>	<b>\$89,632</b>	<b>\$35,540</b>	<b>\$125,172</b>		
Percent of Local Cost Share	33%	10%	3%	4%	3%	12%	2%	2%	23%	0%	9%	0%						
Cost last year	\$19,348	\$8,662	\$2,360	\$3,783	\$2,288	\$10,608	\$1,469	\$1,352	\$20,048	\$0	\$7,609	\$9,491	\$13,823	\$87,018	\$34,508	\$121,526		
Difference	\$10,355	\$260	\$71	\$114	\$69	\$319	\$44	\$41	\$602	\$0	\$230	-\$9,491	\$415	\$2,614	\$1,032	\$3,646		
% difference	53.5%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	0.0%	3.0%	-100.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%		

<sup>1</sup> Local Cost Share for cooperators that are receiving Matching Funds

**Table 4.** Upper Gunnison Basin data collection programs, Joint Funding Summary.

Program	Upper Gunnison District	Lake San Cristobal Water Activity Enterprise	Gunnison County	Hinsdale County	Town of Crested Butte	Mt. C.B. Water & Sanitation	City of Gunnison	C. B. South Metro Dist.	Skyland Metro District	Colorado River District	Bureau of Land Management	National Park Service	Clark/Western State	Bureau of Reclamation	Total local funds	USGS matching funds	Total Local + USGS Funds
<b>Realtime Streamflow</b>																	
Taylor River at Taylor Park (M) <sup>1,2</sup>	\$2,024									\$4,110				\$9,155	\$6,134	\$3,021	\$9,155
Slate River above Baxter Gulch (M) <sup>1</sup>	\$3,067		\$3,067		\$3,067	\$3,067									\$12,268	\$6,042	\$18,310
East River below Cement Creek (H) <sup>1</sup>	\$5,457									\$5,456					\$10,913	\$7,397	\$18,310
Ohio Creek abv mouth (M) <sup>9</sup>	\$18,310														\$18,310	\$0	\$18,310
Tomichi Creek at Sargents <sup>9</sup>																	
Coal Creek nr Crested Butte (M) <sup>1,4</sup>	\$5,444				\$2,735										\$8,179	\$4,029	\$12,208
Gunnison R at Gunnison Whitewater Park (VL) <sup>1,5</sup>	\$7,630														\$7,630	\$0	\$7,630
Gunnison R at Couty 32 Road Bridge <sup>7</sup>							\$18,310								\$18,310	\$0	\$18,310
Ohio Creek nr Baldwin <sup>7</sup>	\$9,484														\$9,484	\$1,198	\$10,682
Lake Fork below Lake San Cristobal (M) <sup>1</sup>		\$12,268													\$12,268	\$6,042	\$18,310
Henson Creek at Lake City <sup>7,8</sup>											\$10,682						
Subtotal	\$51,416	\$12,268	\$3,067		\$5,802	\$3,067	\$18,310			\$9,566	\$10,682			\$9,155	\$103,496	\$27,729	\$131,225
<b>Discrete Water Quality Sampling</b>																	
Water-quality monitoring program	\$29,703		\$8,922	\$2,431	\$3,897	\$2,357	\$10,927	\$1,513	\$1,393	\$20,650		\$7,839		\$14,238	\$89,632	\$35,540	\$125,172
Total phosphorus program																	
County Road 32 trace metals																	
Subtotal	\$29,703		\$8,922	\$2,431	\$3,897	\$2,357	\$10,927	\$1,513	\$1,393	\$20,650		\$7,839		\$14,238	\$89,632	\$35,540	\$125,172
<b>Realtime Water Quality</b>																	
Taylor River at Almont (wt) <sup>3,10</sup>	\$2,346														\$2,346	\$0	\$2,346
100%																	
Slate River above Baxter Gulch - O&M (wt) <sup>3,10</sup>	\$782				\$782	\$782									\$2,346	\$0	\$2,346
33%					33%	33%											
Lake Fork at Gateview (wt) <sup>3,10</sup>	\$2,346														\$2,346	\$0	\$2,346
100%																	
Tomichi Creek at Gunnison (wt) <sup>3,10</sup>	\$826		\$826												\$1,652	\$694	\$2,346
50%			50%														
Gunnison R. at Gunnison Whitewater Park (wt) <sup>6,10,11</sup>	\$1,952														\$1,952	\$0	\$1,952
100%																	
Subtotal	\$8,252		\$826		\$782	\$782									\$10,642	\$694	\$11,336
<b>Total</b>	\$89,371	\$12,268	\$12,815	\$2,431	\$10,481	\$6,206	\$29,237	\$1,513	\$1,393	\$30,216	\$10,682	\$7,839		\$23,393	\$203,770	\$63,963	\$267,733
Cost last year	\$75,158	\$11,913	\$12,442	\$2,360	\$9,952	\$5,800	\$28,388	\$1,469	\$1,352	\$29,338	\$10,374	\$7,609	\$9,491	\$680	\$227,713		
Difference	\$14,213	\$355	\$373	\$71	\$529	\$406	\$849	\$44	\$41	\$878	\$308	\$230	-\$9,491	\$680			
% difference	18.9%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	5.3%	7.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	-100.0%	3.0%			
<b>Payments to UGRWCD</b>																	
Lake San Cristobal Water Activity Enterprise	\$12,268	-\$12,268															
Gunnison County	\$12,815		-\$12,815														
National Park Service	\$7,839												-\$7,839				
Bureau of Land Management																	
Skyland Metro District	\$1,393								-\$1,393								
<b>Local Cooperator's contribution as specified by Joint Funding</b>																	
<b>Funding Agreements</b>	\$123,686		\$2,431	\$10,481	\$6,206	\$29,237	\$1,513			\$30,216							
USGS funds	\$37,308		\$964	\$4,403	\$2,445	\$4,333	\$600			\$13,910							
Total on Joint Funding Agreement	\$160,994		\$3,395	\$14,884	\$8,651	\$33,570	\$2,113			\$44,126							

<sup>1</sup> H, high-ranked gage, USGS match 40.4%; M, medium ranked gage, USGS match 33.0%; VL, very low ranked gage, USGS match 0.0%.  
<sup>2</sup> Bureau of Reclamation funds 50% of total gage cost. UGRWCD, CRWCD, and UVWUA fund remaining cooperator cost. CRWCD bills UVWUA for their portion.  
<sup>3</sup> Realtime water temperature, period of operation May through October (6 mos.)  
<sup>4</sup> Seasonal, period of operation April through November (8 mos.)  
<sup>5</sup> Seasonal, period of operation May through September (5 mos.)  
<sup>6</sup> Realtime water temperature, period of operation May through September (5 mos.)  
<sup>7</sup> This gage is not yet ranked  
<sup>8</sup> April 1 to October 31 (7 mos.)  
<sup>9</sup> Beginning 2020 Ohio Creek @ mouth is funded 100% by the UGRWCD & Tomichi Creek @ Sargents is funded 100% by the USGS (GWSIP).  
<sup>10</sup> In June 2020 the program was modified to include USGS matching funds (29.6%) for each of the wt sensors not already receiving match. The availability of these funds in 2021 are dependent on federal appropriations to the Cooperative Water Program and not guaranteed.  
<sup>11</sup> The water temperature sensor will be moved and co-located w/ the NGWOS funded 4P gw monitor in July 2021 (SC, DO, pH, turbidity). The new location is site 09114500 Gunnison River nr Gunnison, CO. The District will continue to fund seasonal water temperature at the new location.

**U.S. Department of the Interior  
U.S. Geological Survey  
Joint Funding Agreement  
FOR WATER RESOURCES INVESTIGATIONS**

**Customer No:** 6000001042  
**Agreement No:** 21REJFACO 103  
**Project No:**  
**TIN #:** 840925208

Fixed Cost  
Agreement

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
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THIS AGREEMENT is entered into as of the 1<sup>st</sup> day of **January, 2021** by the U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, Colorado Water Science Center, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, party of the first part, and the **Upper Gunnison River Water Conservation District**, party of the second part.

- The parties hereto agree that subject to the availability of appropriations and in accordance with their respective authorities there shall be maintained in cooperation Water Resource Investigations, **the streamflow and water-quality monitoring program**, herein called the program. The USGS legal authority is 43 USC 36C; 43 USC 50; and 43 USC 50b.
- The following amounts shall be contributed to cover all of the cost of the necessary field and analytical work directly related to this program. 2(b) includes In-Kind Services in the amount of **\$0.00**.
  - \$36,320.00** by the party of the first part during the period **January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021**
  - \$123,686.00** by the party of the second part during the period **January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021**
  - Contributions are provided by the party of the first part through other USGS regional or national programs, in the amount of:  
**\$988.00** Description of USGS regional/national program: Groundwater and Streamflow Information Program
  - Additional or reduced amounts by each party during the above period or succeeding periods as may be determined by mutual agreement and set forth in an exchange of letters between the parties.
  - The performance period may be changed by mutual agreement and set forth in an exchange of letters between the parties.
- The costs of this program may be paid by either party in conformity with the laws and regulations respectively governing each party.
- The field and analytical work pertaining to this program shall be under the direction of or subject to periodic review by an authorized representative of the party of the first part.
- The areas to be included in the program shall be determined by mutual agreement between the parties hereto or their authorized representatives. The methods employed in the field and office shall be those adopted by the party of the first part to insure the required standards of accuracy subject to modification by mutual agreement.
- During the course of this program, all field and analytical work of either party pertaining to this program shall be open to the inspection of the other party, and if the work is not being carried on in a mutually satisfactory manner, either party may terminate this agreement upon 60 days written notice to the other party.
- The original records resulting from this program will be deposited in the office of origin of those records. Upon request, copies of the original records will be provided to the office of the other party.
- The maps, records or reports resulting from this program shall be made available to the public as promptly as possible. The maps, records or reports normally will be published by the party of the first part. However, the party of the second part reserves the right to publish the results of this program and, if already published by the party of the first part shall, upon request, be furnished by the party of the first part, at cost, impressions suitable for purposes of reproduction similar to that for which the original copy was prepared. The maps, records or reports published by either party shall contain a statement of the cooperative relations between the parties. The Parties acknowledge that scientific information and data developed as a result of the scope of work are subject to applicable USGS review, approval, and release requirements, which are available on the USGS Fundamental Science Practices website ( <https://www.usgs.gov/about/organization/science-support/science-quality-and-integrity/fundamental-science-practices>).
- Billing for this agreement will be rendered **quarterly**. Invoices not paid within 60 days from date of bill will bear Interest, Penalties, and Administrative costs as the annual rate pursuant the Debt Collection Act of 1982, (codified at 31 U.S.C. 3717) established by the U.S. Treasury.

**U.S. Department of the Interior  
U.S. Geological Survey  
Joint Funding Agreement  
FOR WATER RESOURCES INVESTIGATIONS**

**Customer No:** 6000001042  
**Agreement No:** 21REJFACO 103  
**Project No:**  
**TIN #:** 840925208  
Fixed Cost Agreement  Yes  No

**USGS Technical Point of Contact**

Name: Steve Anders  
Title: Supervisory Hydrologic Tech  
Address: 445 W. Gunnison Ave Suite 130  
City/State/Zip: Grand Junction, CO 81501  
Telephone: 970-628-7140  
Fax: 970-245-1026  
Email: spanders@usgs.gov

**Customer Technical Point of Contact**

Name: Sonja Chavez  
Title: General Manager  
Address: 210 West Spencer, Suite B  
City/State/Zip: Gunnison, CO 81230  
Telephone: 970-641-6065  
Fax:  
Email: schavez@ugrwc.org

**USGS Billing Point of Contact**

Name: Donna Hector  
Title: Administrative Officer  
Address: P.O. Box 25046, Denver Federal Center  
Address: Mail Stop 415  
City/State/Zip: Lakewood, CO 80225  
Telephone: 303-236-6903  
Fax: 303-236-4912  
Email: djhector@usgs.gov

**Customer Technical Point of Contact**

Name: Sonja Chavez  
Title: General Manager  
Address: 210 West Spencer, Suite B  
City/State/Zip: Gunnison, CO 81230  
Telephone: 970-641-6065  
Fax:  
Email: schavez@ugrwc.org

U.S. Geological Survey  
United States  
Department of Interior

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District

SIGNATURE

SIGNATURES

By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: David Mau  
Title: Director, CWSC/USGS

By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name:  
Title:

By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name:  
Title:

By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name:  
Title:

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Beverly Richards/Grant Committee

DATE: March 22, 2021

SUBJECT: 2021 Grant Committee and Funding Recommendations

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The Grant Committee met via teleconference on March 11, 2021 to review applications for the 2021 Grant Program. Andy Spann, Julie Nania, Joellen Fonken, Rebie Hazard, and Rosemary Carroll participated. Sonja Chavez and Beverly Richards, Jill Steele and Sue Uerling were also in attendance. The total funds requested in 2021 were \$236,134.53, which was approximately \$36,000 more than the budgeted amount of \$200,000.

The Grant Committee meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Joellen Fonken, Chair. The Committee discussed each application and as part of the discussion, the funding recommendations are as follows:

**Grant Committee Recommendations to Board:**

1. Baillie Bank and Diversion Improvement/Lobdell No. 2	\$20,000.00
2. Community Supported Restoration/Huckeby Parcel	\$ 3,850.00
3. Dry Powderhorn Ditch Pipe	\$11,000.00
4. Elsen Vader Diversion Rehabilitation	\$17,500.00
5. Gleason Ditch Headgate and Splitter Boxes	\$ 3,650.00
6. Guerrieri Irrigation Control Structure/GTVD	\$ 6,427.50
7. Hyzer Ketchum Diversion and Head Gate	\$ 9,597.00
8. Lawrence and Sun Ditch Diversion	\$20,000.00
9. Lone Pine Ditch Improvement and Restructuring	\$ 0
10. LSC Electric ATV with Plow	\$ 0
11. McCanne No. 3 Diversion Headgate and Rehab	\$15,000.00
12. McGowan Irrigating Ditch Diversion	\$ 6,236.27
13. Ocate Riparian and Irrigation Improvement	\$21,200.00
14. Rozich Ditch Relief Culvert Installation	\$ 4,210.00
15. Slumgullion Earthflow Project	\$14,050.00
16. Solar Pumps for Vegetable Irrigation/Gunnison Gardens	\$ 6,163.00
17. Taylor and Gunnison River 2021 Recreation Assessment	\$10,000.00
18. Tomichi Creek Wetland Reserve Easement	<u>\$15,000.00</u>

Total recommended for funding \$177,720.77

There were a number of the applications that will be awarded funding contingent upon receipt of additional information. In addition, several very good project proposals were submitted, but deemed in need of additional engineering or engineering review to ensure a successful outcome and to avoid any potential negative downstream effects from the proposed work.

As such, the Grant Committee is recommending to the Board that \$30,000 of approved grant funds be moved to Non-Operating Budget Line Item 37 for General Consulting (i.e. General Engineering Support). Of that amount \$22,279 will come from our unused 2021 District Grant Budget line item and \$7,721 from our identified 2015-2020 unused District Grant surplus funds. Available surplus is now at \$91,736.56. This step minimizes the potential for financial impact on our grant applicants associated with this committee recommendation. In other words, if the funding were to remain under the Grant Program, the applicant would be required to split the cost of the engineering 50/50 with the District. The Grant Committee and staff feel like supporting engineering for more complicated projects is essential. The Grant Committee will discuss an annual set-aside of engineering support dollars for the District Grant Program in future funding cycles.

**Action Items:**

1. *Board approval of transfer of \$30,000 from available grant funds to the Non-Operating Budget, General Consulting Line Item 37 for engineering in support of 2021 grant projects.*
2. *Board approval of \$177,721 in District Grant Funds for 2021 projects, some contingent upon the receipt of additional requested information.*

**Additional Action Items:**

- Staff will follow up with applicants about additional information identified as necessary for funding approval.
- Staff will make changes to the grant process discussed in the committee meeting for 2022 grant cycle. These include:
  - Development of budget narrative template
  - Development of technical proposal template
  - Development of application checklist
  - Provide two informational webinars about application process
  - Advertise grant program earlier so that applicant can prepare for a pre-qualification interview
  - Create pre-qualification interview component of process
  - Address policy on incomplete applications

The Grant Committee meeting was adjourned at 3:46 p.m.

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** UGRWCD Board Members

**FROM:** Beverly Richards, Water Resource Specialist

**DATE:** March 22, 2021

**SUBJECT:** Website Design Update

---

In an effort to streamline the website backbone while protecting the existing design elements, we have contracted with Rob Strickland of Midnight Marketing Solutions for \$900 to make some changes to the lay out. This will make it easier for users to navigate though the links. Rob's contract also includes training for staff on how to make regular updates to the website in-house. Included in this memo is the framework (below) that we developed that Rob will be using to make our suggested changes. These changes will be completed by the end of March. At that time and after training, staff will begin work on developing any additional content needed to be included in the various links.

### Website Framework:

- Home
- About -- this is your **"Who we are"** Mission/Vision, docs etc
  - BOD
  - Staff
  - Your Story
  - FAQ
  - Meetings/Business
  - How to get involved – Description of internal groups, ways to get involved with the district.
  - Contact
- Projects & Programs — this is your **"What we do"**
  - Augmentation
  - District Programs
    - WMP
    - Wet Meadows
    - Gunnison River Festival
    - Water Monitoring
    - Grant Program
    - Public Outreach
  - Reservoir Operations
- Resources — This is your **"How to engage &/or connect"**
  - Articles/Studies
  - Other Water Organizations
    - Gunnison Basin Roundtable
    - Colorado River District
    - Colorado Water Conservation Board
    - Other – Links to other organizations



- Contact
  - Phone, address, hours, contact form – This will include a form for contacting the District, sent to Sue's email.
  - Meeting Schedule link
  - FAQ link - These are suggestions or top questions users might ask and making sure the answers are right at their fingertips.

## MEMORANDUM



**TO:** UGRWCD Board Members  
**FROM:** Sue Uerling, Administrative Assistant  
**DATE:** March 15, 2021  
**SUBJECT:** Drought Outreach Campaign

---

### **I. Drought Slogan Contest:**

- The District received 36 drought slogan ideas from 12 individuals including citizens from the general public, Board members, a former Board member and staff. The contest was publicized in the *Gunnison Country Times* and the *Crested Butte News* through the “Letters to the Editor” section, as well as multiple times on the District’s Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts.
- Through a blind vote by the Board and staff, **Judy Bratcher of Lake City** won the contest and received a \$100 gift certificate to Garlic Mike’s. The winning slogan is: **Water: It doesn’t grow on trees.** We also decided to send \$20 gift certificates to The Coffee Trader to the other non-Board, non-staff members who submitted slogans, since we received several good entries.
- Joellen Fonken’s **Be a Water Hero: Conserve every drop** was a close runner-up, so where there is space/time, we will try to use the two slogans together.
- A press release announcing the winning slogan will be sent to the area media and uploaded to the District’s website.

### **II. Drought Outreach Campaign components:**

- The District will order the following promotional products with the “Water: It doesn’t grow on trees” logo imprinted in blue:
  - 250 double-sided **Yard Signs** from OffCenter Designs
  - 1,000 5” round or oval **Stickers** from OffCenter Designs
  - 300 BP free plastic **Water Bottles** with pop-up straws from Pat’s Screen Printing
  - 300 black **Canvas Bags** from Pat’s Screen Printing
- The District will also record 30 second radio spots to run on KEJJ-FM; KVLE-FM and KPKE-AM four times a day, seven days a week, plus free bonus spots. (Sonja is also invited to do regular news updates with Harv Rees at no charge.) – 4/1/21 through 9/30/21
- The District has upgraded its current advertising package on KBUT-FM to include more daily feature underwriting with more enhanced mentions specifically related to drought
- The next District newsletter to be distributed on April 1, 2021 will be focused on drought-related topics. In addition, drought articles from other water sources will be shared regularly on the District’s website, Facebook account and Twitter. In addition, the District will be developing a more regular email campaign to feature up-to-date information about drought and conservation.

The costs of the outreach campaign are covered under the approved 2021 Education Committee Budget.

# **AGENDA ITEM 7**

## **Gunnison Basin Roundtable Update**

# **AGENDA ITEM 7**

## **Scientific Endeavors Report**

# **AGENDA ITEM 7**

## **Long Lake Stakeholder Work Group Update**

# **AGENDA ITEM 7**

## **Gunnison River Festival Update**

# **AGENDA ITEM 8**

**Demand Management Framework Update**

# **AGENDA ITEM 9**

## **Miscellaneous Matters**



The energy graph timeline has shifted forward by 1 hour due to the daylight saving time. Our team is working on a fix diligently and no data loss expected.

## Reports

### Monthly Energy Production Report

Generated for Beverly Richards  
on 03/15/2021

#### UGRWCD

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Gunnison, CO

This report provides energy production for March.

Week	Peak Power	Energy Produced
03/01/2021 - 03/07/2021	5,922 W	253.10 kWh
03/08/2021 - 03/14/2021	5,924 W	218.62 kWh
03/15/2021 - 03/21/2021	5,918 W	0.00 kWh
03/22/2021 - 03/28/2021	0 W	0.00 kWh
03/29/2021 - 03/31/2021	0 W	0.00 kWh
March 2021 Total:		471.72 kWh
Previous Month Total:		585.87 kWh
Year to Date:		1,437.66 kWh
Lifetime Production:		15,904.35 kWh

Your **Carbon Offset** for this month: 719.0 lbs

You have offset the equivalent of: **8 Trees**



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- |                                     |                                |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| A Daily Dose                        | The Grand Traverse             |
| Altitude Painting                   | Gunnison Country Shopper       |
| Andrew Hadley Architect             | Gunnison Country Times         |
| Big Al's Bicycle Heaven             | Gunnison River Festival        |
| Blackline Entertainment             | Heather Biery Acupuncture      |
| Bliss Community Chiropractic        | Interior Visions               |
| Bluebird Real Estate                | Irwin Guides                   |
| Realtor: Maggie Dethloff            | Ivy Walker Studio              |
| Casa Bella                          | Kimbre Woods Photography       |
| Cement Creek Ranch                  | Kryptonite Creative            |
| Clear Rivers Skin Care              | Lucille Lucas Gallery          |
| Coldwell Banker Mountain Properties | Massage Crested Butte          |
| Realtors: Molly Eldridge,           | Mountain Colors                |
| Joe Garcia, Ryan Dickens,           | Mountain Magic Media           |
| Doug Kroft & Pete Nichols           | Mountain Spirits Liquors       |
| CORE                                | Mountain Tails                 |
| Colorado Backcountry                | Munchkin's Music and Dance     |
| Colorado Real Soap                  | Oh Be Dogful Pet Ranch         |
| Creative Earth Coaching             | Paragon Gallery                |
| Crested Butte Spa                   | Pioneer Guest Cabins           |
| Crested Butte Bike Week             | Rocky Mtn. Biological Lab      |
| CB Community Yoga Co-Op             | Rocky Mtn. Trees & Landscaping |
| CB Homeopath                        | Rooted Apothecary              |
| CB Mountain Heritage Museum         | Sea Level Spa                  |
| Crested Butte Nordic                | Singletrack Maps               |
| CB Property Management              | Sooner Property Cleaning       |
| CB Wildflower Festival              | Suzanne Pierson: Artist        |
| CB Ace Hardware                     | T-Bar International Tea House  |
| Crested Butte's Personal Chefs      | Midnight Gallery               |
| Dog Daze Outfitters                 | The Mountain Store             |
| The Dogwood                         | Third Eye Photography          |
| Dragon Sheet Metal                  | Thrive Yoga                    |
| Dragonfly Anglers                   | Timothy White Studio           |
| EastWest Econometrics               | Townie Books                   |
| Fat Bike Worlds                     | Yogawrap Spine Support         |

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### PEOPLE & HAPPENINGS

#### Monarch Mountain Wings Pass

Monarch Mountain's Wings Pass is now available. Passholders can ski the rest of this season at Monarch and all of the 2021-2022 season.

The pass is available for adults (\$539), teens (\$359), juniors (\$249) and seniors (\$399).

The pass is valid only at Monarch for the 2020-2021 season but includes all of the partner resort benefits for the 2021-2022 season. A current Monarch season pass has over 100 free days at partner resorts. Monarch season passholders can ski any day they want with no reservation.

For more information visit [skimonarch.com](http://skimonarch.com) or call at 719.530.5000.

#### Elks Lodge bingo returns

Tuesday bingo will resume at the Elks Lodge on Tuesday, March 2 and continue on all Tuesdays. Gunnison County COVID-19 regulations allow only 25 participants at this time. As conditions change within the county, we may be allowed to have greater participation. Because our participation is so limited it is necessary to require reservations each

week. Reservations can be made by calling Jodie Casey at 970.275.0013 between noon and 7 p.m. on Sunday or Monday for Tuesday's bingo. Reservations must be made every week to allow more people to participate.

Masks will be required and social distancing will be necessary. Participants will be screened for temperature and symptoms. Water and coffee will be served but we are not permitted to serve any food (no popcorn), nor can we allow food to be brought in. Doors for bingo open at 6:30 and games will begin at 7:30. Reservations and information for contact tracing will be checked at the door.

#### Mountain Roots looking for seasonal farmhands

Mountain Roots is pleased to announce the opportunity to hire five seasonal community farmers in partnership with the Crested Butte Land Trust, made possible with a grant from the Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO). Glacier Farm is a new growing space near Crested Butte South that models regenerative agriculture and working lands conservation.

Collaboratively, these two organizations are working to

bolster food security and provide healthy food to the Gunnison Valley. The Glacier Farm Project is creating a work corps that will provide labor for food production and infrastructure to support sustainable agriculture. If you are interested in working as a seasonal farm hand, at a competitive rate, in order to engage with the local food system please email [kara@mountainrootsfoodproject.org](mailto:kara@mountainrootsfoodproject.org) or visit [mountainrootsfoodproject.org](http://mountainrootsfoodproject.org) to apply.

#### Upcoming free legal clinic

Despite the COVID-19 closures of libraries across Colorado, all Virtual Pro Se Clinic (VPC) free legal clinics are being held as scheduled. As a work-around, instead of clinic patrons coming to your local public library, local library staff will schedule all appointments. The next clinic is Wednesday, March 10 from 2-5 p.m.

Volunteer attorneys will assist one-on-one via computer link. Please contact the Gunnison library at 970.641.3485 or Crested Butte library at 970.349.6535 to be added to the sign-up sheet. Space is limited.

## Team rescues snowmobilers

### Backcountry heart attack prompts mission

Western Mountain Rescue (WMRT) was paged at 5:28 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 21 for two stranded and potentially injured snowmobilers near Bald Mountain. Gunnison Dispatch provided coordinates they had received from the parties via a 911 call. Additionally, due to the potential heart attack, the Gunnison Sheriff's Office

requested a CareFlight helicopter out of Montrose to respond. WMRT departed around 6:20 p.m. and received communication that CareFlight was staged on a ridge near the coordinates and knew the snowmobilers location but did not have the equipment to extricate.

All WMRT team members deployed into the field either via helicopter shuttles or a 16-mile snowmobile ride and worked with CareFlight on extrication of the subject to a lower landing zone at Bald Mountain Reservoir. Patient contact was made at 10:45 p.m.

One party was flown out of

Bald Mountain at 5 a.m. the following morning after a long traverse and lowering operation. CareFlight returned after delivering that patient to the hospital to assist with the secondary extraction flight for the second, uninjured party back to his vehicle. WMRT members left the field on snowmobiles. The team was back in town and the mission was complete at 9:15 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 22.

WMRT would like to thank Careflight, the Gunnison Sheriff's Office, and Gunnison Dispatch for their assistance with this all-night mission.

## Upper Gunnison celebrates water with contest

### District calls for photo and video submissions

In celebration of World Water Day 2021, the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District is hoping you will share your best water-related photos and videos (10 seconds or less) taken in the Gunnison River Basin.

Winners will be selected from a variety of categories, including recreation, agriculture, scenery, and flora and fauna. They will receive \$25 gift certificates to

area businesses.

World Water Day is celebrated annually on March 22 and was first held in 1993 as a day of observance by the United Nations focusing on the importance of freshwater worldwide. Each year a theme is chosen for the day of celebration and this year's theme is "Valuing Water."

"We are so fortunate to live in this beautiful area where we have access to fresh water for our daily personal use, agriculture, recreation, industry and so much more. Over 2.2 billion people in our world are not so fortunate," said Sonja Chavez, general manager of the Upper

Gunnison.

"Along with our efforts to safeguard this critical resource and promote the value of water in our basin, we also want to celebrate what it means to the people of our valley and what better way than through pictures and videos."

Submissions are due on March 15, 2021 and can be emailed to [sue@ugrwc.org](mailto:sue@ugrwc.org). Winning submissions will be posted on and shared with the media beginning on March 22 for World Water Day and continuing throughout the year. For more information, contact the district at 970.641.6065.

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# CB drinking water shows high chemical levels

Source of problem remains a mystery

Kate Gienapp  
Times Staff Writer

Kenneth Williams had a hunch. A scientist working with the U.S. Department of Energy, he hypothesized that climate change was warming mountain streams, leading more metals to be transported in their water.

But shortly into his research on Coal Creek near Crested Butte, he stumbled upon a different finding altogether: excessively high levels of probable carcinogens in the town's drinking water.

Williams showed some of his findings to the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District on Feb. 22.

While William's study was originally focused on metals in the creek's watershed he found evidence of higher levels of disinfectant byproducts in Coal Creek.

Disinfectant byproducts are formed when chlorine interacts with organic compounds in water treatment processes. That interaction can create molecules called trihalomethanes (THAs) and haloacetic acid (HAAs).

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, THAs and HAAs can lead to an increased risk of cancer and liver, kidney and central nervous system problems.

But should water users in the Town of Crested Butte be worried about the quality of their drinking water?

According to Williams, there's no cause for alarm quite yet. That's because while there are certain times of year, like spring runoff, when the levels of these disinfectant byproducts exceed the rec-

ommended levels in drinking water, the occurrences are so infrequent that they likely have little impact on water users.

"You can see the seasonal variations in these concentrations tied to variations in discharge," Williams said.

Crested Butte Public Works Director Shey Early said the water treatment plant in town is required to perform routine sampling for disinfection byproducts. Water treatment plants are required to present data for water quality at least four times each year.

"We do all of the routine sampling on an annual basis to ascertain that our drinking water is meeting all standards," Early said. "As our environment gets used more heavily there's always a concern that new contaminants could be introduced into the watershed, so we try to keep track of that as best we can."

The plant treats for iron and other elements, said Early. But he also pointed out that rules

and regulations are not rigid and can change over time. Given the increasing use in the backcountry, there could be more contaminants in water.

"The trends for Crested Butte look a bit concerning," Williams said. The discovery of periodically high disinfection byproduct levels is not a "gotcha moment" for North Valley water users, but rather a chance to explore what the causes could be in the area, he said.

"I think it's important, particularly for the residents of the Town of Crested Butte who drink that water, that they're aware of it," Williams said.

The cause of the high levels of organic matter in Coal Creek, which is leading to the high levels of disinfection byproducts in treated water, remains a mystery. One hypothesis is that more beaver activity could be a contributing factor. Bark beetles, as well as the conifers they feed on, could be linked to more carbon in the water. Previous

studies have shown connections between bark beetles, more dissolved organic matter and, by extension, more disinfectant byproducts.

Williams said to imagine the forest floor after it snows, full of pine needles and other organic matter, working almost like a tea bag that leaches materials into the water.

Williams and his colleagues have been surprised to find that neighboring watersheds, like the East River, do not show high levels of organic material like Coal Creek. They are now exploring what exactly could lead to these disparities.

"Why are there differences between Coal Creek and the East River?" Williams said. "That is a very scientifically interesting puzzle to solve."

(Kate Gienapp can be contacted at 970.641.1414 or [kate@gunnisontimes.com](mailto:kate@gunnisontimes.com).)

# Students and community protest SRA

Western students respond to department reductions

Roberta Marquette  
Times Staff Writer

Western Colorado University's strategic resource allocation (SRA) plan was an 18-month process that involved hundreds of employees and thousands of hours of work. But some Western students feel they were left out of a process that resulted in cuts to five academic programs.

"All they needed to do was take a little bit of time and ask for our input," Western student Christopher Gibson said. "They didn't do that, so we feel completely disregarded."

To take action, Gibson and his peers have arranged a series of protests on the lawn of Taylor Hall every Friday until "people stop coming," Gibson said. The first protest took place this past Friday. Around 20 students and Gunnison community members attended, chanting "SRA is not the way, we're the ones that have to pay," while holding signs supporting the arts on campus.

The SRA will reduce funding to the history, English, music, sociology and art departments in the 2021-22 school year. The music major took the biggest hit. It will be transitioned into a



Roberta Marquette

Students upset with reductions from the strategic resource allocation report will be taking to Taylor Lawn into the foreseeable future to protest the changes. Students claim the reductions have hit the liberal arts programs specifically, and they worry for the programs' futures.

minor.

At one point of the protest, a Western employee peered through the blinds from the third floor of Taylor Hall for a while. Most administration offices are located on the third floor.

Gibson said he wants the

administration to listen to students but isn't sure what he would say to a member of the administration if they wanted to talk. "The sting is still there. I don't even know if I can trust the administration right now."

Aside from the lack of student involvement, Gibson said he

and others are also upset with administrators "blowing us off" during communications on the subject. Western's Student Government Association (SGA) hosted an SRA presentation between administrators and students Feb. 17.

The 90-minute discussion included a presentation by Western Executive Vice President Brad Baca, who led the SRA team for the last 18 months, and a question and answer session. One SGA senator said it was the most attended meeting she had been a part of in student government.

Baca explained the process behind the SRA. It involved collecting data from all academic programs and extracurriculars to evaluate student demand and expenses. Programs were scored on enrollment, outcomes, growth, productivity, innovation, strategic plans and finances. The SRA was conducted by Western administration, faculty and senior cabinet members.

"We think this inclusive and transparent process made the study better," Baca said. "It doesn't mean that everybody agrees with the findings and the results, but my hope is that people understand it."

Baca added that if the programs that will be reduced grow in the future they can be restored.

Baca was asked multiple times about student involvement. He responded that students were involved through the SGA. The SRA team asked the students to conduct their own assessment of the groups they oversee. A student trustee was also given all draft recommen-

dations when they were presented to the Board of Trustees.

Gibson said he doesn't see the involvement as enough. He asked Baca for a more thorough answer. "Students are considered stakeholders at this school, so why were they left out of the whole process?"

Baca said the SRA team talked many times about the "appropriate role" of the students, and they decided "students are transient, they come and go. Faculty and staff understand the operation a little more. They have more sophistication in the understanding of the operations of a college campus."

After receiving feedback from disappointed students, Baca issued an apology and a clarification to the SGA president for his characterization of students as "transient."

"I by no means meant to suggest that students at Western are not committed to seeing our university succeed and be the best we can be. Over the years, in fact, I have found that Western students are quite the opposite — they are passionate advocates and care deeply about our place, our programs and our people," Baca said.

But, some students still felt they were not being heard by administration. SGA senator Saydie Ferris told faculty senate Feb. 22 that students told her they did not feel heard at the forum.

"Students want to feel that they are being kept in the loop. It makes sense that they would have these concerns even if

continued on A7

### Western faculty votes from A1

The senate voted 11-3 to send the statement to faculty. During the senate meeting Monday, Brad Burton, the Rady Chair in Petroleum Geology, resigned from his position as senate chair.

"One of the jobs of the Senate Chair is to be the faculty advisor to the President. I feel that I can no longer adequately represent the majority opinion of Faculty Senate, and therefore it was time for a change in Senate leadership," Burton told the *Times* on Tuesday. He will continue to serve as an at-large member of the senate.

Faculty members will have one week to cast anonymous, online ballots on whether they support the statement starting Friday. The results of the vote will then be understood as a binding resolution for the senate.

Senators made clear that they do not officially endorse the statement by sending it to faculty. They are hoping to gather an accurate representation of faculty sentiments by holding a vote.

The statement lays out in 11 "whereas" statements and two-and-a-half pages of footnotes why Salsbury should be replaced after seven years leading Western. It cites his Jan. 7 statement about the Capitol riot, his "misunderstanding and

dismissiveness" toward diversity and equity issues, his avoidance of constructive critiques, turmoil among students and staff during his tenure and the problems that his moral leadership present to student recruitment and retention.

A senate committee formed Feb. 8 drafted the statement. The stated purpose of the document is to "assess the information gathered from faculty and students by Faculty Senate with respect to President Salsbury's leadership."

The statement comes after more than a month of discussion on evaluations of Salsbury's performance, which was sparked following a controversial email at the beginning of January. Some faculty allege that Salsbury in that email conflated the Jan. 6 insurrection with the Black Lives Matter protests from last summer. The statement cites that email, titled "Voice Against Violence," as "the most recent example" of the "leadership failures" enumerated by the statement's authors.

The faculty vote comes after weeks of discussion and debate in the faculty senate. In January, Burton told the *Times* that if a vote of no confidence was to proceed, a faculty-wide vote, rather than simply a Faculty Senate vote, would be needed for the senate to take a stance on whether Salsbury should stay or go.

Senators discussed the possibility of taking a vote of no confidence Jan. 11. They decided to go to their respective departments to gather feedback from other faculty members. At the Jan. 11 meeting, senators said some departments had varying opinions on Salsbury.

The referendum will be available for faculty to vote on from Friday, Feb. 26 to Friday, March 5. The faculty constitution refers to official faculty members as anyone with tenure, a probationary or temporary contract, department chairs and professional library staff.

The faculty senate does not have the power to fire Salsbury. That authority lies with the Board of Trustees, which is scheduled to meet March 26.

In a statement to the *Times*, Salsbury commented, "It is important to me to hear from all the faculty before I offer my response. Until then, I will continue to focus on the well-being of Western, with an aim of seeing it thrive despite the many challenges we face in higher education today."

A link to the full statement on which faculty will vote is posted with this story online.

*(Roberta Marquette can be contacted at 970.641.1414 or at roberta@gunnisontimes.com.)*

## George Sibley resigns from Upper Gunnison

### Board loses esteemed water leader

Sam Liebl  
Times Editor

After 14 years of service at the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District, George Sibley stepped down from the district's board earlier this month.

Sibley, 79, cited his health and age as the reasons for his decision. Upper Gunnison General Manager Sonja Chaves and Board President Michelle Piece received a letter from Sibley on Feb. 9 notifying them that his resignation was effective immediately.

"I've got some stress-related health issues, nothing very serious, but I'm also almost 80; it was just time to cut back on some of my involvements, and make sure I get some other personal things done I'm working on," Sibley said Tuesday.

Chavez said Sibley and his persistence in asking difficult questions will be missed at the Upper Gunnison.



Sibley

Courtesy

"George has so much historical and institutional knowledge of water issues on the Western Slope," Chavez said. "I didn't always agree with George, but I appreciate that he pushed those difficult conversations."

Sibley was the Upper Gunnison's board secretary and served on a handful of committees at the time of his resignation.

The Upper Gunnison's Board of Directors formally thanked Sibley by passing a resolution acknowledging his service. The resolution notes Sibley's decades of writing about water, includ-

ing "Water Wranglers," which was published in 2012 to mark the 75th anniversary of the Colorado River District, as well as his role in organizing the Colorado Water Workshop, one of the premiere meetings of water policymakers in the Western U.S.

"We will miss him dearly," said Upper Gunnison board Vice President Stacy McPhail during the board's meeting Tuesday.

Board member John Perusek fills Sibley's role as secretary. The Upper Gunnison will advertise the vacancy for 45 days ahead of the Upper Gunnison's June 28 annual meeting. Applicants will need to be residents of the City of Gunnison since Sibley represented the city's district on the board. Applicant letters will be forwarded to Seventh Judicial District Judge Steven Patrick. In accordance with the Upper Gunnison's founding statute, Patrick will make the appointment decision.

*(Sam Liebl can be contacted at 970.641.1414 or editor@gunnisontimes.com)*

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## **FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**

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Pastor Jonathan Jones

9:30 A.M. Share & Prayer Fellowship / 10 A.M. Sunday School Classes  
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United Church of Christ

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Casual, Relaxed, "Come As You Are" Worship

[www.gunnisonucc.org](http://www.gunnisonucc.org)  
M-W-F 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
317 N. Main St. • 970-641-3203

## **MT CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH**

711 N. Main • 641-1860

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## **ST. PETER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH**

300 N. Wisconsin • 641-0808 • Fr. Andres Ayala

Masses will be available online or register to attend in person.  
[www.gunnisoncatholic.org](http://www.gunnisoncatholic.org) | [www.catholicbulletinboard.org](http://www.catholicbulletinboard.org) or call the Parish Office.  
St. Peter's - Gunnison Sat 5:00 pm & Sun 10:30 am, 12:00 pm - Spanish  
Queen of All Saints - Crested Butte Sun 8:30 am  
St. Rose of Lima - Lake City Sunday Communion Service 10:00 am

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## COMMENTARY

# Keeping the lights on



Sam Liebl  
Times Editor

My dad starts telling me about tomatoes this time of year. In Houston, where he lives, the weather turns the corner by late February. The kale and arugula and lettuce make room in his small vegetable garden for a few warm season plants. With three more months before it starts to get really hot, the tomato starts turn into a jungle by May. That small patch provides enough for salads, salsas and tomato-and-butter sandwiches for months.

It's an annual joke for my dad to brag about his new tomato patch while I reply with our snowdepth and the recent low temperature. But this year, of course, was different. When I called him up last week, he and my mom were into day three of "winter camping" at home with intermittent electricity and no water. I didn't have much snow to report, and he didn't have any tomato plants still alive. His garden was black from sustained below-freezing temperatures — colder and for longer than anyone can remember in that part of Texas. When my dad and I spoke, it was 20 degrees warmer than Houston in Gunnison. A week later, my mom says it smells like rotting vegetation across the city.

By this past weekend, the wind turned out of the south in Texas and temperatures rebounded to their comfortable, typical winter normals down there: 60s and 70s, or what the girls in high school (I grew up in the Houston suburbs) would call "boot season" because they could break out their Uggs. But the grid and water supplies did not rebound as quickly. The days and weeks that it took people in Texas to regain their basic services of power, safe drinking water and indoor plumbing are going to stay in the minds of Texans for decades.

The Texan tragedy should stick in our minds, too. The episode points to our own vulnerability, especially as we move towards more renewable and locally generated power. Texas Governor Greg Abbott went overboard in blaming frozen wind turbines for the blackouts (frozen natural gas power plants

were an even bigger contributor), but the icing of fiberglass blades on many West Texas wind towers was a part of the failure. Just as when parts of California went dark this summer during a heatwave because the state's solar-dependent grid could not keep up with millions of Californians turning on their air conditioning, Texas' wind-heavy grid could not respond to the surge caused by millions of Texans turning on their heat.

At the same time, we should not back away from bringing more renewables onto our local and regional grids. To keep relying on coal and natural gas would be to exacerbate the cause of the extreme weather — climate change.

The fixes to this predicament appear to be either to go smaller or to go bigger. Communities could incorporate micro-grids with storage (batteries, pumped-storage hydropower) so that they don't go black when the wider grid is over-stressed. Or, as the Biden administration is proposing, the whole nation could go bigger by building many more transmission lines so that far-off power sources can sustain regions when their power supplies or demands get out of whack. I suspect many Texans will take a third way, in line with the Lonestar spirit, of installing solar panels and batteries so that their households are self-sufficient.

The conversation around power generation and transmission is just one of the tricky situations we will continue to face this decade. In Gunnison County, we are fortunate to have plenty of smart, civic-minded community members stepping up to face these challenges. No doubt the Zoom Boom is bringing more engineers, lawyers and Ph.D.s to the valley who can add their expertise to the ranks. But, along with the newcomers, we're lucky to have oldtimers to give us the perspective of history and the wisdom of having seen similar problems arise before.

The resignation of George Sibley from the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District, however, is a cup of cold river water to the face of anyone who was taking our elders for granted. George has for decades modeled what community service and abiding dedication to this place looks like. Interested in the Union Park Project (the last time the Front Range tried to take Gunnison Basin water), I called up George. A couple days later I

picked up a stack of documents and newspaper clippings that he had stashed. I had decided to write a research paper for grad school about Union Park, and George made the research part of the assignment null — in that stack of papers was everything I needed. But on my way out of his house, George reminded me to contact the men involved in the project soon if I wanted to do interviews. Those men were getting old, and they might not be around for much longer, he warned me.

The bowing-out of George from the Upper Gunnison, as well as Bill Trampe from the Colorado River District board, could not come at a worse time. To be sure, both have given more than their share to protecting the water of our valley. But we are nonetheless drifting into uncharted territory. The scenario of California restricting water use on the Western Slope of Colorado becomes more likely as our state's drought extends into its third decade. We need people like George and Bill to keep our baseline steady.

Not long after the Upper Gunnison's board thanked George for his service this week, board members brought up how newcomers to the valley have seen recent snowfall as a sign that river flows will be normal this spring. Board members discussed ways that they can remind valley residents that this winter is not normal, that spring snows will need to be extraordinary to compensate for the dry soil underneath and that the snowless stretches of the early winter that put us on track with the epochal droughts of 2018, 2012 and 2002. While swaths of the American population still doubt climate change, we're already at the point where our baselines are shifting. And our elders, who know better, are phasing out of leadership.

Back in Texas, there aren't even tomatoes to replant. The deep freeze and power outages hit the nurseries, too. Florida has the closest supply of surviving nightshades. But dead shrubs are the least of Texans' worries. There are leaking pipes, continued boil notices and freezers of rotten meat to clean out. A new thought is likely crossing the minds of our second-home owner population down there: Gunnison is cold, but at least they keep the lights on.

(Sam Liebl can be contacted at 970.641.1414 or editor@gunnisontimes.com)

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GUNNISON COUNTRY  
TIMES



# Colorado Department of Natural Resources

## Colorado Establishes Water Equity Task Force

MARCH 15, 2021 Colorado Governor Jared Polis and Dan Gibbs, Executive Director, Colorado Department of Natural Resources announced today the establishment of a Water Equity Task Force to better understand existing equity, diversity and inclusivity (EDI) challenges involving Colorado water issues and inform the Colorado Water Plan.

“In Colorado, water is the lifeblood of our state and critical for our economy, agriculture, wildlife and environment. This Task Force is another important piece in creating a Colorado for all and will inform our Colorado Water Plan by ensuring that future efforts in planning for Colorado’s water future are increasingly inclusive. I want to thank Director Gibbs and the Water Conservation Board for their leadership on these efforts and look forward to the work ahead.”

The 2005 Water for the 21st Century Act (HB 05-1177) ushered in a new area of regionally inclusive and collaborative water planning. That spirit was further codified in the 2015 Colorado Water Plan, which ensured that all water uses in Colorado are interconnected and of equal value. At the same time, Colorado has a broad and diverse populace who are not always represented in local stakeholder groups and who need to be engaged in the forthcoming Colorado Water Plan update (set for completion in 2022).

“2020 has highlighted the need to fundamentally address deeper societal issues – including equity in water policy decisions,” said Dan Gibbs, Executive Director, Colorado Department Natural Resources. “This Task Force will build on the Governor’s Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Executive Order and efforts to build a climate equity structure; it is time to similarly create a water equity framework that can inform the Water Plan update.”

The Water Equity Task Force, managed by the Colorado Water Conservation Board, will bring together a group of 20 diverse stakeholders to meet over the next year to draft a set of concepts for consideration in the Colorado Water Plan update by the end of March 2022. The group will plan and develop a public workshop tentatively set for late 2021 to incorporate additional partners and voices to this effort. Details will be posted on the [engagewcb.org](http://engagewcb.org) webpage.

“The Colorado Water Plan update will build on lessons learned, be more accessible, and will identify bold actions. I strongly support including equity considerations into our water planning to ensure that our efforts become more inclusive, welcoming, and communicative on a range of issues,” added Rebecca Mitchell, Colorado Water Conservation Board Director.

Members of the appointed Task Force include:

Name	Affiliation	Seat
Mike Weber	Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District	ROUNDTABLE

Victoria Obregon	CSU Pueblo	COMMUNITY
Abby Burk	Audubon Rockies	ROUNDTABLE
Andrea Lopez	Ute Water	COMMUNITY
Sonja Chavez	Upper Gunnison Water Conservancy District	ROUNDTABLE
Dr. Alina Luna	Western Colorado University	COMMUNITY
Barb Biggs	Roxborough Water and Sanitation District	ROUNDTABLE
Ernest House	Keystone Policy Center	COMMUNITY
Barbara Vasquez	North Platte Roundtable	ROUNDTABLE
Dr. Lynette Telck	Jackson County Public Health	COMMUNITY
Mike Roque	Community Foundation of San Luis Valley	COMMUNITY
Rio de la Vista	Salazar Rio Grande del Norte Center at Adams State University	ROUNDTABLE
Fatuma Emmad	Front Line Farming	COMMUNITY
Deb Daniel	Republican River Water Conservancy District	ROUNDTABLE
Manuel Heart	Ute Mountain Ute - Chairman	TRIBE
Mel Baker	Southern Ute - Chairman	TRIBE
Lee Bitsóí	Fort Lewis College	COMMUNITY
Mely Whiting	Trout Unlimited	ROUNDTABLE
Jerry Hernandez	Integrated Community	COMMUNITY
Kelly Romero-Heaney	City of Steamboat Springs	ROUNDTABLE

The 20-person Water Equity Task Force geographically represents the legislatively defined nine basin regions across Colorado (representing each of the eight major river basins as well as the metro area). The membership includes nine water-experienced stakeholders with insights into Colorado’s current water planning efforts and basin roundtable structure, two members representing Colorado’s federally recognized Native American Tribes, the Southern Ute and the Ute Mountain Ute tribes, and nine members representing community leaders not traditionally engaged in water issues.



**GAME ON:** A group of kids were seen having a snowball fight this week while waiting for their table at the Public House on Elk Avenue. PHOTO BY NOLAN BLUNCK

## Town of CB assures community the drinking water is safe

Dear Crested Butte Community,

Recently, there was an article published in the *Gunnison Country Times*, which articulated concerns around possible "high levels of chemicals" in the Town of Crested Butte's (Town) drinking water. The Town wants to assure its users that the Town's drinking water supply is safe to drink.

The Town Water Treatment Plant utilizes a multi-stage treatment process that includes a state-of-the-art micro-membrane filtration system. Per state and EPA regulations, the Town samples its treated drinking water supply routinely throughout the year to test for everything from

metals to disinfection byproducts. A complete sample schedule can be found at <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/dwschedules>.

Samples are sent to a Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment certified laboratory for analysis. The results of these analyses have routinely demonstrated that the Town's treated drinking water meet and/or exceed all state and federal drinking water standards. Information on sampling results from the Town's treated drinking water are summarized on the annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) which can be found on the Town's website and in the June edition of the

Crested Butte newspaper. Furthermore, the Town continues to support local stakeholders in an effort to monitor, characterize and implement projects that support water quality improvements within the watershed.

Again, rest assured that the water you drink in Crested Butte is very safe! Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water.

If you should have any questions, please contact David Jelinek at 970-349-0885.

Shea Earley  
Director of Public Works  
Town of Crested Butte



**LETTERS**

**CB drinking water is very safe**

Gunnison Country Times

Editor:

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If you should have any questions, please contact David Jelinek at 970-349-0885.

**Shea D Earley**  
**Director of Public Works**  
**Crested Butte**

# **AGENDA ITEM 10**

**Citizens Comments**

# **AGENDA ITEM 11**

## **Future Meetings**

## FUTURE MEETINGS/EVENTS

- ▶ **WORLD WATER DAY - March 22 (and photo contest deadline)**
- ▶ **Legislative Committee Meeting - March 26; 8 AM (tentative)**
- ▶ **Legislative Committee Meeting - April 2; 8 AM (tentative)**
- ▶ **Executive Committee Meeting - April 5, Noon**
- ▶ **Legislative Committee Meeting - April 9; 8 AM (tentative)**
- ▶ **Watershed Mgt. Planning Committee Meeting - April 12; 1:30 PM**
- ▶ **Legislative Committee Meeting - April 16; 8 AM (tentative)**
- ▶ **Gunnison Basin Roundtable Meeting – April 19**
- ▶ **EARTH DAY - April 22**
- ▶ **Gunnison Community Clean-Up Day - April 24**
- ▶ **UGRWCD Board Meeting – April 26; 5:30 PM**
- ▶ **Watershed Mgt. Planning Committee Meeting - May 10; 1:30 PM**
- ▶ **UGRWCD Board Meeting - May 25th in LAKE CITY**

# **AGENDA ITEM 12**

## **Summary of Action Items**

# **AGENDA ITEM 13**

**Adjournment**