



## *Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District*

210 West Spencer Avenue, Suite B • Gunnison, Colorado 81230  
(970) 641-6065 • [www.ugrwcd.org](http://www.ugrwcd.org)

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

Monday, February 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 January 25, 2021 Minutes
  - Consideration of Operating Expenses
  - Consideration of Non-Operating Expenses
- 5:40 p.m. 4. Election of Board Secretary**
- Appointment Process for Vacancy
  - Board Resolution of Commendation
  - Resolution for Secretary's Check Signing Authorization
- 5:50 p.m. 5. Legal and Legislative Matters**
- Comments re: Lease of Power Privilege at Taylor Park Dam
- 6:00 p.m. 6. Watershed and Forest Health**
- Threats to Rocky Mountain Waters - Kenneth Hurst Williams, Lawrence Berkley National Laboratory
  - Values and Risks Discussion
- 6:50 p.m. 7. Break**
- 7:00 p.m. 8. General Manager and Committee Reports**
- Treasurer's Report
  - Upper Gunnison Board Committees Memo
    - Policy on Board Committees

- 2021 Standing Committees
- Watershed Management Planning Committee Update
  - Feb 8, 2021 WMP Meeting Summary
- Grant Committee Update
- Education Committee Update
  - 2021 Action Plan
  - Drought Outreach Campaign Update
- Basin Water Supply Information February 2021
  - Taylor Park Reservoir
  - Colorado Monthly Snowpack Summary
  - Cloudseeding
- Scientific Endeavors
- Long Lake Stakeholder Work Group Update
- Gunnison River Festival Update

- 7:25 p.m. 9. Demand Management Framework Discussion**
- Development of Upper Gunnison District Statement of Understanding of Demand Management
- 7:40 p.m. 10. Miscellaneous Matters**
- District Payment of Expenses Process
  - Gunnison Energy Production – Solar Panels
  - Newspapers and Other Water Articles
- 7:50 p.m. 11. Citizen Comments**
- 7:55 p.m. 12. Future Meetings**
- 7:57 p.m. 13. Summary of Meeting Action Items**
- 8:00 p.m. 14. Adjournment**

# **AGENDA ITEM 3**

**Consent Agenda Items**

**Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District  
Regular Board Meeting Minutes  
Monday, January 25, 2021**

The Board of Directors of the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District conducted a regular meeting via Zoom video/teleconferencing on Monday, January 25, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

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

Others present:

Sonja Chavez, General Manager

Ashley Hom, US Forest Service

Paul Jones, Wet Meadows Project

Jesse Kruthaupt, Trout Unlimited

Joe Lavorini, Gunnison County Stewardship Coordinator, National Forest Foundation

Samuel Liebl, Gunnison Country Times

John McClow, General Counsel

Beverly Richards, Water Resource Specialist

Bob Robbins, Concerned Citizen

Jill Steele, Office Manager

Sue Uerling, Administrative Assistant

Board members not present: President Michelle Pierce

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Vice President Stacy McPhail called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

**2. AGENDA APPROVAL**

**Director Bill Nesbitt moved and Director George Sibley seconded approval of the agenda as circulated. A roll call vote was conducted. Results of the roll call vote:**

**Rosemary Carroll                      yes**

<b>Joellen Fonken</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>Rebie Hazard</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>Stacy McPhail</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>Julie Nania</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>Bill Nesbitt</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>John Perusek</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>Don Sabrowski</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>George Sibley</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>Andy Spann</b>	<b>yes</b>

**The motion carried 10 – 0.**

### **3. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

**Director Joellen Fonken moved and Director Rebie Hazard seconded approval of the consent agenda. A roll call vote was conducted. Results of the roll call vote:**

<b>Rosemary Carroll</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>Joellen Fonken</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>Rebie Hazard</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>Stacy McPhail</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>Julie Nania</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>Bill Nesbitt</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>John Perusek</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>Don Sabrowski</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>George Sibley</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>Andy Spann</b>	<b>yes</b>

**The motion carried 10-0.**

Based on the submission of Jesse Kruthaupt's contract invoice and explanation/photos of work completed, Director George Sibley commended Jesse on all of the work he is accomplishing.

### **4. LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE MATTERS**

A. General Counsel John McClow briefly reviewed the Gunnison County Electric Association (GCEA) proposal for a Lease of Power Privilege (LOPP) to install a hydropower generation plant in the existing facility at Taylor Park Dam. John commented that he feels it is fine if GCEA wants to build the facility and that the District has always supported this measure, but John

wants assurance of the following: (1) Water for the facility must always be “run of the river” with releases controlled by the decrees; (2) GCEA cannot apply for a water right; and (3) GCEA cannot claim any benefits under the 1975 Agreement. As an action item, John would insist that GCEA sign an updated version of the agreement that was included in the Board packet with these conditions. There was discussion that GCEA will create an LLC with Uncompahgre Valley Water Users (UVWUA) to build and operate the facility. Director Bill Nesbitt questioned whether or not this could create an issue with succession down the road. John said he will be sure there is language protecting the District from any succession issues. John also stated that there is language in the Lease of Power Privilege proposal that Uncompahgre may lease water to the GCEA, but John indicated that depending on whether the water being released is first or second-fill, it may not be Uncompahgre’s water being released. He is going to contact Uncompahgre to address this issue. John recommends that the District support the LOPP proposal subject to the conditions noted and that GCEA and Uncompahgre enter into an agreement with the District.

**Director Bill Nesbitt moved and Director John Perusek seconded the motion to approve that Manager Sonja Chavez be authorized to sign the agreement with GCEA and UVWUA allowing them to install a hydropower generation plan in the existing facilities at Taylor Park Dam with the conditions noted included in the revised agreement. A roll call vote was conducted. Results of the roll call vote:**

<b>Rosemary Carroll</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>Joellen Fonken</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>Rebie Hazard</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>Stacy McPhail</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>Julie Nania</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>Bill Nesbitt</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>John Perusek</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>Don Sabrowski</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>George Sibley</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>Andy Spann</b>	<b>yes</b>

**The motion carried 10-0.**

B. Legislative Matters – Dylan Roberts has moved to a different committee and Jeni Arndt will chair the House Agriculture, Livestock and Water Committee. She has supported water rights in the past. The Colorado Legislature convened

for three days and will not come back into session again until February 16, 2021. Therefore, John will let the Legislative Committee know after that date when there are issues to discuss.

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

The Board received the January 2021 General Manager & Committee Reports in their packets.

### **A. Taylor Local User Group (TLUG) Appointments**

Manager Sonja Chavez briefly reviewed the TLUG operations and terms as outlined in the memo in the Board packets and requested action on the three positions requiring renewed appointments.

**Director Julie Nania moved and Director Rebie Hazard seconded appointments to the Taylor Local Users Group as follows: Roark Kiklevich, representing wade fisherman, Andy Spann, representing irrigation users along the Taylor and Gunnison Rivers and Pete Dunda, representing Taylor River property owners along the Taylor and Gunnison Rivers. A roll call vote was conducted. Results of the roll call vote:**

<b>Rosemary Carroll</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>Joellen Fonken</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>Rebie Hazard</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>Stacy McPhail</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>Julie Nania</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>Bill Nesbitt</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>John Perusek</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>Don Sabrowski</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>George Sibley</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>Andy Spann</b>	<b>yes</b>

**The motion carried 10-0.**

Vice President Stacy McPhail and General Manager Sonja Chavez thanked the TLUG representatives for their time and efforts.

### **B. Executive Committee**

Manager Sonja Chavez briefly reviewed the January 4 2021 meeting details as outlined in the memo included in the packet. Vice President Stacy McPhail

stated that the Executive Committee is recommending approval of the 2021 Salary Compensation Ranges to be used as an evaluation tool for keeping District compensation levels in-line with current market trends in the water industry. The compensation ranges will be reviewed on a tri-annual basis.

**Director Joellen Fonken moved and Director Rosemary Carroll seconded the motion to approve the 2021 Salary Compensation Ranges as recommended by the Executive Committee. A roll call vote was conducted. Results of the roll call vote:**

<b>Rosemary Carroll</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>Joellen Fonken</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>Rebie Hazard</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>Stacy McPhail</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>Julie Nania</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>Bill Nesbitt</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>John Perusek</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>Don Sabrowski</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>George Sibley</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>Andy Spann</b>	<b>yes</b>

**The motion carried 10-0.**

General Manager Sonja Chavez also discussed performance reviews for the staff. Staff self-evaluations will now be a part of the performance review process. These will be submitted to their supervisor(s) and will be the basis of their performance evaluation discussion with their supervisor. Her goal is to have self-evaluations completed in June; all performance reviews completed in July; and, any salary adjustments and/or merit increases outlined in August so that these can be incorporated into the District's draft budget in September. General Counsel John McCLOW will review the performance review processes to make sure they comply with employment law requirements.

Sonja also reviewed the Executive Committee's discussion about Drought Planning and her recommendation that the District work with local entities to implement a consistent message about drought education. She would like to offer the Board and other interested entities/individuals an opportunity to learn more about "Fostering Sustainable Behavior" through community-based social marketing efforts as presented by Doug McKenzie-Mohr. There will be a conference call this week to discuss Doug's training options. Director Joellen Fonken expressed concern that the District should not just use social media to reach people as, with the pandemic, some people have stepped away from



social media and so the District should explore other ways to transmit the drought message. Sonja clarified that a “social marketing” campaign uses all types of media and other methods to educate the public. Sonja said that the Governor’s Phase 3 State Drought Response Program was enacted. Although none of our municipal entities are covered entities, there needs to be ongoing discussion with all water users about responsible water use during drought, including municipalities. Director Bill Nesbitt said he has talked to Mayor Jim Gelwicks about delaying turning on the City Ditch system and he wanted to correct Sonja’s memo to show that in 2013 turning on the ditches was delayed by 20 days, not 10, and that there was a savings of 945 acre-feet of water. Director Nesbitt wants the District to ensure that City participation in delaying turning on the ditch not be seen as an abandonment of their water right.

### **C. Grant Committee**

General Manager Sonja Chavez reviewed the two Grant Committee meetings since the last Board meeting and noted that the entire Grant packet has been reviewed and now includes templates and clear instructions, which should greatly facilitate application review and ranking and the District’s movement from award to contract. The guidelines are now consistent with the grant policy. Director Bill Nesbitt questioned whether or not the term “farm” should be changed to “ranch” in the documents.

Manager Sonja Chavez asked for the whole Board to weigh in on whether or not irrigation efficiency projects, such as pivot sprinkler systems, should be allowed for consideration under the program. She pointed out that taking action to fund such projects may affect irrigation return flows and groundwater levels and could have negative effects for neighboring and downstream water users. Vice President Stacy McPhail stated that there is a lifespan to such irrigation systems and that they require a lot of maintenance, so she was not comfortable with District funds being used for systems like this that may not be operational down the road. Stacy also stated she was not in favor of supporting a project that just benefits one water user. Director George Sibley agreed with this statement and Director Rebie Hazard feels the District would be taking on a lot of risk funding a center pivot. Director Don Sabrowski also said this can create a lot of negative effects for users downstream. While Director Rosemary Carroll agrees with the consensus of the Board that additional studies are needed to determine the long-term effects of irrigation efficiencies, she feels that there are a lot of unknown factors and risks at this point but is concerned that not just one study is going to give us all of this data needed to determine the best outcomes. She said clarifying this is really important, and at present, there is a clear gap in knowledge about such effects.

Director Stacy McPhail expressed concerns about how many resources the District should be allocating for such studies. Director Andy Spann asked if we are just concerned about central pivot systems or other irrigation systems too? Director Bill Nesbitt is concerned that if we put too many stipulations on the applicant to convey the efficiency of their projects by asking them to spend money on engineering and studies, we may lose applicants. There was also discussion about whether irrigation efficiency should be part of the Grant process or moved under Water Management Planning. Director Julie Nania asked about how we will view efficiency for municipal projects as well. Director George Sibley recommended that until we have clear data from studies about irrigation efficiency results, the District should just review each application and make decisions on a case by case basis. He suggested that the District learn by doing going forward. It was discussed that the District has a history of funding such projects in the past and that the District can get some helpful data from the results of demonstration projects previously funded, as well as from the work anticipated under the District's engineering contract. Because of the updates to the grant policy and procedures, the consensus of the Board was that if the grant applications show a multi-resource benefit; give the District new helpful data about water efficiency and that adjacent and downstream landowners are made aware of and support the application, then the District should move forward in accepting such grant applications, while continuing to explore resources/studies to provide up-to-date information about groundwater and surface water interactions. It was also clarified that priority would be given to "wet water" projects. Several Board members promoted the concept of having a "Informational Grant Training" to assist potential applicants with questions about the application and the viability of their projects. General Manager Sonja Chavez indicated that staff is always available to help applicants throughout the process but cannot actually write an application for someone. Staff had discussed doing a grant informational webinar and upon hearing this input from the Board she will go forward with implementing.

Sonja also announced that the USGS will be embarking on a 10-year *Next Generation Water Observing System* that can help provide needed data about groundwater and surface water interactions.

There was also discussion about funding research and monitoring projects and projects where the applicant is funded by tax dollars (e.g., municipalities or federal government). Sonja pointed out that the District has supported both research and monitoring projects in the past and that the results were beneficial to the District's long term goals and objectives and needs. Stacy reiterated that she would prefer that the majority of the District funding

support “wet water” projects. Director Rosemary Carroll stated that the research and monitoring projects can be crucial for the district in a lot of ways and that the District may be at the mercy of types of applications received in a given year.

With respect to applications submitted by tax-supported entities, there was a lot of discussion about whether or not the District should be funding projects like porta-potties. Director George Sibley pointed out that if there is pollution flowing into a stream or river due to the lack of a porta-potty, then the District would be remiss not to consider this. General Manager Sonja Chavez pointed out that because the District requires a 50 percent match, it is not uncommon for applicants to have some of their matched funds coming from tax-supported entities like the Forest Service or BLM. Director Julie Nania asked if the Board is suggesting a more specific policy about funding applicants that are supported or partially supported by tax dollars. Sonja stated that for now, she would like to leave the policy as is and address such applications on a case by case basis and emphasized the amount of work we need to accomplish in our basin and how important those partnerships are to meeting our resource improvement goals. Ashley Hom from the US Forest Service was on the Zoom conference and Director Bill Nesbitt asked her to weigh in on the subject. Ashley explained that because Congress had not previously allocated any funding for the Forest Service to address failing bathroom infrastructure, she was very grateful to be able to seek and receive funding for such projects from the District. She stated that it really was an emergency situation that was solved with the porta-potties and that she does not see the Forest Service asking for any additional porta-potty funding as this has been budgeted for by Congress for the next few years.

General Counsel John McClow explained that since the recommendation from the Grant Committee was to approve the Grant Policy as presented, only a motion would be required, not a second.

**George Sibley moved for adoption of the January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021, amended District Grant Policy. A roll call vote was conducted. Results of the roll call vote:**

<b>Rosemary Carroll</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>Joellen Fonken</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>Rebie Hazard</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>Stacy McPhail</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>Julie Nania</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>Bill Nesbitt</b>	<b>yes</b>

<b>John Perusek</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>Don Sabrowski</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>George Sibley</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>Andy Spann</b>	<b>yes</b>

**The motion carried 10-0**

General Manager Sonja Chavez indicated that staff conducted a comprehensive review of the grant program between 2015 and 2020. There were a number of District grant awarded projects that were either cancelled or never implemented. Because of the time elapsed on some of those projects (e.g., 2015-2018), the Grant Committee agreed that new applications should be re-submitted and compete in a future grant funding cycle. Also, in some instances, a grant awarded project actually came in under budget so there were unused funds leftover from their grant. Therefore, there is currently a balance of \$87,469.26 of funds that are unexpended, unclaimed, and available to be rolled into the 2021 and future grant cycles should such funds be needed, per Counsel John McClow. Director Bill Nesbitt asked how this money is designated in our accounts and whether this would raise any concerns with the auditor. John explained that the money goes back into the general fund as unrestricted reserve funds and since these funds were already appropriated to grants but not expended, this makes the money available if needed for current and future grant funding. John said there should be no issues with the auditor and that action taken by the Board on rolling forward these funds is documented via the resolution in their packet and via memo to the auditor.

**Director Bill Nesbitt moved and Director Julie Nania seconded the adoption of Resolution 2021-01 authorizing the use of \$87,469.26 of previously allocated, unexpended, and now available District Grant Funds residing in the General Fund Reserve into the current 2021 District Grant funding cycle. A roll call vote was conducted. Results of the roll call vote:**

<b>Rosemary Carroll</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>Joellen Fonken</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>Rebie Hazard</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>Stacy McPhail</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>Julie Nania</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>Bill Nesbitt</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>John Perusek</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>Don Sabrowski</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>George Sibley</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>Andy Spann</b>	<b>yes</b>

**The motion carried 10-0**

**D. Watershed Management Planning Committee**

Manager Sonja Chavez reviewed details of the January 11 and December 10 WMP meetings and her Watershed & Stream Management Planning Memorandum dated January 19, 2021. In item number 2 of that Memorandum, the District's RFQ Ag Engineer process, WMP recommending that the Board authorize the General Manager to enter into an initial contract with Applegate Group in the amount of \$100,000.

**Director George Sibley moved and Director Andy Spann seconded authorization of General Manager Sonja Chavez to enter into an initial contract with Applegate Group for engineering services not to exceed \$100,000 in support of WMP efforts. A roll call vote was conducted. Results of the roll call vote:**

<b>Rosemary Carroll</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>Joellen Fonken</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>Rebie Hazard</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>Stacy McPhail</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>Julie Nania</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>Bill Nesbitt</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>John Perusek</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>Don Sabrowski</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>George Sibley</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>Andy Spann</b>	<b>yes</b>

**The motion carried 10-0.**

**E. Education Committee**

General Manager Sonja Chavez summarized the results of the January 13<sup>th</sup> meeting and stated the 2021 outreach campaign will be highly focused on drought education. Sonja said that Water Resource Specialist Bev Richards is looking for input from Board members on slogans and messages the District should include in its campaign, so please email Bev. Director Bill Nesbitt stated that the District distributed more of the "Water" books than in the past with 59 going to the Crested Butte first graders and 89 to Gunnison first graders. In addition, ten will be distributed in Lake City. Sonja said the committee will

meet again soon and more details will be coming about the marketing campaign.

#### **F. Water Quality and Water Surface Monitoring**

Sonja reported that the District oversees an annual water monitoring program in partnership with various entities. She would like to gather a small committee to work on recommendations to be relayed to the USGS for the *Next Generation Water Observing System (NGWOS)* program. Also, the USGS has indicated that there is a very good chance that they will fund the full cost of the new gages at Texas and Willow Creek, which will result in a \$58,000 savings in the 2021 budget, and potentially \$22,000 annual savings to the District for ongoing monitoring in future years. Since Cold Harbour Institute and Western Colorado University have decided to pull out as cooperating funding partners for monitoring purposes at the gage below Cochetopa, there may be funding within the District budget now that Texas and Willow Creek gages are covered. Finally, the USGS is partnering with the National Park Service to conduct a study on harmful algae blooms. Toxic blooms occurred again this past summer at Blue Mesa Reservoir. Study suspects drought conditions main culprit behind such harmful blooms, but they are also looking at temperature, nutrients or other factors. She looks forward to seeing the results of this study.

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

Water Resource Specialist Bev Richards compiled her summary from a lot of different sources, including the Snowpack Summary, Aspinall Unit Forecast, Taylor Park Reservoir Operations and the Cloud Seeding Report. In a nutshell, everything is already very dry and probably going to stay that way. Bev reported that in a La Nina patterns often continue in back-to-back years with the second year being not quite as severe.

#### **H. Colorado Monthly Snowpack Summary**

The Upper Gunnison Basin is at 62 percent of normal and the whole state is at 83 percent of normal.

#### **I. Aspinall Unit Forecast for Operations**

Forecasted inflows and storage amounts in Blue Mesa are suspected to be well below average.

## **J. Preliminary Operations Plan – Taylor Park Reservoir**

Taylor Park Reservoir is forecasted to only fill to 85% of full.

## **K. Cloud Seeding Report**

Even though the generators ran for 455 hours, there was not much moisture in the air to produce much precipitation.

## **L. Lake San Cristobal Report (LSC)**

Robert Hurd is under contract with the District for oversight and was able to troubleshoot problems with readings by replacing a modem from Century Link. In addition, Robert found that the gates were not performing well due to a moisture filter that needed replacing. Robert found a source for the replacement filter. A couple of spare filters were also ordered for future annual replacement. Currently, the lake stands at 8,993 feet and outflow is 14.3 c.f.s.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) facilitated a Zoom conference on January 25 to discuss how to reduce the risk of motorized boaters introducing aquatic invasive species into LSC. Ideally a decontamination station should be installed at LSC, but with infrastructure costs estimated at \$50,000 or more, CPW does not have funding to get this started in 2021. There was discussion about at least hiring a boat inspector for this summer and then sending anyone with contamination issues to Blue Mesa for decontamination. LSC Water Activity Enterprise Board members and stakeholders were invited to the Zoom conference.

Director Joellen Fonken asked if the avalanches two years ago have had an effect on water quality at LSC. Sonja is not aware of any water-quality monitoring and to her knowledge the BLM is not actively doing reclamation. A stream warning system that could signal avalanche has been discussed, but no action has been taken yet.

## **M. Wet Meadows Project Update and Power Point**

Wet Meadows Project Coordinator Paul Jones gave a brief review of 2020 accomplishments and reported that 99 structures were built, 65 acres of sage grouse habitat were restored, and a mile and a quarter of stream was improved. Paul said the State Land Board has donated rock and that a crew will be hired to install the rock July 15, 2021 through November 2021

In his Power Point, Paul reported that there are now over 30 partners involved which has increased significantly since the inception of the Wet Meadows project in 2009. Paul explained how important wetland areas with adjacent sagebrush habitat are for recruitment and growth of sage grouse chicks.

Paul reported that some challenges for the project include the amount of administrative time and costs involved in writing, accounting, and reporting for grant funding. Paul said he is grateful to the District for taking on a larger chunk of the administrative requirements and that in future grants, he is seeking to get some of these administrative/indirect costs covered within the grant.

Paul also reported that the lawsuit filed by The Center for Biological Diversity and Western Watersheds Project suing the Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, National Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for failing to protect the Gunnison sage grouse from effects of livestock grazing. Paul pointed to the gross mis-use of the data, talked about why sage grouse numbers can vary greatly between very different hydrologic years (drought to high snowpack and back to drought) and said that this lawsuit, if successful, could have a huge impact on the Wet Meadows Project which could be required to conduct Section 7 Consultation on every single project (expensive, time consuming, would slow project implementation to a standstill, and negatively impact the bird due to inability to conduct projects that directly benefit). Board members expressed frustration as it was their opinion that Western Water has a history of filing such suits for the sole purpose of removing grazing from public lands and making money off the litigation which frequently gets settled out of court.

Vice President Stacy McPhail expressed her appreciation of Paul's efforts. Director George Sibley said he sat in on part of the Wet Meadows meeting with the partners a couple of weeks ago and was very impressed with their level of cooperation and said that enthusiasm for the program and its results remain high.

## **7. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS**

### **Sustainable Tourism & Outdoor Recreation (STOR) Committee Appointment**

Manager Sonja Chavez said she was contacted by Gunnison County to see if the District would like to appoint a representative to serve on the STOR committee. Former Manager Frank Kugel had served on the committee until



he resigned from the District and was not replaced at that time. Sonja asked if there was a Board member willing to serve in that role, and if not, Bev Richards has offered to fill the appointment. Sonja wanted the Board to understand that in this capacity, Bev would be voting on behalf of the District. Director Joellen Fonken indicated she's be happy to serve as the UGRWCD rep as she has served on the board for a number of years as the at-large rep.

**Director Andy Spann motioned and John Perusek seconded that Joellen Fonken serve as the District's representative on the STOR Committee. A roll call vote was conducted. Results of the roll call vote:**

<b>Rosemary Carroll</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>Joellen Fonken</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>Rebie Hazard</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>Stacy McPhail</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>Julie Nania</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>Bill Nesbitt</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>John Perusek</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>Don Sabrowski</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>George Sibley</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>Andy Spann</b>	<b>yes</b>

**The motion carried 10-0.**

Sonja will let the County know of Joellen's nomination.

### **Colorado Water Congress 2021 Virtual Annual Convention, Feb 9th & 12th**

Manager Sonja Chavez referenced the convention program included in the packet and asked if any Board members would like to participate. Vice President Stacy McPhail said she would like to attend. Sonja said that if there were other Board members who have an interest, they should email Administrative Assistant Sue Uerling as soon as possible.

### **Newspaper Articles**

Manager Sonja Chavez referenced the increased amount of District news coverage, including several articles reporting on Gunnison County's appointment of Kathleen Curry to the Colorado River District Board. Sonja said she called Kathleen right away and they discussed how best Sonja can communicate the District's goals and issues to Kathleen.

There was also discussion around a *Wall Street Journal* article on water now being traded as a commodity on the stock market and James Eklund's role with Water Asset Management (WAM) (former Director of the Colorado Water Conservation Board and now WAM attorney). A second article appeared in the Denver Post shortly after by Brian Richter (former TNC employee and now paid advisor to WAM) which called upon irrigators to stop irrigating in the name of providing water to lower basin users and municipalities. Sonja said the Upper Gunnison District, the Colorado River District and Colorado Water Conservation Board will be watching this closely going forward. General Counsel John McCloy said while the Board's comments are justified, the District needs to be careful about not overstating the case.

## **8. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Ashley Hom from the US Forest Service remarked that she is always very appreciative of funds from the District. She also said the Forest Service really wants to collaborate with the District on future water projects.

## **9. FUTURE MEETINGS**

General Manager Sonja Chavez referenced the listing of upcoming meetings.

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

Manager Sonja Chavez will develop a virtual informational meeting for interested applicants of the Grant Program. This will be held on Friday, February 5 at 1:00 p.m. The virtual meeting will be advertised in display ads and on the District website.

Director Bill Nesbitt wanted to know when the District can hold Board meetings in person in the Conference Room. Manager Sonja Chavez said due to the size of our Board, staff and any attendees from the general public, we cannot presently meet in person due to Covid-19 restrictions. Director George Sibley said that for now, this is out of our hands.

Director Julia Nania briefly reported that the Gunnison Basin Round Table. (GBRT) met on January 18 and heard a presentation from Harvey Economics, similar to the report Ed Harvey gave to the District back in November. Julie reported that the GBRT will not be giving out many grants this year. She said Bill Trampe will be awarded for his service.

Ashley Hom of the US Forest Service announced that there is a new group, the Gunnison Valley Beaver Believers, which will focus on improving beaver habitat and bolstering their numbers. She said the group will meet a couple of times a year and if anyone in the District is interested in joining, they can email her. (Sue Uerling has her email.)

## **11. ADJOURNMENT**

Vice President Stacy McPhail adjourned the regular board meeting at 8:18p.m. and reminded members that the Water Activity Enterprise Board meeting would immediately follow.

Respectfully Submitted,

---

George Sibley, Secretary

APPROVED:

---

Stacy McPhail, Vice President

**Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District**

**Budget Summary 2021**

	January	Year to Date	2021 Budget	% Received or Expended	\$ Remaining in Budget
<b><u>Revenues</u></b>					
General property	\$ 2,383	\$ 2,383	\$ 1,347,248	0.18%	\$ 1,344,865
Specific Ownership	7,677	7,677	65,000	11.81%	57,323
Pen. & Interest on Taxes	7	7	3,300	0.21%	3,293
Interest on Investments	105	105	52,500	0.20%	52,395
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	-	-	-	-	-
Aspinall Water Sales - Other	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Aspinall Water Sales</b>	-	-	19,885	0.00%	19,885
Cloud Seeding Program - Passthrough	-	-	93,750	0.00%	93,750
Wet Meadows Project - Passthrough	-	-	388,000	0.00%	388,000
Watershed Management Planning - Passthrough	-	-	174,000	0.00%	174,000
Miscellaneous	1,479	1,479	1,000	147.90%	(479)
Unspent Funds from Previous Year	-	-	32,325	0.00%	32,325
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$ 11,650</b>	<b>\$ 11,650</b>	<b>\$ 2,211,323</b>	<b>0.53%</b>	<b>\$ 2,199,673</b>
<b><u>Expenditures</u></b>					
GRF Expenses to Reimburse	-	-	-	-	-
Operating	-	-	-	-	-
Administrative Salaries	\$ 26,303	\$ 26,303	\$ 315,635	8.33%	\$ 289,332
Staff Salaries	12,258	12,258	154,061	7.96%	141,803
Payroll Taxes	3,066	3,066	36,495	8.40%	33,429
Employee Benefits	-	-	-	-	-
Medical Insurance	5,175	5,175	34,425	15.03%	29,250
Colorado Retirement Association	-	-	31,002	0.00%	31,002
Workers Comp. Ins.	-	-	5,000	0.00%	5,000
Gen. Counsel CLE & Memberships	-	-	3,000	0.00%	3,000
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	-	-	(2,523)
<b>Total Employee Benefits</b>	<b>7,698</b>	<b>7,698</b>	<b>79,427</b>	<b>9.69%</b>	<b>71,729</b>
Public Outreach	-	-	-	-	-
Website Updates	-	-	1,000	0.00%	1,000
Public Education/Advertising	205	205	12,000	1.71%	11,795
Gunnison River Festival Support	-	-	7,500	0.00%	7,500
Mini-Grants	189	189	2,000	9.45%	1,811
Youth Conservation Corps Support	-	-	6,500	0.00%	6,500
Social Media	-	-	5,000	0.00%	5,000
<b>Total Public Outreach</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>34,000</b>	<b>1.16%</b>	<b>33,606</b>
Audit and Accounting	-	-	7,500	0.00%	7,500
Utilities and Assoc. Dues	-	-	-	-	-
Condo Association Dues	550	550	6,600	8.33%	6,050
Utilities	730	730	2,196	33.22%	1,467
Office Cleaning	-	-	4,600	0.00%	4,600
Utilities and Assoc. Dues - Other	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Utilities and Assoc. Dues</b>	<b>1,280</b>	<b>1,280</b>	<b>13,396</b>	<b>9.55%</b>	<b>12,117</b>
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	0.00%	401
Bonding and Insurance - Other	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Bonding and Insurance</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>10,274</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>10,274</b>
Office Telephone	232	232	7,110	3.26%	6,878
Office Equipment	-	-	-	-	-
Furniture	-	-	1,000	0.00%	1,000
Computer Purchase	-	-	4,000	0.00%	4,000
IT Support/Computer Repair	179	179	5,800	3.09%	5,621
Other Equipment	80	80	5,000	1.60%	4,920
Board Room A/V Upgrade	-	-	20,000	0.00%	20,000
Copier Expenses	243	243	4,380	5.55%	4,137
Office Equipment - Other	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Office Equipment</b>	<b>502</b>	<b>502</b>	<b>40,180</b>	<b>1.25%</b>	<b>39,678</b>

**Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District**

	<b>Budget Summary 2021</b>			<b>% Received or Expended</b>	<b>\$ Remaining in Budget</b>
	<b>January</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>	<b>2021 Budget</b>		
<b>Legal Publication</b>	320	320	6,000	5.34%	5,680
<b>Admin.Travel &amp; Exp.</b>	-	-	22,000	0.00%	22,000
<b>Office Expenses</b>	-	-	-	-	-
Spencer Ave. Reimbursable	-	-	-	-	-
Office Supplies	1,969	1,969	3,100	63.51%	1,131
Consumable Supplies	-	-	1,200	0.00%	1,200
Publications & Subscriptions	-	-	1,500	0.00%	1,500
Computer, Internet, LexisNexis	1,129	1,129	6,250	18.07%	5,121
Software	693	693	4,800	14.44%	4,107
Office Expenses - Other	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Office Expenses</b>	3,791	3,791	16,850	22.50%	13,059
<b>Postage</b>	-	-	1,500	0.00%	1,500
<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>	-	-	3,500	0.00%	3,500
WAE - Meeting Expenses	-	-	-	-	-
Meeting Expenses - Other	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Meeting Expenses</b>	-	-	3,500	0.00%	3,500
<b>County Treasurers' Fees</b>	113	113	42,466	0.27%	42,353
<b>Board of Directors' Fees</b>	1,000	1,000	13,520	7.40%	12,520
LSCWAE BOD Meeting Fees	-	-	-	-	-
Board of Directors' Fees - Other	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Board of Directors' Fees</b>	1,000	1,000	13,520	7.40%	12,520
<b>BOD Mileage</b>	-	-	2,200	0.00%	2,200
<b>Org. Memberships &amp; Dues</b>	-	-	-	-	-
Colorado Water Congress Dues	2,251	2,251	2,060	109.27%	(191)
Colorado Water Congress State Affairs	500	500	400	125.00%	(100)
Colorado Water Congress Federal Affairs	-	-	200	0.00%	200
NWCCOG-QQ Dues	-	-	530	0.00%	530
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	500	300	166.67%	(200)
Org. Memberships & Dues - Other	500	500	-	-	(500)
<b>Total Org. Memberships &amp; Dues</b>	3,751	3,751	6,565	57.14%	2,814
<b>Manager's Discretionary</b>	-	-	3,000	0.00%	3,000
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 60,707</b>	<b>\$ 60,707</b>	<b>\$ 357,983</b>	<b>16.96%</b>	<b>\$ 297,276</b>
<b>Non-operating</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>General Consulting - General Engineering Support</b>	-	-	15,000	0.00%	15,000
<b>Recreational In-Channel Diversion - Webcam Maintenance</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>	-	-	1,000	0.00%	1,000
<b>Aspinall Water Costs</b>	-	-	17,326	0.00%	17,326
<b>Regional Water Supply Prog.</b>	-	-	-	-	-
Grant Program	18,233	18,233	200,000	9.12%	181,767
Enhancing Resiliency Riparian (Wet Meadows)	5,333	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	-	-	-	-	-
Enhancing Resiliency Riparian - Other	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Enhancing Resiliency Riparian</b>	5,333	5,333	418,000	1.28%	412,667
<b>Cloudseeding</b>	-	-	118,000	0.00%	118,000
Irwin Remote Generator	7,195	7,195	-	-	(7,195)
Cloud Seeding Pass Through	42,063	42,063	-	-	(42,063)
Cloudseeding - Other	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Cloudseeding</b>	49,257	49,257	118,000	41.74%	68,743
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>	72,823	72,823	786,000	9.27%	713,177

**Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District**

	<b>Budget Summary 2021</b>			<b>% Received or Expended</b>	<b>\$ Remaining in Budget</b>
	<b>January</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>	<b>2021 Budget</b>		
<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	720	720			(720)
WMP Phase 1 Task 4		-			-
Watershed Management Planning - Other	1,359	1,359			(1,359)
Total Watershed Management Planning	2,079	2,079	175,000	1.19%	172,921
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			(9,000)
<b>Total Basinwide Planning</b>	<b>11,079</b>	<b>11,079</b>	<b>230,000</b>	<b>4.82%</b>	<b>218,921</b>
<i>Water Quality Monitoring</i>		-			-
Streamflow Gaging	28,211	28,211	51,416	54.87%	23,205
Water Quality Monitoring	10,434	10,434	58,000	17.99%	47,566
Agency Pass Through Funds			34,315	0.00%	34,315
Watershed Stakeholder Support			20,000	0.00%	20,000
City of Gunnison Hazardous Waste Collection		-	2,000	0.00%	2,000
<b>Total Water Quality Monitoring</b>	<b>38,645</b>	<b>38,645</b>	<b>165,731</b>	<b>23.32%</b>	<b>127,086</b>
<b>Endangered Fish Recov Prog</b>		-	3,000	0.00%	3,000
<b>Spencer Avenue Reserve Contrib.</b>		-	-		-
<b>TOTAL NON-OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 122,548</b>	<b>\$ 122,548</b>	<b>\$ 1,247,898</b>	<b>9.82%</b>	<b>\$ 1,125,350</b>
<b>Contingency</b>			<b>\$ 24,000</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>\$ 24,000</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 183,255</b>	<b>\$ 183,255</b>	<b>\$ 1,629,881</b>	<b>11.24%</b>	<b>\$ 1,446,626</b>
<b>REVENUES OVER/(UNDER) EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ (171,604)</b>	<b>\$ (171,604)</b>	<b>\$ 581,442</b>	<b>-29.51%</b>	

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

<b>UGRWCD</b>	<b>Balance</b>	<b>Interest</b>	<b>Maturity</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Total UGRWCD and UGRWAE</b>
<b>General Ledger # and Account Name</b>	<b>1/31/2021</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Callable</b>	<b>Deposits by Bank</b>
					COLOTRUST \$ 1,154,541.52
					Bank of the West 313,887.91
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 240,025.99
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 2,003,665.97
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 \$ 4,568,201.84</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	114,620.85	0.01%	N/A		
1295 COLOTRUST PLUS+	871,830.65	0.0886%	N/A		
1290 COLOTRUST PRIME	243,117.19	0.0374%	N/A		
Sigma Money Market Account	14,685.97		N/A		
1540 GB&T - Spencer Avenue Reserve	40,025.99	0.15%	N/A		
Petty Cash	100.00	N/A	N/A		
<b>TOTAL UGRWCD</b>	<b>\$ 4,434,379.29</b>				

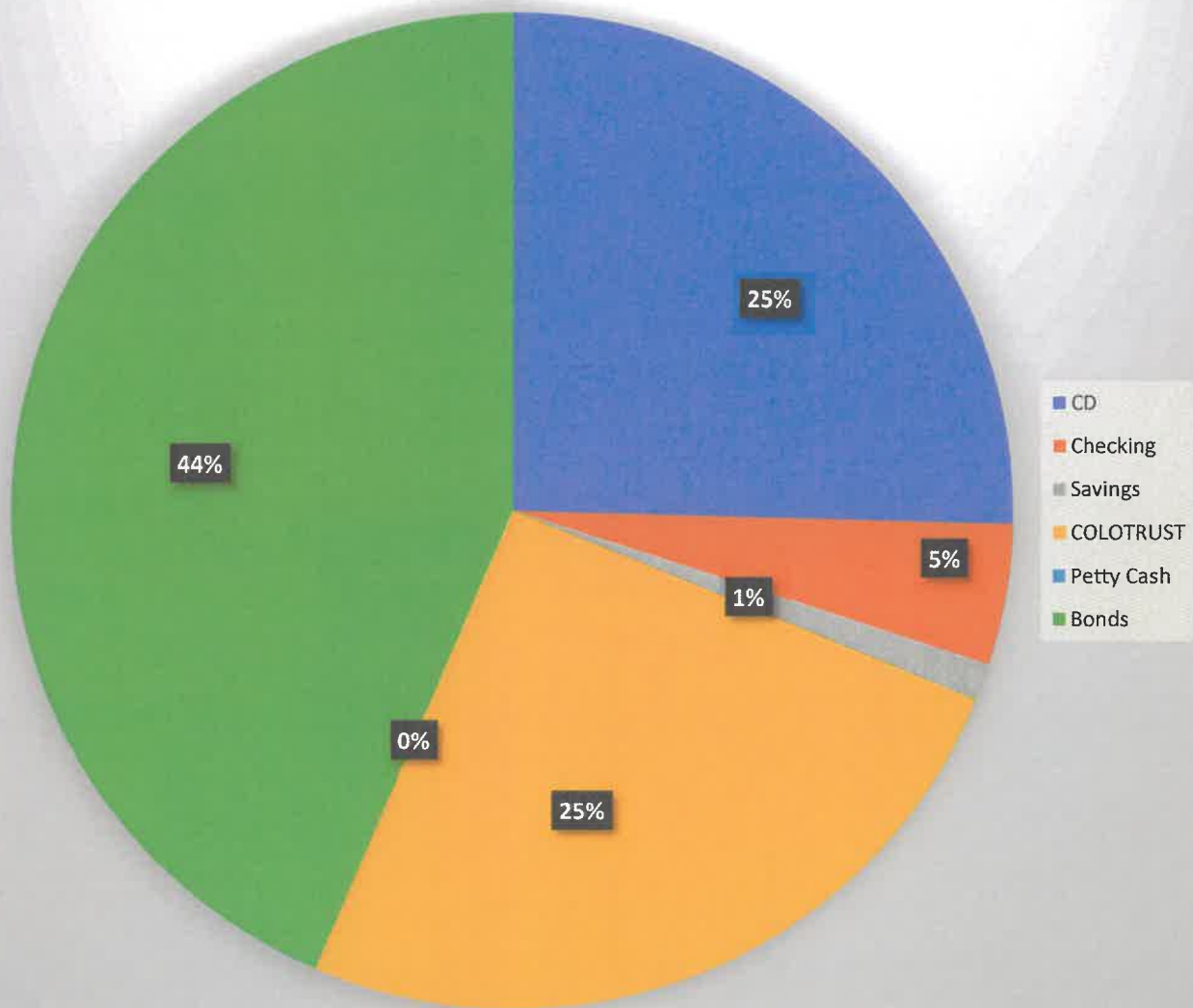
  

<b>UGRWAE</b>	<b>Balance</b>	<b>Interest</b>	<b>Maturity</b>
<b>Account Name</b>	<b>1/31/2021</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Date</b>
Bank of the West Checking	\$ 94,228.87	N/A	N/A
COLOTRUST PLUS+	39,593.68	0.0886%	N/A
<b>TOTAL UGRWAE</b>	<b>\$ 133,822.55</b>		
<b>TOTAL UGRWCD + UGRWAE</b>	<b>\$ 4,568,201.84</b>		

### UGRWCD & UGRWAE INVESTMENTS BY TYPE

CD	25%	\$ 1,161,018.64
Checking	5%	208,849.72
Savings	1%	54,711.96
COLOTRUST	25%	1,154,541.52
Petty Cash	0%	100.00
Bonds	44%	\$ 1,988,980.00
Total	100%	<u>\$ 4,568,201.84</u>

### UGRWCD + UGRWAE INVESTMENTS BY TYPE





# Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District

## Operating Expenses for Approval

2/12/2021

Name	Account	Amount
Anthem	Employee Benefits	\$ 250.14
Atmos Energy	Utilities	94.61
Atmos Energy	Utilities	100.94
BankCard Center	Various	1,749.98
Beverly Richards	Staff Salary	3,304.88
Beverly Richards	Office Telephone	50.57
Business Leasing Solutions	Office Equipment - Copier	242.89
Cash (reimburse petty cash)	Consumable = \$10.98, Postage = \$8.25, Meeting Expenses = \$44.00, Manager's Discretionary Fund = \$28.29, Social Media = \$4.31	95.83
Colorado Employers Benefit Trust	Employee Benefits - Health Insurance	2,169.35
City of Gunnison Finance	Utilities	126.67
City of Gunnison Finance	Utilities	85.31
Colorado Water Congress	Annual Dues = \$2,251 State Affairs Committee = \$500	2,751.00
Colorado Department of Labor and Employment	State Withholding Tax	4,287.00
Colorado State Treasurer	State Unemployment Insurance Tax	351.60
Crested Butte News	Public Outreach = \$125.00 Legal Publication = \$172.86	297.86
EFTPS	Payroll Taxes	9,443.90
Gunnison RE1J School District	Public Outreach - Mini-grants	188.98
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 = \$147.30	227.30
Gunnison River Festival	Public Outreach - GRF 2021 Support	7,500.00
J&K Services, Inc.	Office Cleaning	870.00

2/12/2021

## Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District

### Operating Expenses for Approval

Name	Account	Amount
Jill Steele	Staff Salary	3,487.86
Jill Steele	Employee Benefits	274.13
Joellen Fonken	GRF Reimbursable Expense	2,500.00
Josh Stupka	GRF Reimbursable Expense	1,000.00
John McClow	Administrative Salary	9,713.73
John McClow	Employee Benefits	202.40
King Systems	Office Equipment - Board Room A/V	15,637.76
LexisNexis	Office Expense - LexisNexis	1,129.38
Microsoft	Microsoft Office Software	100.00
Silver World Publishing	Public Outreach = \$100.00, Publication = \$213.40	Legal 313.40
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	298.79
Weather Modification Association	Organization Memberships and Dues	500.00
United Healthcare	Employee Benefits	102.60
Verizon	Office Telephone	181.16
<b>Total Operating Expenses Payable</b>		<b>\$ 87,237.83</b>

# Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District

## Non-Operating Expenses for Approval

2/12/2021

Name	Account	Amount
Alpha Mechanical	Building Repair	\$ 60.00
American Whitewater	Watershed Management Planning	552.17
Coal Creek Watershed Coalition	Water Quality Monitoring	10,000.00
Colorado Trout Unlimited	Watershed Management Planning	562.50
Department of the Interior, USGS	Water Quality Monitoring	38,645.35
Rignet, Inc.	Cloud Seeding - Irwin Remote	51.80
Hartman Brothers	Cloud Seeding - Irwin Remote	28.99
North American Weather Consultants	Cloud Seeding	46,062.50
Tomichi Creek Eco Systems Services	Wet Meadows Coordinator Salary	5,333.33
Trout Unlimited	Watershed Management Planning	3,232.90
<b>Non-Operating Expenses Payable</b>		<b>\$ 104,529.54</b>



**BANK OF THE WEST**  
BNP PARIBAS

BANKCARD CENTER  
PO BOX 84043  
COLUMBUS GA 31908-4043

Date Rec. \_\_\_\_\_ Adm. Cld. \_\_\_\_\_  
Mgr. \_\_\_\_\_ Amt. Appr. \_\_\_\_\_  
B. App. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Ed. Initials \_\_\_\_\_  
Pd Date \_\_\_\_\_ Clk \_\_\_\_\_  
Account(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Account Number XXXX-XXXX-0152-7948  
Payment Due Date FEB 22, 2021  
Amount Due \$1,087.68  
Current Balance \$1,087.68

**\*\*PRE-AUTHORIZED PAYMENT\*\***  
**DO NOT REMIT PAYMENT**

UPPER GUNNISON RIVER WATER CONS DIS \*\*N0002294  
210 W SPENCER AVE STE B  
GUNNISON CO 81230-2544

Amount Enclosed

\$ 1087.68

⑆5868 250 13⑆55693 2000 1527948⑈

⑈0000 108768⑈

### ACCOUNT MESSAGES

Your Bank of the West Mastercard includes an additional benefit: Mastercard ID Theft Protection with access to complimentary Identity Theft resolution services. The benefit also helps prevent identity theft by monitoring the Internet to identify compromised and potentially damaging use of personal information. To enroll your card, please visit: <https://mastercardus.idprotectiononline.com>.

### CORPORATE ACCOUNT SUMMARY

UPPER GUNNISON RIVER XXXX-XXXX-0152-7948 Company Total	Previous Balance	Purchases + & Other Debits	Cash Advances	Finance Charges	Credits	Payments	New Balance
	\$1,749.98	\$1,087.68	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,749.98	\$1,087.68

### CARDHOLDER NEW ACTIVITY SUMMARY

SONJA CHAVEZ XXXX-XXXX-0153-1676 Credit Limit \$12,000	Purchases and Other Debits	Cash Advances	Credits	Total Activity
	\$570.03	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$570.03
JOHN MCCLOW XXXX-XXXX-0153-1684 Credit Limit \$12,000	Purchases and Other Debits	Cash Advances	Credits	Total Activity
	\$308.65	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$308.65
BEVERLY RICHARDS XXXX-XXXX-0153-1692 Credit Limit \$3,000	Purchases and Other Debits	Cash Advances	Credits	Total Activity
	\$183.96	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$183.96

For Customer Service, Call:

1-866-432-8161

#### Account Number

XXXX-XXXX-0152-7948

#### Account Summary

Previous Balance \$1,749.98  
Purchases & Other Charges \$1,087.68

Statement Date JAN 28, 2021  
Payment Due Date FEB 22, 2021

Cash Advances \$0.00  
Cash Advance Fees \$0.00

**\*\*For Autopay Accounts, a pre-authorized payment will be processed by your Bank prior to the payment due date\*\***

**All other inquiries can be sent to:**  
BANKCARD CENTER  
PO BOX 84043  
COLUMBUS GA 31908-4043

Credit Limit \$100,000  
Available Credit \$98,912.32

Late Charge \$0.00  
Finance Charges \$0.00  
Credits \$0.00

Amount Due \$1,087.68  
Disputed Amount \$0.00

Payments \$1,749.98  
New Balance \$1,087.68

**received**  
05/05/21



Statement Date	JAN 28, 2021	Payment Due Date	FEB 22, 2021
Credit Limit	\$100,000	Amount Due	\$1,087.68
Cash Advance Balance	\$0.00	New Balance	\$1,087.68
Available Credit	\$98,912.32		
UPPER GUNNISON RIVER WATER CONS DIS			
XXXX-XXXX-0152-7948			

### CARDHOLDER NEW ACTIVITY SUMMARY

JILL STEELE XXXX-XXXX-0153-1700 Credit Limit \$3,000	Purchases and Other Debits	Cash Advances	Credits	Total Activity
	\$25.04	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$25.04

### FINANCE CHARGE SUMMARY

	Average Daily Balance	Daily Periodic Rate	Corresponding Annual Percentage Rate	Periodic Finance Charge
PURCHASES	\$0.00	0.0226%	08.24%	\$0.00
CASH ADVANCES	\$0.00	0.0493%	18.00%	\$0.00

### CORPORATE ACCOUNT ACTIVITY

UPPER GUNNISON RIVER WATER CONS DIS XXXX-XXXX-0152-7948				TOTAL CORPORATE ACTIVITY \$1,749.98 CR
Posting Date	Transaction Date	Reference Number	Transaction Description	Amount
01-22	01-22		PRE-AUTHORIZED PAYMENT	1,749.98 CR

### CORPORATE REWARDS INFORMATION

For Reward Points Balance Including Earned and Redeemed Points, please visit

[www.bankofthewestcorporaterewards.com](http://www.bankofthewestcorporaterewards.com) or call 1-800-921-6407

### CARDHOLDER ACTIVITY

SONJA CHAVEZ XXXX-XXXX-0153-1676		PURCHASES \$570.03	CASH ADVANCES \$0.00	CREDITS \$0.00	TOTAL ACTIVITY \$570.03
Posting Date	Transaction Date	Reference Number	Transaction Description	Amount	
12-29	12-28	05436840364400068433758	WAL-MART #1550 GUNNISON CO Tax ID: 710415188 Mer Zip: 81230 Origin Zip: 81230 Tax: 2.62	32.06	
01-04	01-01	55500361001207523400278	IC CONNEX 9702096920 CO Tran: 06627856543820002 Tax ID: 472802533 Mer Ref: 2431048455 Mer Zip: 81230 Origin Zip: 81230 Dest Ctry: USA	- 194.97	- office Tel =
01-08	01-08	55310201008083779422162	AMAZON.COM*6Q6DG6F93 A AMZN.COM/BILLWA Tran: 114-9260799-44074 Tax ID: 820544687 Mer Ref: 1SRX0V6LTRN Mer Zip: 98109 Origin Zip: 98109 Dest Ctry: USA Tax: 1.60 Product Code: 0865716420 Desc: FOSTERING SUSTAINABLE BEHAVIOR: AN Qty: 1 Unit: PCE Disc: N Ext Item Amt: 19.59	19.59	Interact =
01-15	01-14	55417341014170145747246	GOBINS INC 719-5442324 CO Tran: 17014574720 Tax ID: 840683368 Mer Zip: 81003 Origin Zip: 81003-4139 Dest Ctry: USA Product Code: MCF Desc: OFFICE PHOTO COPY EQUIPMNT Qty: 1 Unit: EA Disc: N Ext Item Amt: 111.60	- 111.60	- copier
01-18	01-15	55310201015083374824243	AMZN MKTP US*XQ23K5Z83 AMZN.COM/BILLWA Tran: 114-7723194-45202 Tax ID: 202936165 Mer Ref: 57U72RNZUQF Mer Zip: 98109 Origin Zip: 98109 Dest Ctry: USA Tax: 9.60 Product Code: B081Q89ZT5 Desc: MPOW HC6 USB HEADSET WITH MICROPHON Qty: 3 Unit: PCE Disc: N Ext Item Amt: 117.57	- 117.57	off equip - other



Alpha Mechanical Solutions  
37610 US HWY 50  
Gunnison CO 81230  
970-641-4157

## Service Invoice

Invoice#: 2129

Date: 12/14/2020

License:

**Billed To:** UPPER GUNNISON RIVER DIST  
210 W. SPENCER, STE. B  
GUNNISON CO 81230

**Project:** OFFICE  
210 W. SPENCER STE B  
GUNNISON CO 81230

**Scheduled:** 12/07/2020  
**Time:**

**Employee:** 1014  
JOHN KOSTER

**Order#:**

Description	Quantity	Price	Ext Price
LABOR- NO HEAT CALL. CLEANED CONDENSATE LINES.	0.5000	120.000000	60.00

This bill was emailed  
to me along with  
another bill. I had  
not seen that the  
email contained 2 bills.

Date Rec. 1-25-21 Adm. Ckd. [initials]  
Mgr. Appr. SRC Amt. Appr. \$60  
Bd. Appr. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Bd. Initials \_\_\_\_\_  
Pd. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Ck# \_\_\_\_\_  
Account(s) Building Maintenance Repair

A service charge of \$25.00 will be charged after 15 Days.

Thank you for your prompt payment!

Non-Taxable Amount:	60.00
Taxable Amount:	0.00
Sales Tax:	0.00
<b>Amount Due</b>	<b>60.00</b>

American Whitewater

P.O. Box 1540  
Cullowhee, NC 28723  
Phone: 802-299-8405  
Fax: 828-586-2840

# INVOICE

**INVOICE #:** 5054  
**INVOICE DATE:** 02/02/2021  
**PERFORMANCE PERIOD:** 12/01 – 12/31/2020

**TO:**

**PROJECT CONTRACT #:** UG2020-016

Upper Gunnison River Conservancy  
District  
210 West Spencer, Suite B  
Gunnison, CO 81230

DATE	DESCRIPTION	HOURS	RATE	AMOUNT
12-31-20	Phase 1, Task 2: Flow Preference Analysis	-	35.31	\$0.40
12-31-20	Phase 2, Task 1: Draft flow preference report	1.46	35.31	\$51.77
12-31-20	Phase 2, Task 3: Finalize flow preference report	14.16	35.31	\$500
	<i>In-Kind</i>	4.33	35.31	\$153
TOTAL				\$705.17

Tasks	Total
Phase 1, Task 2	\$0.40
Phase 2, Task 1	\$51.77
Phase 2, Task 3	\$653
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$705.17</b>
<b>In-Kind</b>	<b>\$153.00</b>
<b>Billed to UGRWCD</b>	<b>\$552.17</b>

Approved to Pay - General Fund Line Item 45 - Basinwide  
Planning - Sub-Line Item-WMP

Make all checks payable to: *American Whitewater*

Thank you for your business!

## Upper Gunnison Watershed Management Planning Consultant Monthly Project Progress Report Template

**Report Date:** February 2, 2021

**Consultant/Contract Number:** 2020-016

**Invoice Number:** 5054

**Invoice Amount:** \$552.17

**Project Performance Period:** December 1 – 31, 2020

**Report Prepared by:** Kestrel Kunz

**In-kind this Period:** \$153

### **PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS (THIS REPORTING PERIOD):**

- Phase 2, Task 1 – The draft report was nearly completed during this reporting period
- Phase 3, Task 1 – AW and Lotic worked together to finalize results and graphics for inclusion in the report

### **Difficulties Encountered / Corrective Action / Etc.:**

Problem(s) / Changes:

●

Resolution / Corrective Action Plan & Schedule:

●

### **ACTIVITY ANTICIPATED (NEXT REPORTING PERIOD):** (January)

- Phase 3, Task 1 – AW and Lotic will work together to finalize the Boatable Days web tool
- Phase 2, Task 3 – AW will share the draft report with the WMP committee and coordinators to collect feedback



**BUDGET SUMMARY:**

Phase/Task	Description	Total Budget	In-kind Budget	Total Current Expenditures	Current In-kind Expenditures	Previous Expenditures	UGRWCD Balance	In-Kind Balance	Projected Completion Date
1.1	<i>Collaboratively identify flow study goals and outcomes</i>	\$300	\$300	\$0	\$0	\$300 (all In-kind)	\$0	\$0	07/31/2020
1.2	<i>Flow Preference Analysis</i>	\$2,675.82	\$1375.82	\$0.40	\$0	\$2675.42 (\$1375.82) In-kind	\$0	\$0	08/31/2020
1.3	<i>Assist with stakeholder outreach</i>	\$323.74	\$123.74	\$0	\$0	\$445.78 (\$123.74 In-kind)	(\$122.04)	\$0	08/31/2020
2.1	<i>Draft flow preference report</i>	\$1,000	\$0	\$51.77	\$0	\$880.37	\$67.86	\$0	12/31/2020
2.2	<i>Continue stakeholder engagement</i>	\$1000*	\$500	\$0	\$0	\$899.91 (\$500 In-kind)	\$100.09	\$0	1/31/2021
2.3	<i>Finalize report</i>	\$794.07*	\$294.07	\$500	\$153	\$0	\$0	\$141.07	1/31/2020
3.1	<i>Boatable Days Study</i>	\$2,105.93*	\$105.93	\$0	\$0	\$2151.84 (\$105.93 In-kind)	(\$45.91)	\$0	12/31/2020
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$8199.56</b>	<b>\$2699.56</b>	<b>\$552.17</b>	<b>\$153</b>	<b>\$4725.55 (\$2405.49 In-kind)</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$141.07</b>	

\*Includes approved budget increase from August progress report.

**Requested Budget Amendments & Rationale:**

In-kind balance was adjusted in the Budget Summary to reflect in-kind funds that AW has already allocated and to remove the negative in-kind balances from the budget report. No other changes required. Negative in-kind balances were added to the in-kind budget column and project totals were updated. I also reallocated in-kind funds from Task 3.1 to Task 2.3. No other changes needed.

**Requested Contract Amendment & Rationale:**

Consultant Signature & Date: K.K. February 2, 2021

Upper Gunnison Administrative Staff Approval & Date: Beverly Richards 2/3/21



Coal Creek Watershed Coalition  
970-251-0029

PO Box 925  
Crested Butte, Colorado  
81224  
United States

**Billed To**  
Sonja Chavez  
Upper Gunnison River Water  
Conservancy District  
210 West Spencer, Suite B  
Gunnison, CO  
81230

**Date of Issue**  
02/10/2021  
  
**Due Date**  
03/10/2021

**Invoice Number**  
CCWC 2021  
  
**Reference**  
Watershed

**Amount Due (USD)**  
**\$10,000.00**

Description	Rate	Qty	Line Total
Grant Writing and Fundraising	\$2,500.00	1	\$2,500.00
Water Quality Monitoring	\$3,000.00	1	\$3,000.00
Administrative Costs	\$4,500.00	1	\$4,500.00

Date Rec. 2-10-21 Adm. Ck'd. [initials]  
Mgr. Appr. [initials] Amt. Appr. [initials]  
3rd Appr. Date [initials] 3rd. Initials [initials]  
Pd. Date 2-25 Clk'd [initials]  
Account(s) Water Quality  
Monitoring

Subtotal 10,000.00  
Tax 0.00  
Total 10,000.00  
Amount Paid 0.00

**Amount Due (USD)** \$10,000.00

#### Notes

This invoice is for CCWC's 2021 Watershed Coalition Support funds. The funding request was submitted to UGRWCD on September 21, 2020.

CCWC sincerely appreciates the support of the UGRWCD.



September 21, 2020

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District  
Attention: Board of Directors  
210 W. Spencer Avenue, Suite B  
Gunnison, Colorado 81230

**SUBJECT: 2021 FUNDING REQUEST FROM THE COAL CREEK WATERSHED COALITION**

Dear Members of the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District Board:

The Coal Creek Watershed Coalition (CCWC) is extremely grateful for the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District's (UGRWCD) generous support of our organization in 2020. UGRWCD's watershed coalition support funds, \$10,000, were matched with just over \$151,000 from other partners.

Despite the well-known challenges 2020 provided, we had a successful field season and moved forward with community outreach and education efforts. Our 2020 annual report highlights recent achievements and summarizes CCWC's finances.

UGRWCD's funding is critical to CCWC's organizational capacity. In 2021, CCWC proposes to use UGRWCD watershed coalition support funds for the following:

- **Grant Writing and Fundraising:** CCWC has limited funding to secure grants to maintain and diversify our organizational funding. Funds provided by the UGRWCD would be leveraged to secure grants from local, state, and federal agencies; and support a growing network of private donors. CCWC requests \$2,500 for grant writing and fundraising.
- **Long-term Water Quality Monitoring Program:** CCWC would like to use funds from the UGRWCD to fund staff time and purchase supplies for our volunteer-supported water quality monitoring program. These funds would be heavily leveraged, approximately \$35,000 in additional funds, through existing partnerships. CCWC requests \$3,000 from the UGRWCD to support water quality monitoring.
- **Administrative Duties:** As the diversity and geographic scope of CCWC's projects increases, so do administrative duties. Administrative funds would be used for staff oversight, meeting facilitation, CCWC website maintenance, and project development.

CCWC's request for 2021 is \$10,000.

CCWC appreciates the support from the UGRWCD. I am happy to answer any questions you may have regarding the project. Sincerely,

Ashley Bembenek  
Technical Director  
Coal Creek Watershed Coalition  
970-251-0029  
abembenek@yahoo.com

**Colorado Trout Unlimited**

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

**INVOICE****INVOICE #: 10****INVOICE DATE:** February 1, 2021**PERFORMANCE PERIOD:** 1/1/2021 – 1/31/2021**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
1/4/21	Task 2: Creel Survey Development	1	45.00	45.00	
1/5/21	Task 7: Consultant Report, SOW	4	45.00	90.00	90.00
1/6/21	Task 7: 2021 SOW Development	1	45.00	45.00	
1/11/21	Task 2: Creel Survey Development	1	45.00		45.00
	Task 7: SOW & GWMP Coordination Mtg.	3	45.00	45.00	90.00
1/13/21	Task 2: AW Report Review	1	45.00	22.50	22.50
	Task 7: Coordination & SOW	1	45.00		45.00
1/14/21	Task 3: Watershed Health Meeting with CSFS	1	45.00		45.00
1/15/21	Task 2: Creel Survey Development	1	45.00	45.00	
1/27/21	Task 2: Creel Survey Development	1	45.00		45.00
	Task 1: Recreation Outreach Summary Report	3	45.00		135.00
1/28/21	Task 1: Recreation Outreach Summary Report	4	45.00	180.00	
1/29/21	Task 7: GWMP MOU Update	1	45.00		45.00
	<b>TOTAL (incl. mileage)</b>	<b>23</b>		<b>\$472.50</b>	<b>\$562.50</b>

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

<b>Task 1 – Recreation Outreach/Report</b>	<b>\$315.00</b>
<b>Task 2 – Recreation Use Surveys</b>	<b>\$225.00</b>
<b>Task 3 – Watershed Health Outreach/Cord.</b>	<b>\$45.00</b>
<b>Task 4 – Watershed Health Report/Analysis</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Task 7 – Coordination</b>	<b>\$450.00</b>
<hr/>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,035.00</b>
<b>Breakdown</b>	<b>562.50 (Paid)</b> <b>Approved to pay (bill full amount to CWCB</b>
	<b>PO#2019-2891</b>
	<b>\$472.50 (In-Kind Services)</b>

Please make all checks payable to: Colorado Trout Unlimited

## **Upper Gunnison Watershed Management Planning Consultant Monthly Project Progress Report**

**Date:** February 1, 2021

**Consultant:** Dan Omasta

**Invoice Number:** 10

**Invoice Amount:** \$562.50

**In-Kind Amount:** \$472.50

**Project Performance Period:** January 1, 2021 – January 31, 2021

**Report Prepared By:** Dan Omasta

**Contact Phone:** 720-354-2647

**Contact Email:** domasta@tu.org

### **PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS (THIS REPORTING PERIOD):**

- **Task 1: Recreation Outreach**
  - Summarized stakeholder meeting/outreach notes.
  - Developing stakeholder outreach report with data from land managers/reports to categorize information and provide context for issues/concerns.
- **Task 2: Recreation Use Surveys & Analysis**
  - Worked with Jesse Kruthaupt and Dan Brauch (CPW) to develop creel survey and floating survey for Taylor River and Gunnison River in 2021. Developing outreach materials for funders and community partners.
  - Reviewed AW Boatable Days report.
- **Task 3: Watershed Health Coalition Management & Stakeholder Engagement**
  - Met with Sam Pankratz (CO State Forest Service) to understand similar ongoing efforts in Basin and priorities of agency. Gained access to forest data. CSFS will be interested to support UGRWCD in development of watershed health process.
- **Task 4: Watershed Health Report Development & Analysis**
- **Task 7**
  - Developed scope of work for 2021
  - Updated UGRWCD-CTU MOU – submitted for approval by District
  - Attended GWMP Coordinator meetings/calls
  - Redeveloped tracking/reporting tools to accommodate 2021 work plan and streamline monthly reporting process.

### **Difficulties encountered/Corrective Action:**

#### **Problem(s) / Changes:**

- Need to formalize role of CTU coordinator in watershed health process, establish standing work group within UGRWCD to manage tasks, and better understand the process/objectives of watershed health planning effort.

#### **Resolution / Corrective Action Plan & Schedule:**

- Work with UGRWCD and GWMP Committee to create clearly defined watershed health work group to facilitate watershed health work. Establish who will serve on that committee. Develop set of objectives/processes for committee and UGRWCD to conduct planning process in 2021.

**ACTIVITY ANTICIPATED (NEXT REPORTING PERIOD):** (February 2021)

- **Task 1: Recreation Outreach**
  - Finish 2020 stakeholder outreach report
  - Distribute report/summaries to key partners for comment and issue confirmation
  - Submit recreation stakeholder report to UGRWCD
- **Task 2: Recreation Use Surveys & Analysis**
  - Finalize recreational use survey plan and funding materials
  - Apply to UGRWCD, Gunnison Sustainable Tourism Coalition, and other local partners for funding
  - Reach out to WSCU MEM program to develop portion of recreation survey and identify potential student support
- **Task 3: Watershed Health Coalition Management & Stakeholder Engagement**
  - Work with UGRWCD and GWMP Team to identify members of established watershed health working group.
  - Coordinate meeting with working group to identify critical next steps, timeline, scope, roles, and objectives.
  - Begin to develop initial stakeholder map and data resources.
- **Task 4: Watershed Health Report Development & Analysis**
- **Task 7**
  - Attend GWMP meetings, provide regular project updates.
  - Finalize 2021 MOU.

**BUDGET SUMMARY:**

Recreation & Outreach	Budget	Current Expenditures	Previous Expenditures	In-Kind Expenditures	Balance	Project Completed
Task 1	1,800.00	135.00	0.00	180.00	\$1,485.00	12/15/21
Task 2	900.00	112.50	0.00	112.50	\$675.00	12/15/21
Travel Time	900.00		0.00		\$900.00	01/01/22
Mileage	230.00		0.00		\$230.00	01/01/22
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>3,830.00</b>	<b>247.50</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>292.50</b>	<b>\$3,290.00</b>	

Watershed Health	Budget	Current Expenditures	Previous Expenditures	In-Kind Expenditures	Balance	Project Completed
Task 3	3,825.00	45.00	0.00		\$3,780.00	12/15/21
Task 4	5,400.00		0.00		\$5,400.00	12/15/21
Travel Time	1,575.00		0.00		\$1,575.00	01/01/22
Mileage	238.05		0.00		\$238.05	01/01/22
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>11,038.05</b>	<b>45.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>		<b>\$10,993.05</b>	

Project Coordination	Budget	Current Expenditures	Previous Expenditures	In-Kind Expenditures	Balance	Project Completed
Task 7	3,150.00	270.00	0.00	180.00	\$2,700.00	01/01/22
Travel Time	1,350.00		0.00		\$1,350.00	01/01/22
Mileage	229.00		0.00		\$229.00	01/01/22
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>4,729.00</b>	<b>270.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>180.00</b>	<b>\$4,279.00</b>	



**Cumulative Project Budget**

Task	Description	Budget	Current Expenditures	Previous Expenditures	In-Kind Expenditures	Balance	Projected Completion
1	Recreation Stakeholder Outreach	\$1,800.00	135.00	0.00	180.00	\$1,485.00	12/15/21
2	Recreational Use Surveys	\$900.00	112.50	0.00	112.50	\$675.00	12/15/21
3	Watershed Health Coordination	\$3,825.00	45.00	0.00		\$3,780.00	12/15/22
4	Watershed Health Report & Analysis	\$5,400.00		0.00		\$5,400.00	12/15/21
7	GWMP Coordination	\$3,150.00	270.00	0.00	180.00	\$2,700.00	01/01/22
	Travel Time	\$3,825.00		0.00		\$3,825.00	01/01/22
	Mileage Reimbursement	\$697.05		0.00		\$697.05	01/01/22
	<b>TOTALS</b>	\$19,597.05	562.50	0.00	472.50	\$18,562.05	

**Requested Budget Amendments & Rationale:**

For 2021, CTU and the UGRWCD have altered the budget layout to redefine the new tasks.

Requested Contract Amendment & Rationale: See above.

Consultant Signature & Date: Dan Omasta 2/01/21

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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
DOWN PAYMENT (BILL) REQUEST

Make Remittance Payable To: U.S. Geological Survey  
Billing Contact: M. Patterson Phone: 303-236-1450

Bill #: 90871225  
Customer: 6000001042  
Date: 01/14/2021  
Due Date: 03/15/2021

Remit Payment To: United States Geological Survey  
P.O. Box 6200-27  
Portland, OR 97228-6200

Payer: UPPER GUNNISON RIVER  
Attn: John McClow  
210 WEST SPENCER AVE, SUITE B  
WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT  
GUNNISON CO 81230

Additional forms of payment may be accepted. Please email GS-A-HQ\_RMS@USGS.GOV or call 703-648-7683 for additional information.

To pay through Pay.gov go to <https://www.pay.gov>.

Checks must be made payable to U.S. Geological Survey. Please detach the top portion or include bill number on all remittances.

Amount of Payment: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Date	Description	Qty	Unit Price		Amount
			Cost	Per	
01/14/2021	For the streamflow and water-quality monitoring program. Billing is every Federal quarter per agreement. 20REJFACO117	1	38,645.35	1	38,645.35
<p>streamflow gaging = 73% = 28,211.11  W.Q. Monitoring = 27% = 10,434.24  <u>38,645.35</u></p>					
Amount Due this Bill:					38,645.35

## Accounting Classification:

Sales Order: 88623

Sales Office: GCRE

Customer: 6000001042

Accounting #: 11139617

TIN: \*\*\*\*\*5208

Date Rec. 1-19-21 Addn. Chg.

Mgr. Appr. Amt. Appr.

Bd. Appr. Date Bd. Initials

Pd. Date Clk PayGov

Account(s) Water Quality Monitoring  
streamflow gaging

Q B 1-29-21 ✓

payGov 2-1-21 ✓ effective date



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

**Invoice**                    **202101\_472**  
**Date**                        **31 January, 2021**  
**Account**                   **C201008**

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 Jan - 31 Jan 2021**

---

## Summary

Total Airtime and Fees this Period	USD	51.80
<b>Total Amount This Invoice</b>	<b>USD</b>	<b>51.80</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. Ck'd. \_\_\_\_\_  
Mgr. Appr. \_\_\_\_\_ Amt. Appr. \_\_\_\_\_  
Bd. Appr. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Bd. Initials \_\_\_\_\_  
Pd. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Ck'd \_\_\_\_\_  
Account(s) \_\_\_\_\_

---

## Summary per Product

Product	Charge Type	Amount (USD)
OrbCommIDP	Subscription Fee	33.00
OrbCommIDP	Airtime	16.85
OrbCommIDP	Other	1.95
<b>Total for OrbCommIDP</b>		<b>51.80</b>

**Charges per Device / SIM Card**

<b>Device / SIM</b>	<b>Description</b>		<b>Service</b>	<b>Airtime</b>	<b>Total</b>
01181782SKY6FEB	Monthly fee for New IDP 25K Plan	USD	33.00		33.00
01181782SKY6FEB	Monthly fee for Backoffice Subscription Fee - IP SCADA	USD	1.95		1.95
01181782SKY6FEB	Airtime in excess of bundle - IDP Msg	USD		16.85	16.85
	<b>Total Airtime and Fees this Period</b>	<b>USD</b>	<b>34.95</b>	<b>16.85</b>	<b>51.80</b>
<b>Total Invoice Amount (see front page for specification)</b>			<b>USD</b>		<b>51.80</b>

**Hartman Brothers, Inc.**

524 North First Street  
Montrose, CO 81401  
Tel.: (970) 240-8535  
Fax: (970) 249-6675

**allair**  
GASES • INDUSTRIAL • BEVERAGE  
HARTMAN BROTHERS est. 1904

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

**CYLINDER RENTAL INVOICE**

CUSTOMER No.	CUSTOMER P.O. No.	PERIOD	INVOICE DATE	INVOICE No.	PAGE							
M05447		01/01-01/31	2021 01 31	337332	1							
DESCRIPTION	DATE M-M D-D	DBL. NOTE #	INVOICE No.	CYLINDER STATEMENT			CONTRACT	CHARGE	RATE	AMOUNT	T Y P E	
NITROGEN 60CF				BAL	SUPPL	RETURN	NEW BAL					
31 days	01 31			3			3	0				
Total				3	0	0	3	0	93			
									93	0.300	27.90	XD
<p>Date Rec. <u>2-1-21</u> Adm. Chg. <u>[Signature]</u>            Mgr. Appr. <u>[Signature]</u> Amt. Appr. <u>[Signature]</u>            Bd. Appr. Date <u>[Signature]</u> Bd. Initials <u>[Signature]</u>            Pd. Date <u>[Signature]</u> Clk <u>[Signature]</u>            Account(s) <u>Clark Sealing</u>  <u>-Trwin Remok,</u></p>												
<p>Adm. Chg. <u>[Signature]</u>            Amt. Appr. <u>[Signature]</u>            Bd. Initials <u>[Signature]</u>            Clk <u>[Signature]</u></p>												
TERMS				TYPE:				SUB-TOTAL				
NET 30 DAYS				S - DEMORRAGE L - MONTH END D - DAILY N - FREE H - HIGHEST						27.90		
VALUE OF CYLINDER INVENTORY ON HAND								SALES TAX		1.09		
								TOTAL		28.99		

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

# North American Weather Consultants, Inc.



8180 S Highland Drive Suite B-2  
Sandy, UT 84093  
(801) 942-9005  
(801) 942-9007 Fax

## Invoice

Date	Invoice #
1/18/2021	21-2072

### Bill To

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy  
Attn: Sonja Chavez  
210 W Spencer Ave., Ste B  
Gunnison, CO 81230

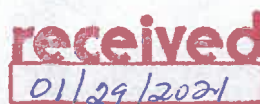
Date Rec. \_\_\_\_\_ Adm. Ckd. \_\_\_\_\_  
Mgr. Appr. \_\_\_\_\_ Amt. Appr. \_\_\_\_\_  
Bd. Appr. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Bd. Initials WJH  
Pd. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Ckd \_\_\_\_\_  
Account(s) cloud seeding = 42,062.50

Irwin Remote = \$4,000

Proj #	Terms
20-454	Net 30

Qty	Description	Rate	Amount
1	November 2020 Project Set-up, 2020-2021 Cloud Seeding Program	12,500.00	12,500.00
0.5	Fixed Monthly Operations Cost, Cloud Seeding Project - November 15 - 30, 2020	10,200.00	5,100.00
0.5	Operation and Maintenance of the Lake Irwin Remote Generator, November 15 - 30, 2020	1,600.00	800.00
	Subtotal: \$18,400.00		
1	December 2020 Fixed Monthly Operations Cost, Cloud Seeding Project - December 1 - 31, 2020	10,200.00	10,200.00
1	Operation and Maintenance of the Lake Irwin Remote Generator, December 1 - 31, 2020	1,600.00	1,600.00
40.75	Reimbursable Seeding Generator Hours - November 15 - 30, 2020	10.00	407.50
	Credit for 2019-2020 Generator Hour overbilling Re: Prj# 19-437 @ \$45.00	-45.00	-45.00
	Subtotal: \$30,562.50		
1	January 2021 Fixed Monthly Operations Cost, Cloud Seeding Project - January 1 - 31, 2021	10,200.00	10,200.00
1	Operation and Maintenance of the Lake Irwin Remote Generator, January 1 - 31, 2021	1,600.00	1,600.00
370	Reimbursable Seeding Generator Hours - December 1 - 31, 2020	10.00	3,700.00

**Total \$46,062.50**



**TROUT UNLIMITED**

Jesse Kruthaupt  
 604 Elsa CT  
 970-209-0976  
 jkruthaupt@tu.org

**INVOICE**

INVOICE #: 1  
 DATE OF INVOICE: JAN 20, 2021  
 INNOVATIVE IRRIGATION EFFICIENCY FOR MOUNTIAN MEADOWS

Task	Description	UGRWCD Budget Cash	Matching funds	Current Expenditures	Matching Expenditures	UG Previous Expenditures	UGRWCD Balance	Projected Completion Date
1	Automated Irrigated Scheduling	\$2000	\$12,000	\$2000	\$8685.93	\$0	\$0	12/31/2021
2	Conveyance Trial	\$13000	\$37,000	\$0	\$4632.08	\$0	\$13000	12/31/2021
3	LoRa Remote Sensing	\$3000	\$10,000	\$823.85	\$1000	\$0	\$2,176.15	12/31/2021
4	LoRa Irrigation Control	\$0	\$10000	\$0	\$0	0	\$0	12/31/2021
5	Grant Admin	\$2860	\$1800	\$409.05	\$1047.65	\$383.50	\$2450.95	12/31/2021
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$20860</b>	<b>\$70800</b>	<b>\$3232.90</b>	<b>\$15365.66</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$17627.10</b>	

**Total payment requested is \$3232.90.**

Thank you, please make check payable to Trout Unlimited

**Approved for payment – Line Item 44 Regional Water Supply Program – Grant Program 2019**

*Beverly Richards* 2/1/21

Date Rec. 2-2-21 Adm. Ckd. [Signature]  
 Mgr. Appr. \_\_\_\_\_ Amt. Appr. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bd. Appr. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Bd. Initials \_\_\_\_\_  
 Pd. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Ck# \_\_\_\_\_  
 Account(s) Grant Program - 2019



5/8/2020

Mail - Jesse kruthaupt - Outlook

Outlook

Search

JK

The new browser recommended by Microsoft is here. Try it now

New message

Delete Archive Junk Sweep Move to Categorize Snooze

Favorites

## Confirmation & Order Status for your Order # 6567332

Folders

Inbox 4692

Junk Email 170

Drafts 481

Sent Items 1

Deleted Items 17

Archive

Notes 2

C b

Conversation History

Ljkruthaupt@gmail.c... 1

Notes\_0

RSS Feeds

New folder

Groups

New group

SR

Summit Racing <CustomerService@SummitRacing.com>  
Fri 5/8/2020 7:43 AM  
KRUTHAUP@HOTMAIL.COM

We got your order!  
See your order summary below:  
Add customerservice@summitracing.com to your Contacts.

No shipping or handling fee



Dear JESSE KRUTHAUP,

Thank you for ordering from Summit Racing Equipment! We have received your order and wanted to pass along some important information about your purchase:

### Order Processing and Shipping will take longer!

While we are doing our best to ensure the fastest shipping and delivery, your order may take slightly longer to arrive due to delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. We appreciate your business and we hope that you and your family are well in this challenging time. You will receive an email when your order ships. It will include your tracking number(s) so you can keep up with the delivery status of your order

### Order Information

Get Your Real-Time Order Status!



Order Date: 5/8/2020

Order Number: 6567332

Tracking Will be sent in Shipping  
Number: Confirmation Email

Customer Number: 18887571

Bill To: JESSE KRUTHAUP  
1777 N KENT ST STE 100  
ARLINGTON VA 22209

Ship To: JESSE KRUTHAUP  
604 ELSA CT  
GUNNISON CO 81230

### Items Purchased on This Order.

Item	Status*	Price	Qty.	Total
 ELI-99040 Solenoid, Power Door Release, 45 lbs., Each (Mfr. #: 99040)	Ready to Ship Ground	\$34.97	10	\$349.70

### Charges for This Order:

#### STATUS KEY

Ready to Ship - Item is waiting to be shipped.

Part Subtotal: \$349.70

Tax: \$17.14

Total Charges \$366.84

[Colorado Sales and Use Tax Information](#)

Please watch for another email to arrive shortly. This email will notify you when your order has shipped and include tracking numbers so you can keep up with the delivery status of your order.





# McMASTER-CARR.

630-600-3600  
630-834-9427 (fax)  
chi.sales@mcmaster.com

## Receipt

Billed to  
ATTENTION: JESSE KRUTHAAPT  
T U  
604 ELSA CT  
GUNNISON CO 81230-8803

Shipped to  
Attention: Jesse  
T U  
604 Elsa CT  
Gunnison CO 81230-8803

Purchase Order	0911JKRUTHAAPT
Paid	\$458.82
Invoice	15520797
Invoice Date	9/11/19

Information About Your Payment

Credit Card	Visa Ending- 7602
Date	9/12/19
Name on Card	Jesse Kruthaupt
Your Account	356955500

Jesse Kruthaupt placed this order.

Line	Product	Ordered	Shipped	Balance	Price	Total
1	69905K621 Sealed Linear Solenoid, Intermittent, Push, 12V DC, 1" Stroke, 68 oz. Force	9 Each	9	0	47.42 Each	426.78
						Merchandise 426.78
						Sales Tax 20.91
						Shipping 11.13
						Total \$458.82
						Payment Received 9/12/19 (458.82)
						Balance Due \$0.00

Packing List	Shipped	Weight	Carrier	Tracking
2063743-01	9/11/19	11 lb	UPS	1Z6319480349268198

10:06:36

\*\* INVOICE \*\*  
06/21/19

X07631101  
PAGE 1



# INVOICE

CUSTOMER : 036329

WWW CUSTOMER

Trout Unlimited  
604 ELSA CT  
GUNNISON, CO 81230-8803

ORDERED BY: Jesse Kruthaupt  
INV DATE SLP CC FOB SHIP PO NUMBER RELEASE NO.  
06/21/19 WEB VISA ORIG UPS jesse.kruthaupt@tu.o

ONE AND ONE HALF PERCENT/MONTH INTEREST IS ADDED IF NOT PAID WITHIN THIRTY DAYS

ORDER NO.	ORD DATE	SHIP DATE	ORDER TOTAL	FREIGHT	MISC	GRAND TOTAL
X076311	06/14/19	06/21/19	203.44	20.95	0.00	224.39

QTY	QTY	QTY				
ORDERD	SHIPPD	B/ORD	ITEM NO. / DESCRIPTION	PRICE	EXTENDED	
8	8	0	53753-87-DELT			
(UOM: EA/1)			SOLENOID, 12VDC, INTERMITTENT DUTY,	25.43	203.44	
1	1	0	Token of Appreciation			
(UOM: Ea/1)			A Thank You For Our Valued Customer.	0.00	0.00	

Freight Out Charges	20.95
INVOICE TOTAL IF PAID BEFORE 06/22/19	224.39
TOTAL (\$ US FUNDS)	224.39
AMOUNT PAID - CC	224.39
*** BALANCE DUE ***	0.00
VISA x7602	

SHIPPING CONFIRMATION #1Z4155700392550919

**Final Details for Order #114-7276644-6945017**

[Print this page for your records.](#)

**Order Placed:** April 17, 2020**Amazon.com order number:** 114-7276644-6945017**Order Total:** \$135.80**Shipped on April 18, 2020****Items Ordered**10 of: *FAVOLCANO CN101 DC 12V 16A Digital LCD Power Programmable Timer Time Switch Relay***Price**

\$12.95

Sold by: NICCOVER ([seller profile](#))

Condition: New

**Shipping Address:**Jesse Kruthaupt  
604 ELSA CT  
GUNNISON, CO 81230-8803  
United States**Task 1 - Irrigation  
Automation****Shipping Speed:**

One-Day Shipping

**Payment information****Payment Method:**

Visa | Last digits: 7602

Item(s) Subtotal: \$129.50

Shipping &amp; Handling: \$0.00

-----

Total before tax: \$129.50

Estimated tax to be collected: \$6.30

-----

**Grand Total: \$135.80****Billing address**Jesse Kruthaupt  
604 ELSA CT  
GUNNISON, CO 81230-8803  
United States**Credit Card transactions**

Visa ending in 7602: April 18, 2020: \$135.80

To view the status of your order, return to [Order Summary](#).[Conditions of Use](#) | [Privacy Notice](#) © 1996-2020, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates



## 49

Order	188848	
Invoice	7198245	
Order Date	4/20/2020	
Invoice Date	4/20/2020 08:42:58	
Cust PO	970-209-0976	
Ordered By	JESSE	Salesperson ROBERT JOH
Method	Credit Card V	7602
		499997

\*\*\*\*\* INVOICE \*\*\*\*\*

499997

499997

Ship To  
JESSE KRUTHAUP  
MONTROSE CO 81505

Shipped	Back Ordered	Description	Weight	Price/ Piece	Unit Price	Extended Price
1 EA		Delivery Fee			25.0000 EA	25.00

DELIVER CUSTOMERS PANS TO MONTROSE CO - JESSE WILL MEET YOU THERE  
970-209-0976

### Task 1 - Irrigation Automation

VISA SALE

Card #	XXXXXXXXXXXX7602
SEQ #:	3
Batch #:	1165
INVOICE	2
Approval Code:	020448
Entry Method:	Manual
Mode:	Online
Tax Amount:	\$0.00
Qust Code:	
Card Code:	M

SALE AMOUNT	\$25.00
-------------	---------

Total Weight:

SubTotal	
Total Taxes	\$ 0.00
	\$ 0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$25.00</b>

30 day date; and an additional .0484% per day late charge, (18% ANNUAL RATE) due for each day late after 30  
Security interest in the merchandise on this invoice, and expressly disclaims any warranties AS NOTED ON

CUSTOMER COPY





RECLA METALS LLLP

136 S. Maple Ave.  
Montrose, CO 81401  
(970) 249-7922

Rusty Roof • Structural Steel • Metal Recycling

# Sales Receipt

Date	Sale #
4/21/2020	619490

Cash Customer Name

SHIP TO:

MONTROSE YARD

BILL TO:

CASH CUSTOMER - COD ONLY

PO #

Rep

Check No.

Payment Method

Phone #

TO

Visa

Loc	Item	Quantity	Description	Price Each	Amount
	P1011/4	47	1 1/4" Schedule 10 Pipe (ID) CUT 12'1/2" DROP 10'-1/2" DROP 5'	1.31	61.57T
			Montrose City 8.53% State, PSI, Mont Cnty & City Sales Tax	8.53%	5.26
Task 1 - Irrigation Automation					

RECLA METALS LLLP  
MONTROSE  
136 S MAPLE AVE  
MONTROSE, CO 81401  
970/249-7922

SALE

MD: 260007149545

TID: 001

Batch #: 112001

04/21/20

Invoice #: 26

APPR CODE: 021817

VISA

\*\*\*\*\*7602

Chip

\*\*\*\*

AMOUNT

\$66.83

APPROVED

a Credit

A000000003010

00 80 00 80 00

EB 00

Thank You  
Please Come Again

CUSTOMER COPY

for shopping with us!

TOTAL

\$66.83



**AQUA BEN  
CORPORATION**

1390 N Manzanita St  
Orange, CA 92867

# Invoice

## Task 2 Convayance

DATE	INVOICE #
10/25/2019	39689

BILL TO	SHIP TO
Trout Unlimited 1777 N. Kent St. Ste. 100 Arlington, VA 22209	Trout Unlimited / UGRWC 3161 County Rd. 730 Gunnison, CO 81230 Attn: Jesse Kruthaupt

P.O. NUMBER	TERMS	REP	VIA	F.O.B.	PRO NO.
Jesse	upon receipt	SAM	XPO	shipping pt.	728027451
PRODUCT	DESCRIPTION	UNIT	PRICE	AMOUNT	
SF Sealant F	Soilfloc Sealant: Canal and Pond Sealing Program Contains high quality PAM and Superabsorbent Polymers SF Sealant Part A (55 lb. bag) Lot # UM5912 SF Sealant Part B (55 lb. bag) Lot # UE7617KB Delivery	5	398.31	1,991.55	
			8.45	8.45	
Thank you for your business!				Total	\$2,000.00

Please Pay From This Invoice  
Phone: 714/771-6040 FAX: 714/771-1465  
www.aquaben.com

THANK YOU FOR SHOPPING AT  
FULLMER'S ACE HATCHERY  
11701 6th 1212

CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK  
WWW.FULLMERACE.COM

ALL RETURNS REQUIRE RECEIPT DATED WITHIN  
60 DAYS AND ARE SUBJECT TO A RESTOCK FEE  
09/05/19 4:59 PM CLINT 553 SALE

12201	1	EA	\$3.59	EA
GLUE LIQ NAIL 0.5 OZ				\$3.59
55851	1	EA	\$6.59	EA
CD TAPCON BIT 3/16X3 1/2				\$6.59
21477	1	EA	\$25.99	EA
BIT DRILL 3/4" 1/2 SHANK				\$25.99
BOLTS	20	EA	.35	EA
BOLTS, NUTS, SCREWS				\$7.00

SUB-TOTAL:\$	43.17	TAX:\$	3.84
		TOTAL:\$	47.01
		EC AMT:\$	47.01

BK CARD#: XXXXXXXXX78C2  
MID:\*\*\*\*\*6886 TID:\*\*\*0975  
AUTH: C05386 AMT:\$ 47.01  
Host reference #:769624 Bat#

Authorizing Network: VISA

Chip Read  
CARD TYPE:VISA EXPR: XXXX  
AID : A0000000031010  
TVR : 0080008000  
IAD : 0618DA0360A002  
TSI : F800  
ARC : 00  
MODE : Issuer  
CVM :  
Name : Visa Credit  
ATC :0020  
AC : 16048FAA641111E0  
TxnID/ValCode: 355705

Bank card USD\$ 47.01





Field testing has highlighted two issues that TU is working to resolve. The first issue was battery longevity of the timer control. TU added a small solar panel and charge controller to each timer box to allow the assembly to be deployed for the entire irrigation season. The cost of solar panels and charge controller was \$35 per assembly. The second issue is the retraction strength of solenoids. We learned the weight of the gate insert in open position exceeds the retraction strength of the solenoid if the solenoid rod is extended more than a 1/4 inch. Subsequently, if the gate is not positioned precisely within the 0-1/4-inch range the solenoid will not retract and the gate will not close. To resolve this issue ten solenoids rated for up to 45lbs retraction strength were ordered and installed. This will allow a greater margin for error when placing the gate in open position.

Ten structures on the East River site have been retrofitted with automated gates. TU ordered and delivered materials and assisted the water user to fabricate the automatic gates. The water user donated 45 hours of welding and labor. Timer assemblies and solenoids are scheduled to be installed in the spring of 2021. Project partners decided to first resolve the issues with solenoid strength and gate weight at Trampe's to ensure appropriately sized solenoids are ordered for these structures.

The water user is interested in outfitting a parallel ditch with automated gates and synchronizing scheduling between the two ditches. Doing so would exceed the budget of this grant so TU is pursuing other funding opportunities to build out this system.



## **Task 2: Ditch Sealant Trial**

Ten units of the SoilFloc sealant product was applied in the Teachout Mesa Ditch. Two methods were used for application. The first method involved mixing the product with ditch substrate prior to running water in the ditch. This was done using a small excavator to roughen the earthen bed of the ditch. The Soilfloc product was spread by hand and raked into the disturbed dirt material. Once raked, the excavator was used to compact the ditch bed and banks. One of the ditch owners donated time and equipment for excavation work. Ditch water was turned on the following day.



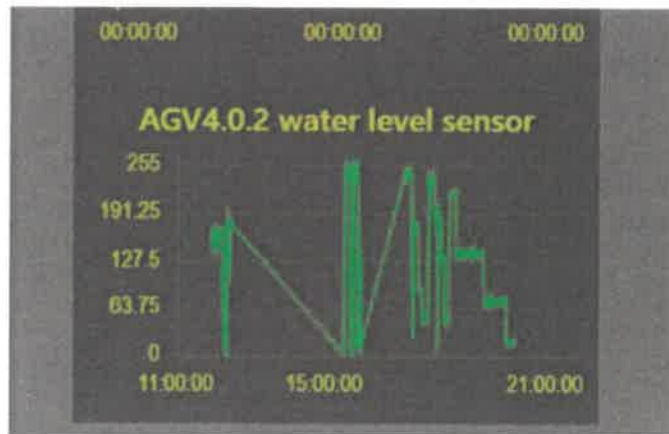
Preliminary data analysis shows ditch loss at three flow stages averaged 19% prior to treatment and averaged 12% post-treatment. Flow measurements will continue to be taken in 2020 and 2021. It is worth noting the ditch gains a small amount of water between site 1 and site 4 from the Teachout Draw. TU continues to explore a variety of lining product and prioritize options to improve conveyance with ditch owners.

Applying Soilfloc in a dry ditch was the most effective method of application. This product is similar to PAM which is commonly used to seal earthen ditches. Soilfloc is expected to last several years whereas PAM typically lasts one season. UV exposure is a critical factor with either product. Applying Soilfloc and mending/compacting into the soil seems to be the most practical approach and would be feasible for other ditches when performing ditch maintenance.

### Task 3: LoRaWan Communication Network

TU has deployed a LoRa Gateway near the town of Gunnison that uses The Things Network (TTN) protocol for radio communication. TTN is open source meaning any sensor using that protocol can utilize the gateway. TU continues to work with Automated Farming Solutions (AFS) to test soil moisture and water level sensors that communicate with the TTN Gateway. Coordination with farmers in the lower Gunnison has brought additional resources for developing open-source LoRa Networks for agricultural producers. The following [video](#) was developed by project partner Don Blair as an educational tool showing programming basics for parties interested in the use of LoRa for building soil moisture sensor networks.

The use of LoRa radio is becoming more mainstream and several companies that supply environmental monitoring equipment have begun developing sensors with LoRa radios. However, in most cases these companies are not inclined to design the network as open-source, thereby requiring subscription for data access.



Water level sensor with LoRa Radio  
and sensor data output graph

# **AGENDA ITEM 4**

**Election of Board Secretary**

## MEMORANDUM



**TO:** UGRWCD Board Members  
**FROM:** Sonja Chavez, General Manager  
**DATE:** February 16, 2021  
**SUBJECT:** Board Vacancy Process

---

**Background:** On February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021, the General Manager and Board President Pierce received a letter of resignation (effective immediately) from Director George Sibley citing reasons of health and age. Director Sibley has served on the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District Board for over 14 years. We give our deepest appreciation to George and wish our dear friend and colleague all the best.

**Process for Filling the City of Gunnison Seat:** This year we have one seat expiring in Division 5. That seat is currently held by Director Nania. The District will also have to notice to fill the Division 8 seat previously held by Director Sibley which is one of three City of Gunnison seats on the Board Directors. The procedure for the appointment of board members to regular terms is described in Section 37-45-114(1)(a), C.R.S. (2018). Our Bylaws require that we publicly notice vacancies:

*Not more than sixty days and not less than forty-five days prior to expiration of a Director's term, the District shall publish notice, once in a newspaper of general circulation within the District, that applications for appointment as Director will be accepted by the court until thirty days prior to expiration of the Director's term. The notice shall specify the address of the court to which resumes may be sent, and shall specify that the applicant must have resided within the District for a period of one year, and must reside in and be the owner of real property within the particular division for which the applicant seeks appointment. The court shall fill, for the duration of the unexpired term, any vacancy which may occur on the board.*

The General Manager called the City of Gunnison Manager, Russ Forrest, to inform him of Director Sibley's resignation and asked if the City wished to have the vacancy noticed immediately or if they would like to coordinate it with the District's annual vacancy notice which begins on April 8<sup>th</sup> this year. Mr. Forest informed Sonja that he spoke to Mayor Gelwicks and that they are fine with coordinating with our annual process.

**RESOLUTION 2021-02**  
**HONORING GEORGE SIBLEY FOR SERVICE**

**WHEREAS**, George Sibley has served on the Board of Directors of the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District from June 2006 to January 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Sibley has dedicated a significant portion of his career to writing about water conservation, climate change and water management for a variety of publications, as well as in the booklet *The Gunnison River Basin: A Handbook for Inhabitants* and in his book, *Water Wranglers*, which was published in 2012 to commemorate the 75-year history of the Colorado River District; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Sibley has been a leader in public education and advocacy for water rights and protection through his advancement of Western Colorado University's "Colorado Water Workshop" from 2002-2008 and the "Headwaters Conference" at Western, now in its 32<sup>nd</sup> year; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Sibley has displayed a deep and continuing commitment to protecting the interests of the Upper Gunnison basin, serving as a valuable member of the District's Education Committee, Executive Committee, Projects Committee, Watershed Management Planning Committee and as Secretary of the Board of Directors for over 12 years; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Sibley is highly respected for his knowledge and involvement in local and statewide water programs, including his service on the Gunnison Basin Roundtable, most notably as Chair of the Education Committee; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Sibley is respected for his commitment to and many years of valuable service to the water users and general population of the Upper Gunnison Basin earning him the honorary title of Gunnison's own "Water Buffalo."

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the members of the Board of Directors of the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District express their gratitude and appreciation for the many years of valuable service rendered by Mr. Sibley to the District and citizens of the Upper Gunnison basin; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Secretary is hereby directed to provide the original of this resolution to Mr. Sibley in appreciation of his services and leadership.

We, the undersigned officers of the Board of Directors of the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by a vote of the members present at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February 2021.

UPPER GUNNISON RIVER  
WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michelle Pierce, President

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

## **Resolution 2021 – 03**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I am the duly elected and qualified Secretary of the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District and the keeper of the records and seal of said District and the following is a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of said District held in accordance with the By-Laws of said District on the 22nd day of February 2021.

“Whereas, on July 12, 1993, the Board of Directors of the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District (The Board) designated Community Banks of Colorado – Gunnison, Community Banks of Colorado – Crested Butte, Gunnison Savings and Loan, Community First Banks (now Bank of the West), First National Bank of Lake City, now known as Community Banks of Colorado, and First National Banks of Colorado depositories of the District and that funds so deposited may be withdrawn upon a check, draft, note or order of the District; and

“Whereas, on August 23, 2004, the Board of Directors of the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District (The Board) designated Gunnison Bank and Trust a depository of the District and that funds so deposited may be withdrawn upon a check, draft, note or order of the District; and

“Whereas, on May 22, 2006, the Board of Directors of the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District (The Board) designated Colotrust a depository of the District and that funds so deposited may be withdrawn upon a check, draft, note or order of the District; and

“Whereas, on January 26, 2009, the Board of Directors of the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District (The Board) designated Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. a depository of the District and that funds so deposited may be withdrawn upon a check, draft, note or order of the District; and

“Whereas, on May 18, 2009, the Board of Directors of the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District (The Board) designated First National Bank of Paonia, Alpine Bank, Montrose Bank, First Southwest Bank, and First Colorado National Bank depositories of the District and that funds so deposited may be withdrawn upon a check, draft, note or order of the District; and

“Whereas, on October 27, 2014, the Board of Directors of the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District (The Board) designated NuVista Federal Credit Union of Gunnison, Colorado a depository of the District and that funds so deposited may be withdrawn upon a check, draft, note or order of the District; and

“Whereas, on January 19, 2015, the Board of Directors of the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District (The Board) designated Sigma Financial Corporation a depository of the District and that funds so deposited may be withdrawn upon a check, draft, note or order of the District; and

“Whereas, on July 12, 1993, the Board designated those persons authorized to sign and countersign checks, drafts, notes or orders for the payment of money in the same name of the District, and on subsequent dates has amended the list of designated persons; and

“Whereas, the Board desires to further amend the list of persons authorized to sign and countersign checks, drafts, notes or orders for the payment of money in the name of the District.

“Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that all the checks, drafts, notes, or orders drawn against the District’s accounts with said Bank be signed by any two of the following:

NAME	TITLE
Michelle Pierce	Board President
Stacy McPhail	Board Vice-President
	Board Secretary
Bill Nesbitt	Board Treasurer
Sonja Chavez	General Manager

whose signatures shall be duly certified to said Bank, and that no checks, drafts, notes or orders drawn against said Bank shall be valid unless so signed.

“Be It Further Resolved, that said Bank is hereby authorized to honor and pay any checks, drafts, notes or orders so drawn, whether such checks, drafts, notes or orders be payable to the order of any such person signing and/or countersigning said checks, drafts, notes or orders, or any of such persons in their individual capacities or not, and whether such checks, drafts, notes or orders are deposited to the individual credit of the person so signing and/or countersigning said checks, drafts, notes or orders, or to the individual credit of any other officers or not. This resolution shall take effect February 22, 2021, and will continue in force until further written notification to said Bank.

In witness Whereof, the undersigned President and Secretary have caused the seal of said District to be hereto affixed this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of February, 2021.

\_\_\_\_\_  
, Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michelle Pierce, President

# **AGENDA ITEM 5**

**Legal and Legislative Matters**



## *Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District*

210 West Spencer Avenue, Suite B • Gunnison, Colorado 81230  
Telephone (970) 641-6065 • Facsimile (970) 641-1162 • [www.ugrwc.org](http://www.ugrwc.org)

January 27, 2021

Mr. Ed Warner  
Area Manager, Western Colorado Area Office  
Bureau of Reclamation  
445 West Gunnison Avenue, Suite 221  
Grand Junction, CO 81501-5711

Re: Lease of Power Privilege at Taylor Park Dam

Dear Mr. Warner:

This letter constitutes formal comments by the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District (District) to the Bureau of Reclamation's *Notice of intent to accept proposals, select lessee, and contract for hydroelectric power development at Taylor Park Dam* published September 1, 2020 at 85 FR 54399.

The United States is the owner of a water right described in a decree granted September 18, 1990 (as amended November 13, 1990) in Case No. 86CW203, Water Division 4, (supplemented by the Decrees in Case Nos. 11CW31 and 15CW3064, Water Division 4) for the refill of Taylor Park Reservoir in the amount of 106,230 acre-feet annually, and for releases from that storage calculated to enhance fishery and recreational uses in the Taylor and Gunnison rivers and provide supplemental irrigation within the District (Refill Right). The District is the beneficial owner of the Refill Right under the terms of a contract with the United States dated April 16, 1990 and an Assignment of Water Rights dated March 22, 1993. The decrees for the Refill Right contain Accounting Conditions governing storage and release of water from Taylor Park Reservoir (Reservoir). The District is a party to the Taylor Park Reservoir Operation and Storage Exchange Agreement dated August 28, 1975, Contract No. 6-07-01-00027 (1975 Agreement). Any change in operations at Taylor Park Dam is a critical matter to the District.

The District supports the proposal by the Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association and Gunnison County Electric Association (Applicants) for a Lease of Power Privilege at Taylor Park Dam, subject to the following conditions.

The Applicants must be required to enter into a binding agreement with the District that provides:



Mr. Ed Warner

January 27, 2021

Re: Lease of Power Privilege at Taylor Park Dam

Page 2

1. Any hydroelectric generation facility developed at Taylor Park Dam, or in any way using water impounded thereby or released therefrom, shall operate solely as a "run of the river" facility, utilizing only the releases made in accordance with the decrees described above and the 1975 Agreement, and shall have no claim whatsoever for rates of flow or timing of releases for hydroelectric generation or any other purpose.
2. The Applicants will not seek or acquire, directly or indirectly, any new water right for storage of water in Taylor Park Reservoir or release of water therefrom for the generation of hydropower or for any other purpose.
3. GCEA must agree that, regardless of the cooperative effort to develop a hydroelectric generation facility at Taylor Park Dam or successful completion of such a facility, it shall have no standing whatsoever under the 1975 Agreement, or in any negotiation to modify or extend that agreement.
4. The foregoing provisions must apply to the limited liability company the Applicants propose to form for the purpose of development, design, and construction of a hydroelectric generation facility at Taylor Park Dam utilizing releases from Taylor Park Reservoir, and any other successors or assigns.

The Applicants have been advised of these conditions.

The District appreciates your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John H. McClow".

John H. McClow, General Counsel

Xc: Steve Anderson, UVWUA  
Mike McBride, GCEA

Attachment: Seven copies

# **AGENDA ITEM 6**

**Watershed and Forest Health**

# **AGENDA ITEM 6**

**Presentation by Kenneth Hurst Williams**

## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** UGRWCD Board Members

**FROM:** Stacy McPhail, Watershed Management Planning Committee Chair

**DATE:** February 11, 2021

**SUBJECT:** Values Framework for Forest and Watershed Health

Background: The Watershed Management Planning Committee discussed a framework for staff and contractors to use in considering grant opportunities that include forest and watershed health components. The Committee agreed the District's participation in all grant opportunities provide direct and measurable benefits.

The following is an outline of key values and examples of potential risks associated with each (based on UGRWCD Mission and Value Statements 2020):

<b>Value:</b>	<b>Protection of existing beneficial uses</b>
Risk examples:	Transmountain diversion, buy/dry transactions Water and land use planning processes (local, state, regional US) Management of protected species, invasive species
<b>Value:</b>	<b>Economic stability (benefits should be direct and measurable, balance impacts)</b>
Risk examples:	Extended drought Population growth, increase in visitor numbers
<b>Value:</b>	<b>Protection of water quality and water quantity</b>
Risk examples:	Ecosystem services impacts from wildfire, flood, erosion, extended drought, invasive species Groundwater/surface water interactions – science behind these interactions Water delivery infrastructure

# **AGENDA ITEM 7**

**Break**

# **AGENDA ITEM 8**

**General Manager and Committee Reports**

# **AGENDA ITEM 8**

## **Treasurer's Report**

## **MEMORANDUM**



**TO:** UGRWCD Board Members  
**FROM:** Sonja Chavez, General Manager  
**DATE:** February 12, 2021  
**SUBJECT:** General Manager's Report

---

- I. Spencer Avenue Condo Association**
  - Overnight parking of BLM vehicles not regularly used continues to be an issue mainly due to difficulties it creates around plowing the parking lot.
  - BLM use of non-pedestrian grass hill area to access their alley parking lot and recent fall of a BLM employee.
  - Repairs completed to building in 2020 include painting and staining.
  - Repairs planned for 2021 include second coat of stain, concrete area under porch repair and concrete pad lifting by electric box.
  - Other potential repairs include gutter leak and roof drainage which are affecting soffit area and creating an ice fall hazard and crack seal coating and restriping.
- II. Watershed Management Planning** – Please see attached Memorandum.
- III. Grant Committee** – Please see attached Memorandum.
- IV. Education Committee** – Please see attached Memorandum.
- V. Basin Water Supply Information** – Please see attached Memorandum.
- VI. Wet Meadows Project Update** – Please see attached Memorandum.
- VII. Scientific Endeavors** – Director Carroll.
- VIII. Crested Butte Land Trust Long Lake (a.k.a. Meridian Lake) Stakeholder Work Group** – Director Carroll.



## MEMORANDUM



**TO:** UGRWCD Board Members  
**FROM:** Sonja Chavez, General Manager  
**DATE:** February 12, 2021  
**SUBJECT:** Upper Gunnison District Board Committees

---

- I. Background: The District adopted policies related to the establishment, structure, and function of various Board Committees. Please take some time to review the Board Committees Policy (Adopted July 25, 2016) attached.
- II. Purpose, Function, and Importance of the Upper Gunnison District Board Committees
  - Gather, analyze, and discuss information on various water resource issues of importance to the District and report back to the full Board.
  - Make recommendations for policy or action to the full Board.
  - Provides a venue for staff to have more in-depth conversation and engagement with Directors on various water resource topics of importance and obtain additional guidance from the full Committee that can be taken back to the full Board.
  - Assists the General Manager in managing staff commitment of time toward various activities of the District.
- III. Current Board Committee Assignments – Please see attached.

Discussion Item: Does the Board have any recommended changes to the Committee descriptions?

- IV. Recommendations for Action
  - A. Direct General Counsel to draft a Watershed Management Planning Committee description for addition to the Board Committees policy document.
  - B. Amend the Administrative Issues Committee title to say “Water Administrative Issues Committee” in order to accurately reflect the purpose of the committee.

## **Board Committees**

Adopted at the July 25, 2016 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.

# UPPER GUNNISON RIVER WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

## STANDING COMMITTEES

**2020-2021**

**Approved June 22, 2020**

**Education Committee: Chair – Bill Nesbitt**, George Sibley, Rosemary Carroll, Joellen Fonken, Stacy McPhail, Sonja Chavez, Beverly Richards

**Executive Committee: Chair – Michelle Pierce** – President; Stacy McPhail – Vice President; Bill Nesbitt – Treasurer; George Sibley – Secretary

**Finance Committee: Chair - Bill Nesbitt**, Rebie Hazard, Michelle Pierce, John Perusek, Sonja Chavez, Jill Steele

**Grant Committee:** Rebie Hazard, Andy Spann, Rosemary Carroll, Julie Nania, Joellen Fonken, Sonja Chavez, Beverly Richards

**Legislative Committee: Chair – Michelle Pierce**, Rebie Hazard, Julie Nania, Andy Spann, John McClow, Sonja Chavez

**Projects Committee:** Bill Nesbitt, Rosemary Carroll, George Sibley, John Perusek, John McClow, Sonja Chavez, Beverly Richards

**Water Administration Committee:** Joellen Fonken, Rebie Hazard, Andy Spann, Michelle Pierce, John McClow, Sonja Chavez

**Watershed Management Planning Committee - Chair – Stacy McPhail**, George Sibley, Andy Spann, Michelle Pierce, Julie Nania, John McClow, Sonja Chavez, Beverly Richards

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 June 2016 Annual Meeting, the District has the following standing committees established for the purposes outlined below.

#### Administrative Issues 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.

## MEMORANDUM



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

---

### **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.

**Update:** The *Phase I* preliminary needs assessment was completed for the Ohio, East, and Lake Fork sub-basins. Activities in 2021 include development of Action Plans which identify potential options or best management practices to address resource concerns. These will not be full pre-feasibility assessments of options but rather identified starting points for continued evaluation. Staff is continuing discussions with various stakeholders on some of the high priority projects/needs identified in Phase 1 (e.g. Potential impacts to the East River associated with snowmaking or municipal pumping and Ohio Creek need for comprehensive irrigation infrastructure and optimization assessments).

The *Phase 2* needs assessment began in earnest in 2020 for the following basins: Taylor, Gunnison Mainstem, Cebolla, and Tomichi/Cochetopa.

To date we have completed the following activities:

- A. Preliminary data has been gathered and maps have been created to help facilitate outreach. Further refinement will take place over the next couple of months.
- B. *Recreational Assessments:* Needs assessment for the Taylor and Gunnison Rivers and development of a draft Boatable Days Tool have been completed. The Tool can help inform our water user community about potential economic impacts to our recreational community and economy as a result of drought and climate change. Final report under committee review, user tool instructions under development, and continued verification of the tool with key stakeholders will take place over the next 6-8 weeks. This information will help inform and refine our future stakeholder outreach efforts and inform future actions to support recreational uses within the basin.
- C. *Angling Assessment:* The final report has been drafted, comments will be incorporated from the watershed planning team, and final public outreach will occur over the next 6-8 weeks. As a side note, TU and CTU will also be assisting the CPW with creel surveys this spring and summer through their independent organizations. This information will help further inform public outreach and the development of recommended actions to support a healthy fishery.

- D. *Municipal Assessments*: Underway through Wilson Water Group (WWG). Initial interviews have been conducted, data is being reviewed, and next steps will get underway with municipalities next month. The General Manager will also work to establish a Municipal work-group to help facilitate conversations around smart growth that incorporate thoughtful planning around water use, municipal infrastructure needs, etc.
- E. *A UGRWCD Watershed and Forest Health Sub-Group*: Being 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. WMP Chair, Director Stacy McPhail, will lead the Board in this initial watershed values exercise at our February 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

In addition, the District (with significant leadership and support from Trout Unlimited) was successful in securing a \$180,000 grant from the CWCW Watershed Restoration Program to support an *Upper Gunnison Water, Forest and Range Resiliency Project*. The District leveraged already budgeted UGRWCD 2021 funds for related studies and projects as match to the project. In this case, the Texas and Willow Creek stream gauges - \$58,000; Non-Point Source Watershed Planning Grant - \$24,000; UGRWCD – NCAR contract for Taylor River Watershed Modeling \$35,000; UGRWCD – USGS Joint Funding Agreement for Monitoring Surface Water and Water Quality) to help make this grant application possible. The goal of the UGRWCD is to *leverage* grant funds with *existing* investments already being made by the District and our grant project partners to *maximize project scope* and therefore *maximize environmental benefit*. Our ability to be nimble when these opportunities present themselves is important. This project supports our efforts to recover the threatened Gunnison sage grouse, supports our agricultural producers, will potentially restore stream habitat for native cutthroat, and begins critical assessments of forest fire hazard zones of concern within the basin.

Below is a comprehensive summary of the activities included in the grant:

- Basinwide watershed forest fire hazard assessment of zones of concern
  - Tomichi Sub-basin: Restore 8.5 miles of stream and riparian habitat, protect 10 miles stream from non-native trout, protect 10 acres of mesic meadow, and improve grazing management in sage brush range
  - Taylor Sub-basin: Support wildfire hazard assessment by modeling potential effects from disturbance such as disease and fire.
- F. *Agricultural Assessments*: Communication with our ranching community and field assessments are on-going. Field data sheets and photo documentation are being collected from all site visits and will be used to inform both agricultural and environmental needs assessments and mapping of resource concerns.
- G. An Agricultural Engineer has been selected and work is underway to complete contracting and scope of work development.
- H. Taylor Sub-basin Watershed Management Planning Phase 2 Report which summarizes preliminary available data, maps, and hydrologic assessment work are underway. Information from stakeholder outreach efforts this summer will be incorporated and further inform the watershed needs assessments.
- I. A draft timeline of activities in 2021 is attached as Exhibit A (subject to change).

## **II. Outcalt No.2 and Gunnison Tomichi Valley Association Ditch: Single Point of Diversion**

**Background:** At the August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Regular Meeting, the Board authorized the General Manager to transfer \$36,960 the Outcalt No. 2 and Gunnison Tomichi Valley Association Ditch “Single Point of Diversion” project and to enter into a sole source contract for engineering services.

*Work Order No.1 (\$15,000):* Applegate Group (Craig Ullman, P.E.) worked with the water right holders to conduct an engineering evaluation of the proposed project. A one-dimensional (1D) model was developed to support hydrologic analysis, construction specifications and design, and preliminary project cost estimate.

*Work Order No. 2 (Budget and SOW Amendment No. 1 - \$12,700):* The above 1D model and ensuing discussions with the water right holders lead to additional and more complicated design questions and the need to move to a 2D model to further evaluate options for the wing inlet and the river return/spillway structure that could manage both low and high flows, return water back to the river, facilitate trash removal, address icing issues, etc. Two additional engineering iterations were needed including an additional upstream survey. Work Order No. 2 also includes funding for final designs, construction specifications, final cost estimate, and construction inspections.

The final construction cost will be higher than initially anticipated but both the water right holders, engineers, and staff are confident in a successful outcome that will protect both the District and landowner investment, downstream landowners, and ensure that all water resource benefits come to fruition. The General Manager has agreed to assist the project proponents with a request for additional funding support from the Colorado River District 7A Partnership Program. This will be our first District supported 7A Partnership Project. Another District supported 7A funding package request for multiple water resource improvement projects will follow in April. More information will be provided to the Board at next month’s meeting.

Estimated Engineering Expenditures Work Order No. 1 & 2 = \$27,700

Estimated WMP Fund Balance for Construction = \$9,260



# Exhibit A

2021 WMP Activity Timeline												
	2021											
	Jan	Feb	March	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Phase 1 - Ohio Creek Action Plan</b>	X	X	X									
<b>Phase 1 - East River Action Plan</b>			X	X	X	X						
<b>Phase 1 - Lake Fork Action Plan</b>			X	X	X							
<b>Phase 2 - Agricultural Outreach</b>												
Ongoing Infrastructure Assessments				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Contracting w/Ag Engineer		X	X									
System Optimization Assessment Ohio			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
System Optimization Assessment Tomichi							X	X	X	X	X	X
System Optimization Assessment East								X	X	X	X	X
UGRWCD Stakeholder Outreach			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Phase 2 - Recreation &amp; Angling</b>												
Finalize Recreation Whitewater Report & Tool	X	X	X	X								
Finalize Angling Report	X	X	X	X								
CTU/TU/CPW Creel Surveys						X	X	X	X			
Public Outreach			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Phase 2 - Environmental</b>												
Release RFQ & Select Environmental Consultant					X	X						
Environmental Assessments Riparian						X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Watershed & Forest Health Sub-Group Worksessions			X	X	X	X						
Water-quality Data Summary			X	X	X	X						
<b>Phase 2 - Municipal &amp; Industrial</b>												
Initial Outreach WWG	X	X	X									
Water Supply Summary WWG		X	X	X	X	X	X					
Water Supply/Growth					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Land Use Code Update (Watersmart Team)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Municipal Sub-Group					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** UGRWCD Board Members

**FROM:** Watershed Management Planning Committee

**DATE:** February 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, Julie Nania, Jesse Kruthaupt, Dan Omasta, Kestrel Kunz, Sam Liebl (GCT), Bella Biondina (GCT), Erin Wilson, Sonja Chavez, Jill Steele, and Beverly Richards were in attendance. George Sibley, Andy Spann, Michelle Pierce were absent.

Agenda topics included updates about contract status, Phase I and II sub-basins updates, recreation and angling report status, demonstration of the Boatable Days Tool, Environmental RFQ status, Forestry and Watershed Health issues, and Agricultural Engineering contract. As a result of these discussions the following actions and discussion items were identified:

### **Action Items**

- Committee will provide input on Boatable Days Report and Web Tool to Kestrel Kunz by February 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Kestrel Kunz will continue to make suggested changes to the Web Tool. These suggestions came out of the Coordinators Work Group meeting held on February 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Dan Omasta and Kestrel Kunz will share the Web Tool with key members of the recreation community to gain additional input. This will be done once changes have been made to the Tool.
- Wilson Water Group will compile relevant data for the agricultural engineering firm (Applegate) for the system optimization review.
- Sonja Chavez and Jesse Kruthaupt will meet with Craig Ullmann with Applegate to develop the first task order under Applegate's contract.
- The timeline for the system optimization review will be: February and March – compilation and review of available data; April and May- begin Ohio Creek basin field site visits.
- The Environmental RFQ will be completed later in 2021 as work begins on system optimization and forest and watershed health.
- Stacy McPhail and Julie Nania will continue discussion on the values and risks document developed for forest and watershed health. Following the discussion, staff will provide the edited document to the

full Board for review at the February board meeting. Staff will also meet with Dan Omasta to discuss next steps.

- Dan Omasta will work with FS and BLM partners to prepare a map for review of the projects proposed from the range management meeting. This will support evaluation of how the UGRWCD Watershed Restoration Grant can leverage efforts of our federal agencies, TU, and the Wet Meadows Program consistent with the grant application.

### **Next Meeting**

Watershed Management Planning Committee – March 8, 2021 – 1:30 p.m.

Coordinator Bi-weekly Check-In Meeting – TBD

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

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:47 p.m.

## **MEMORANDUM**



**TO:** UGRWCD Board Members  
**FROM:** Bev Richards, Water Resource Specialist  
**DATE:** February 16, 2021  
**SUBJECT:** Grant Committee

---

A virtual grant program informational meeting was held at 1 PM February 5, 2021 via Zoom. It was advertised in the newspapers in Gunnison, Crested Butte and Lake City, as well as posted several times on the District's social media accounts and on the District website. Eight potential grant applicants tuned in for the meeting.

A power point was presented outlining: (1) Background of Grant Program; (2) Project Types for Consideration; (3) Policy Governing the Grant Program (where 2021 changes were highlighted); (4) Timeline for Funding Agreements; (5) Timeline for Disbursement of Funds; (6) Eligibility Criteria; (7) Evaluation and Ranking Process; (8) Review of the Grant Application Form; (9) Review of the 2021 Grant Program Templates; (10) Review of the Budget Table Template; (11) Review of the Match Summary Table; and (12) the Timeline for the 2021 Grant Program.

Questions from the audience were taken and Sonja offered that a PDF of the full grant packet is available on the District website and that the District can email the Excel versions of the Budget Table and Match Summary Table and the Word version of the Scope of Work sheet.

Several of the audience expressed their appreciation for the meeting, saying it was very helpful for them to have the detail explained and be able to ask questions. Sonja encouraged potential applicants to call the District for further assistance or questions.

## MEMORANDUM



**TO:** UGRWCD Board Members  
**FROM:** Sonja Chavez, General Manager  
**DATE:** February 12, 2021  
**SUBJECT:** Education Committee Update

---

**Background:** The *Education Committee* “is responsible for gathering information and exploring options to accomplish the District’s goals of pursuing education of and input from constituents within the District on the value of basin water resources, including the development of an outreach program promoting the District and its activities, and directing the Action Items associated with 2016 Goal 7.” Committees may call upon the District staff for assistance in compiling information, refining recommendations, and presenting information to the full Board.

**Update:** No meeting of the Education Committee was held during the month of February. Exhibit A represents the current Education Action Plan for 2021.

Staff have continued to work on education related activities including:

- *AV Upgrade:* Our Board Conference Room audio and visual upgrade has been completed and we have been very happy thus far with the upgrades, products, performance, and training.
- *Website:* Staff will be working with our original website designer to implement changes to the website framework and navigation and obtain training in the use of the Elementor software platform. The goals of this effort are to create a framework that is consistent, clean, and easy for our staff to operate and maintain.
- *Drought Outreach Campaign Slogan Contest:*  
The Drought Outreach Slogan Campaign will end on February 15<sup>th</sup>. To date we have received several good candidates for the slogan and will be deciding with the committee’s help in the coming weeks. This slogan will be used on yard signs, stickers, information cards, radio and newspaper ads, etc. to distribute withing the community to get the word out about the significance of our current drought conditions.
- *Participation in Gunnison WaterSMART Meeting:* Sonja and Beverly participated in the Gunnison WaterSMART meeting on February 1<sup>st</sup>. We had a very fruitful discussion with some of the participating municipalities about opportunities for partnership and outreach.
  - *Opportunities for Advertising our Community Water Ethic:* Work with STOR, Tourism Association, Gunnison Magazine, Crested Butte Magazine, etc. Work with landscape company to create a portfolio of what beautiful and water smart landscaping looks like.

- *Opportunities for addressing outdoor lawn irrigation water use:* Community outreach (year-round residents) and working with second homeowner property managers.
  - *Water and Sanitation:* Work with water and sanitation districts to provide outreach about possible methods that can be used to address drought conditions with conservation.
- *Instagram and other social media:* Director Fonken graciously shared her expertise and thoughts with staff on the use of Instagram in our education and outreach and conducted a little training with us as well. Regular updates have been posted on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram about the District's grant program and slogan contest.

**Exhibit A.**

2021 Education Action Plan				
Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District				
v. 01-25-21 (Subject to Change)				
UG 2021 Budget = \$34,000				
EDUCATIONAL FOCUS AREA	UPPER GUNNISON (\$)	Outside Funding	COMMITTEE LEAD	# Individuals Reached
<b>Annual On-Going</b>				
Advertising (Radio)	\$ 4,000		Team	500
Advertising (Newsprint)			Bev	
CB News	\$ 1,100		Sue	500
GC Times	\$ 1,180		Sue	1500
GCT Ad - 4H Ag Winners	\$ 160			
Silver World	\$ 960		Sue	100
Gunnison River Festival (June 12-13, or 26-27)	\$ 7,500		Joellen, Sonja, Jill	1500
Mini-Grants	\$ 2,000		Bev	200
Social Marketing Campaign	\$ 5,000		Team	5000
Mayors & Managers			Sonja	30
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$ 21,900</b>	<b>\$ -</b>		
<b>General Public Outreach</b>				
Collaboration w/Water Groups in Upper Gunnison	\$ 500		Bev	50
Website Framework Update (added 2-12-21)	\$ 3,000		Bev/Sue	
River Clean Up Program (Post River Festival?) - New Idea	\$ 1,500		Team	
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$ 5,000</b>			
<b>Elementary (K-5)</b>				
Swimming Classes	\$ 750		Bill	50
Water Book - GES 1st Grade (Move to Annual?)	\$ 1,020		Bill	100
Summer Experience - New Idea	\$ 500		Sue	30
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$ 3,770</b>			
<b>Middle School (6-8) - New Ideas</b>				
Eureka Science Center Tours	\$ 1,000		Sue	100
Taylor Challenge (August?: Always has a water component, incorporate educational piece)	\$ 250		Sue/Bev	100
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$ 1,250</b>			
<b>High School (9-12) - New Ideas</b>				
Water Smart Program - Kristal Brown (Env. Science)	\$ 250		Sue	20
Storymap Program - Matt Smith	\$ 250		Sue	20
Science Water Class	\$ 250		Sue	60
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$ 750</b>			
<b>Other Sponsorships</b>				
Cattlemen's Days Sponsorship at 4H Luncheon	\$ 500		Sue/Sonja	500
4H Sponsorship - Environmental Focus (New Idea)	\$ 250		Sue/Stacy	20
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$ 750</b>			
<b>GRAND TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$ 33,420</b>			<b>10,380</b>
<b>Balance Remaining (Manager's Discretion):</b>	<b>\$ 580.00</b>			

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** UGRWCD Board Members

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

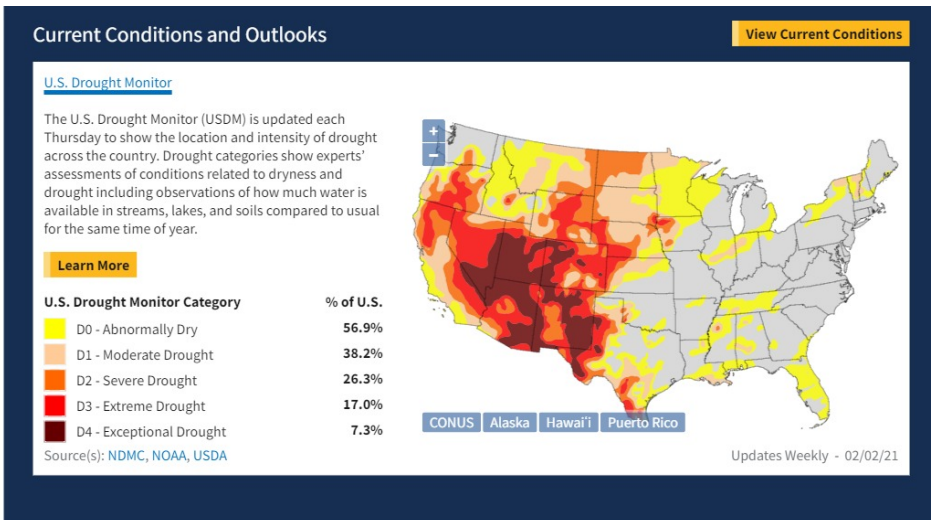
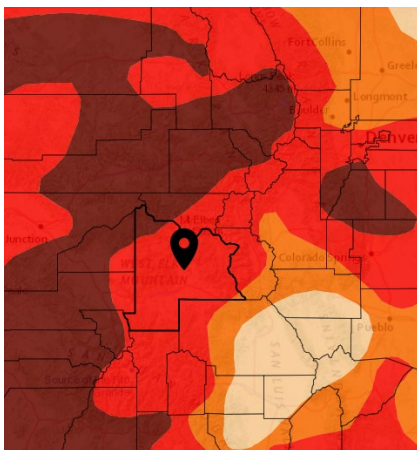
**DATE:** February 9, 2021

**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.

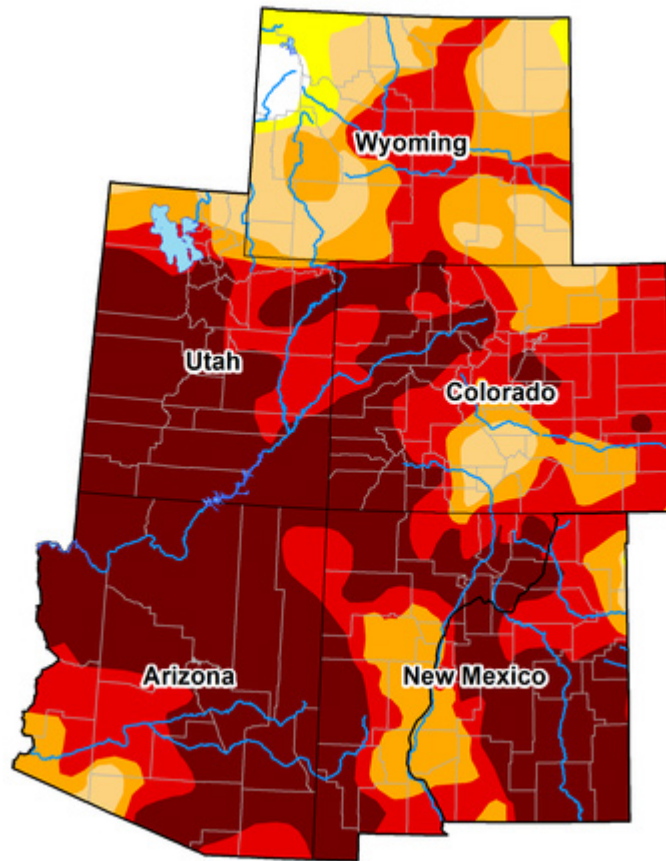
### **Drought Conditions:**

As of February 9, 2021, 71% of Colorado is in extreme (D3) and 25% in Exceptional (D4) drought conditions. This is reflected in the drought monitor map for Gunnison County. According to the *U.S. Drought Monitor at drought.gov*, 99% of Gunnison County is still in D3 conditions and these conditions have been in place since May 2020. Hinsdale County is 100% in D3 conditions, but Saguache County has improved as they are only 22% in extreme conditions and 51% in severe drought conditions. The current conditions map shows that drought persists in 46% of the entire country, ranging from moderate to exceptional drought conditions.



As far as the Intermountain West is concerned, most of the area has experienced low snow water equivalent (SWE) for this winter thus far. The upper Colorado River basin catchments are currently at 74% of the average (NRCS 1981-2010). Despite recent precipitation, exceptional to extreme drought persists over the entire area: 94% of the entire state of Arizona, 71% for Colorado, 82% for New Mexico, 90% for Utah, 26% of Wyoming.





*Drought Condition in Intermountain West Region*

### **Snowpack Information:**

According to the NRCS news release dated February 5, 2021, recent precipitation has brought the snowpack back up to 79% of normal for the entire Gunnison Basin, and to 77% of normal for the Upper Gunnison Basin. The entire state of Colorado is currently at 77% of normal so the entire state is continuing to experience these dry conditions. However, there are still two months left in the normal snow accumulation season, so there could potentially be changes to these numbers.

Reservoir storage in the Gunnison Basin is at 80% 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.

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

The Bureau of Reclamation provided us with the forecast for operations for the Aspinall Unit as of February 5, 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 and likely to remain dry through the Spring.

- Upper Gunnison Basin Snowpack: 77%
- Blue Mesa Forecasted Inflows: 470,000 AF
- Blue Mesa Current Conditions: 401,000 AF Content
- Projected Blue Mesa maximum fill: 576,000 AF Content

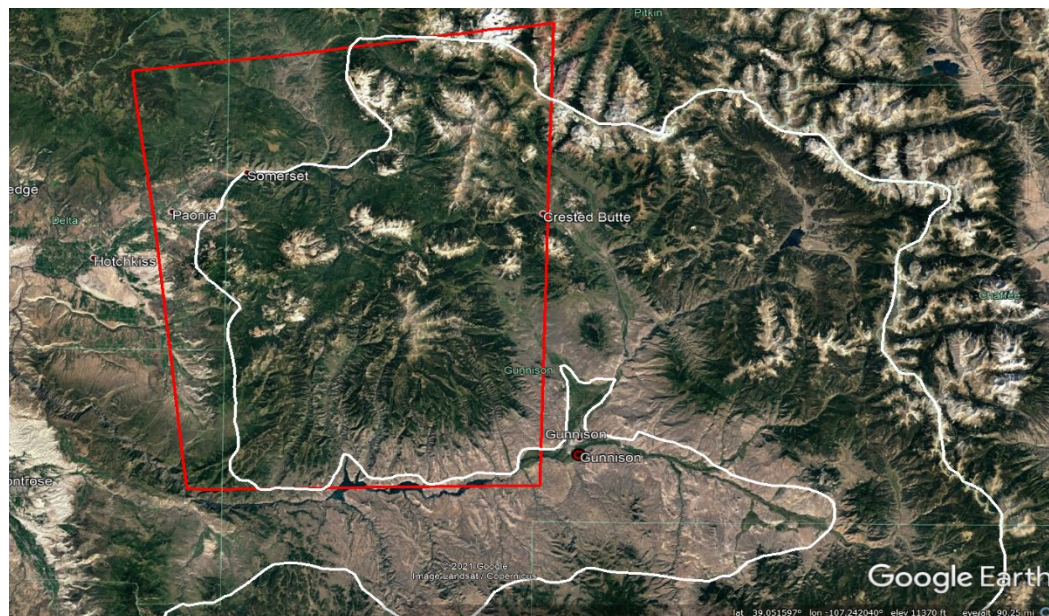
## **Taylor Park Reservoir Storage:**

The Bureau of Reclamation provided us with the Taylor Park Reservoir update report. The proposed operations plan uses the February 1, 2021 forecast. The forecast center is forecasting 72,000 acre-feet of runoff flowing into the reservoir which is 73% of average. This forecast would indicate that the year type is at the Dry Year category and could result in the reservoir only filling to 90,600 acre-feet which is 85% 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 will be held on March 10, 2021 at 10 a.m.

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

This report provides information about activities conducted by NAWC for January 2021. The highlights of the report are that there was a total of 248.75 hours of generator hours used in January for a total of 659.50 hours used to cloudseed in the Upper Basin this year. This resulted in a snow water equivalent accumulation ranging from .1 inches to .9 inches during the seeding events. Even though this has been the case, SWE in the Gunnison Basin remains below normal, with a basin-wide (upper and lower) average of 77% of normal and a precipitation average of 65% of normal.

On February 3, 2021, NAWC advised us they would be suspending seeding operations in the West Elks Range due to the increased avalanche danger in this area. The map below shows the area (highlighted in red) where this suspension occurred. NAWC said as a result we will likely not use the entire amount of generator hours originally budgeted.



*Upper Gunnison Target Area (NAWC)*

---

*Think Snow!*

---

# **AGENDA ITEM 8**

## **Scientific Endeavors Report**

# **AGENDA ITEM 8**

**Long Lake Stakeholder Work Group Update**

# **AGENDA ITEM 8**

**Gunnison River Festival Update**

# **AGENDA ITEM 9**

**Demand Management Framework Discussion**

## MEMORANDUM



**TO:** UGRWCD Board Members  
**FROM:** Sonja Chavez, General Manager  
**DATE:** February 16, 2021  
**SUBJECT:** Upper Gunnison District: Statement of Understanding of Demand Management

---

**Background:** Over the past twenty years, the Colorado River Basin has experienced on-going and persistent drought which has led to great uncertainty regarding our Colorado River Basin Water Supply. In addition, water storage levels in Lake Powell (Upper Colorado River Basin States “Storage Bucket” for Colorado River Compact Compliance) and Lake Mead continue to fall and are currently predicted to only reach 36% of full capacity in 2021. In 2019, the Colorado River Basin States and the United States, acting through Reclamation, agreed to developed Drought Contingency Plans (DCP) for each basin.

The Upper Basin DCP has two principal elements: 1) Reoperation of Upper Basin Reservoirs, and 2) Investigation of a potential Demand Management Program.

The Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB), Colorado River District, and the Upper Gunnison District have initiated investigations related to a potential voluntary, temporary, and compensated reduction in consumptive use.

### **Summary of Studies Completed:**

- *CWCB Phase 1 Investigation:* Identified and analyzed key threshold issues associated with Demand Management through the formation of Technical Work Groups.
- *CWCB Phase 2 Investigation:* Support the determination of whether Demand Management is feasible from Colorado’s perspective (i.e. Achievable? Worthwhile? Advisable?) (See attached)
- *Colorado River District Investigations:* Colorado River Compact Compliance Risk Studies (Phase 1-3B); Water Banking Feasibility; and Secondary Economic Impacts of Demand Management.
- *Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District:* Economic Impacts of Irrigation Water Curtailment Scenarios for the Upper Gunnison Basin (Harvey Economics).

**Issue:** To date, there is no formal statement from the Upper Gunnison District Board that represents our local concerns, questions, or preferences from our irrigators and water resource managers regarding Demand Management. A statement will be important to facilitate on-going discussions and priorities established by the Board, to include in our Watershed Management Plan (under development), and to provide to our constituents.

In 2018, Director Nania and Jesse Kruthaupt (Agricultural Coordinator for the WMP) created a document they entitled, *Local Concerns, Questions and Preferences from Irrigators and Water Resource Managers regarding Demand Management and Alternative Transfer Mechanisms* (See Attached). This document was never published or brought before the Upper Gunnison Board. This document along with the information we've gleaned from the Harvey Economic study could create the foundation for such an Upper Gunnison District *Statement of Understanding of Demand Management*. Please see attached.

**Recommendation for Board Action:** Direct the General Manager and General Counsel to develop an Upper Gunnison District *Statement of Understanding on Demand Management*.



CWCB Press Release

## **Demand Management Concepts Floated, Colorado Moves Forward with Investigation**

Thursday, January 28, 2021

During the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) Meeting on January 25, an update on the current and ongoing Demand Management Feasibility Investigation was presented, including reiteration of the state's guiding principles and the first steps of potential framework concepts for what a program could look like.

“The Demand Management Investigation remains an open, collaborative process, as we continue conversations with the Interbasin Compact Committee, Tribal Nations, non-governmental organizations, and stakeholders across the state,” said CWCB Director Rebecca Mitchell. “The big question is, can we design a program that creates a net benefit for Colorado and protects Colorado water users?”

The Step II Work Plan, which was approved in November 2020, aims to use information developed throughout the course of work done pursuant to the previous 2019 Work Plan to analyze whether a Demand Management program would be achievable, worthwhile, and advisable for Colorado as a whole.

The guiding principles articulated at the Board meeting include: Demand Management is not a foregone conclusion; The framework is not a program, but a point for discussion; Issues are explored in an open and collaborative manner including engagement with Tribal Nations; and a program would be run by the state for the benefit of the whole state and its water users.

As part of the Step II Work Plan, CWCB will develop strawman concepts based on a matrix of elements, which were identified by each of the eight workgroups last year.

At the Board meeting, staff presented on elements for Monitoring & Verification, Education & Outreach, and Environmental Considerations areas. These were presented as examples, as staff develops content relating to the other subject areas.

While no large-scale pilot programs will be implemented at this time, CWCB will soon begin looking at opportunities to use existing programs and funding sources to conduct smaller-scale demonstration projects that might help with on-the-ground learning. CWCB will also work to incorporate existing and ongoing projects and information into the framework.

A CWCB workshop will be scheduled in the near future to provide the next update on the feasibility analysis. Stay tuned for the date and time of this virtual event, which will be added to the CWCB Calendar.

FROM: Julie Nania, East River Watershed Coordinator  
Jesse Kruthaupt, Ohio Creek Watershed Coordinator  
RE: Local Concerns, Questions and Preferences from Irrigators and Water Resource  
Managers regarding Demand Management and Alternative Transfer Mechanisms  
DATE: November 10, 2018

## **I. Purpose and Overview**

The purpose of this memo is to share concerns from the Upper Gunnison Basin regarding demand management proposals and alternative water transfer mechanisms.<sup>1</sup> It is intended to inform policy discussion when contemplating a demand management program or flexible water use arrangements to be implemented on the Western Slope.

2018 has been a water short year in the Upper Gunnison Basin; this summer several rivers reached all-time low flow levels here. Across the West drought has inspired bold conversations about demand management and potential methods to create the water necessary to meet Colorado's delivery obligation to the lower basin states. Locally, stakeholders have been talking about demand management as a means to create conserved water for Colorado River Compact compliance and also as a means of potentially creating stored water to provide for local shortages.

For the past two years the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District (UGRWCD) has been engaging in watershed management planning to address a future that will likely involve increased water demand with less available water and changing hydrologic patterns (including earlier spring runoff). A substantial component of the planning process has involved interviewing local stakeholders about their concerns about current and future water availability and use in the Upper Gunnison Basin. Initial conversations with irrigators demonstrated that water users had a multitude of questions about how Colorado Compact obligations might impact the Upper Gunnison Basin. Stakeholder questions have ranged from requesting an overview of how the Upper Gunnison may be impacted (including how obligations might be enforced) to more specific questions about funding voluntary demand management programs, insuring against unanticipated impacts from implementation of these programs, and questions about how fallowing or deficit irrigation would impact crop production, etc..

To give context to demand management discussions at the UGRWCD Watershed Management Planning launch meeting John McClow gave a presentation about the

---

<sup>1</sup> In this memo, demand management is defined broadly to include demand management as discussed in the Upper Basin Drought Contingency Plan as well as other potential programs where participants voluntarily reduce consumptive use in exchange for compensation.

Colorado River Compact and Colorado's obligations therein.<sup>2</sup> This presentation spurred additional stakeholder and UGRWCD Board discussion about how curtailment could impact the Upper Gunnison Basin. The UGRWCD Board has continued to have conversations and raise concerns about how demand management might be implemented within UGRWCD boundaries.<sup>3</sup> In contrast, local water users have tended to bring up these topics when discussing agricultural "buy & dry", short term leasing, and when talking about drought in watershed management planning meetings and individual interviews.

In this memo we attempt to synthesize the opinions, questions, and concerns being discussed by stakeholders and Upper Gunnison water resource managers in the UGRWCD planning process. The discussion below has been informed by the following:

- Concerns and opinions shared by stakeholders during the UGRWCD watershed management planning process.
- Questions asked by Gunnison Basin roundtable members and meeting attendees during presentations relating to demand management.
- Conversations during the UGRWCD Board meetings and Watershed Management Planning Committee meetings about how to meet local irrigation shortages during drought and how demand management could potentially be implemented locally if necessary to meet Compact obligations.
- Discussions about demand management studies at Colorado Water Congress and the Gunnison Basin Roundtable.

## **II. Local Sentiment about Demand Management and Alternative Transfer Mechanisms**

Key concerns shared by water users in the Upper Gunnison Basin inform local conversations about demand management. First is the notion that Western Slope agriculture has a target on its back as a potential source of water supplies for Front Range municipalities and to meet Colorado's delivery obligations to Lake Powell. Second is the discussion of equity; this discussion includes the notion that if the Western Slope is required to conserve water to meet downstream obligations that the Front Range should be required to conserve an equal amount. Third is the general concern that demand management programs will harm neighboring water users. The purpose behind such programs is important as well; local water users also are more likely to consider participating in demand management programs designed to avoid curtailment and/or meet

---

<sup>2</sup> This meeting was held in Gunnison and attended by approximately 130 stakeholders.

<sup>3</sup> Some of the information included in this memo has been inspired by topics addressed publicly during Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy Board meetings or Watershed Management Planning Committee meetings. However, information discussed during confidential executive sessions has been excluded from this memo.

local shortages than they are if the program is designed to provide additional water supplies for lower basin states that “have grown beyond their means.”

#### **a. Western Slope Agriculture Has a Target on its Back**

After the release of the Colorado Water Plan in 2015, agricultural producers expressed serious concern that Colorado’s future deficit in water supplies will be satisfied almost exclusively by Western Slope irrigation water. Agricultural users are hyper-aware that buy and dry is the preferred method of water acquisition across the state; although ATMs are being promoted as a means to avoid drying up farming and ranching communities, there is concern that any use of ATMs will result in an irreversible and permanent transfer of water out of agriculture. Certain types of ATMs are preferred to others, as they are seen as more likely to preserve agriculture on the Western Slope. These preferences are discussed below in Section IV.

#### **b. Western Slope v. Front Range**

There is general agreement that any conservation effort should be met by reciprocal efforts from the Front Range. When demand management pilot project requests come from the Front Range, irrigators tend to respond that Denver and other Front Range municipalities need to first implement aggressive conservation and efficiency measures before requesting any additional water supply from the Western Slope. Many of our water users recall fighting trans-mountain diversion projects during the 1990s and view demand management as just another means to compensate for overuse of water on the Front Range. During conversations about reducing our consumptive use, irrigators argue that Front Range municipalities should reduce municipal consumptive use through eliminating lawn irrigation and increased efficiency to meet growing demand before pursuing water from West Slope agriculture. To gather support for a basin-wide demand management scheme, the proponents would need to demonstrate equivalent efforts going on in the Front Range.

#### **c. Avoiding Harm to Neighbors**

Perhaps the most common concern expressed by Western Slope irrigators is whether they will be harmed by neighbors participating in ATMs and/or demand management programs. If my neighbor elects to fallow some of his acreage, will my adjacent operation be impacted by weeds, ditch carrying capacity, a loss of return flows? Although a “no harm” principle is easy to agree to in the abstract, it is far more difficult to achieve in implementation and is often remedied after the damage has been done.<sup>4</sup> What about economies of scale- will

---

<sup>4</sup> When water users seek to change their water use, they are required to demonstrate that the change will not harm other water users. A significant part of this analysis is determining how the change of use will

widespread participation in demand management programs increase the cost of doing business locally? Similarly, ranchers are concerned about potential impacts to their neighbors if they elect to participate in these efforts. Specific questions about localized impacts are discussed further below in Section III.

#### **d. Purpose Matters**

Most often ATMs are used to meet the demands of growing municipalities. However, they can also be used to meet local shortages (to other water users or for environmental flows), as a means to meet Colorado River Compact obligations, or to reduce the likelihood of a call. There is a sentiment that participating in demand management and ATMs is more valid if it is to avoid more drastic local impacts such as potential impacts from curtailment or from local water shortages from drought. Programs designed to provide water for downstream municipalities or for lower basin states (in excess of delivery obligations) were viewed less favorably.

Irrigators are more open to consider participating in ATMs that would satisfy local needs. For instance, there are substantial irrigation dry-ups across the Upper Gunnison Basin. At select locations, ATMs could be used to transfer water to other agricultural users. Irrigators seem more willing to participate in alternative transfer mechanisms and demand management programs designed to meet Compact obligations or to protect against local irrigation shortages.

UGRWCD water users are more skeptical of proposed demand management that would be designed to provide additional water to downstream states. West Slope irrigators often express the sentiment that because the lower basin has overdeveloped, it must bear the brunt of reducing this water consumption to a sustainable amount. Irrigators appear less enthusiastic to participate in demand management programs designed to satisfied needs of lower basin states than programs designed to avoid curtailment by satisfying Colorado's fill obligations.

#### **e. Concern over Permanence and Misappropriation of Water**

A necessary component of any demand management strategy is creating storage for banking conserved water. This storage could be local, to provide for local shortages, or in

---

impact irrigation return flows. In some instances, implementing ATMs would also require that the action be assessed to assure that it does not harm other users. However, many externalities may not be included in the traditional concept of harm (such as noxious weed issues). Furthermore, the type of alternative transfer might not include these protections.

Lake Powell or another CSP reservoir.<sup>5</sup> This has raised concern amongst Western Slope agriculture that once water is deposited into an account, it may be misappropriated for purposes other than for fulfilling Compact obligations.

There is a similar notion that once water is conserved for one purpose, it will demonstrate that the same source of water may be available at the right price for other uses- including for Front Range municipalities. For decades the Western Slope of Colorado has fought against trans-basin diversions that would deplete water that sustains our local fisheries and provides for Western Slope agriculture. There is a concern that if Western Slope irrigators participate in demand management- freeing up water that would otherwise be used consumptively for growing crops- that it would demonstrate that water is available for trans-basin diversions.

Despite these concerns, key water policy players in the Gunnison Basin recognize that storage will be an essential component of buffering against curtailment. There is vocal support for creating sideboards to control development of the additional storage. Specific provisions restricting the creation of this pool to uses exclusive to meeting curtailment needs could alleviate some of the concern expressed by local stakeholders and stakeholders on the Western Slope. Irrigators also seem like they would be more amenable to storage that is local. For instance, in general discussions about potential storage options, Blue Mesa was preferable to CSP units farther down river.

### **III. Questions about Implementation of ATMs and Demand Management**

There have been numerous presentations to the UGRWCD, Gunnison Basin Roundtable, and the Colorado Water Conservation Board about how demand management programs may be structured. These presentations routinely provide information on large-scale implementation concerns, such as where conserved waters will be stored and how conserved water may be shepherded across state boundaries. However, these presentations rarely offer answers about how these projects will impact the local irrigators that provide the conserved water. Studies conducted by CSU, the Nature Conservancy, and other universities have begun to offer initial responses to some of irrigators' questions. Nonetheless, there remain substantive unanswered questions about the implementation, effectiveness, and risks of proposed demand management programs for the individual participating irrigators. Some of these questions are shared below.

---

<sup>5</sup> Un-equalized storage in Lake Powell has been discussed in several forums.

### **a. Impacts from fallowing or deficit irrigation**

As discussed above, irrigators are concerned that implementing ATMs will have unanticipated localized impacts on their neighbors and communities. The following questions and concerns were raised by Upper Gunnison Basin water users:

- Shared ditches/flow. If my neighbor fallows, will there be enough head in the ditch to convey my water to my fields?
- Loss of irrigation induced ground water charge can negatively impact adjoining fields as well as domestic wells/springs. How do you mitigate these impacts?
- How will this project control weeds?
- If too many of my neighbors participate in these programs, will there be less infrastructure/supporting systems for my operation? (economies of scale)
- Can we adequately assess how fallowing or deficit irrigation will impact return flows?
- How will different irrigation practices impact my crop yield once I return to irrigating in subsequent years? Is there a significant difference between a full season of fallowing and a partial season?
- Measurement and verification?
- Roots access to ground water in the valley bottoms (some ET without irrigation)
- Is there enough water to have an impact? Volume of consumptive use in the Upper Gunnison is not immense. Conserved CU may be even less in low areas (roots access to ground water) where some ET continues w/out irrigation.

#### **The Wilder Ranch**

The Wilder Ranch is a ranch/housing development. Pasture on the property is leased to a rancher who uses the land and associated water right for hay cropping. During development of the housing component of the Ranch the land was fallowed for one year. When Don Sabrowski resumed irrigation on the property it took several years for production to return to normal.

### **b. Unforeseen impacts: who bears the burden?**

Any new demand management program would likely have unanticipated impacts on local operations. For instance, crop production may not rebound on a parcel as quickly as anticipated. Implementing conservation during drought years may put additional pressure on pastures and hay costs locally. While learning through pilot projects could help to reduce these risks, it will be impossible to eliminate risks completely. Who will bear the cost of unforeseen impacts? Would the irrigator bear the burden of reduced production, or would the entity sponsoring the demand management project?

Recommendation: Until there is more experience in implementing these projects, demand management programs should bear the risk of unanticipated impacts.

### **c. Compensation**

In discussions about curtailment, local stakeholders had numerous questions about compensation and funding demand management programs. Stakeholders had the following questions:

- What are municipalities willing to pay for my water?
- What is California willing to pay for my water? Will compensation change depending on the customer?
- What is the value of environmental benefits associated with irrigation (wildlife, springs, and bolstered baseflows from irrigation returns)?
- Will the cost of leasing water be tied to commodity prices? If so, how?
- How can we use ATMs to stabilize farm revenue?
- Will the payment be enough to offset 2-3 years of reduced yield?
- How will ag stay competitive if the alternative is to lease water for more revenue than what irrigating for hay/pasture can bring in. What side boards should be in place for a program?

## **IV. Preferences**

In local discussions water users and water resource managers have shared certain preferences for different types of ATMs, or elements of design for proposed demand management programs.

### **a. ATMs and Agreements that Keep Water in Agriculture are Preferable**

The term alternative transfer mechanism, or “ATM”, refers to a range of methods or strategies to transfer water from agriculture for a period of time (temporary or periodically).<sup>6</sup> They are called “alternative” because they offer an alternative to the permanent agricultural buy and dry. These transfer mechanisms provide joint benefits to municipal and agricultural water users. Water that is conserved through these methods can be applied to other uses (i.e. municipal need or moving water to meet downstream obligations).

Certain types of ATMs are received better than others by local irrigators. For instance, 3 out of 10-year leases, a form of interruptible water supply agreements, are received favorably as the water remains on the land and in agriculture for the majority of the duration of the

---

<sup>6</sup> For the purpose of this memo fallowing agreements are included in this category, whether or not the fallowing is accompanied by a lease.



agreement. These leases have the additional advantage that they are approved by the State Engineer's Office and allow the water right holder to exercise the lease without water court approval. Split season leasing has similar advantages, with the added benefit of allowing the irrigator to make the best of a first haying in dry seasons while turning off irrigation early later in the season instead of struggling for a mediocre second haying. However, the transaction costs of this type of agreement would be much higher and the consumptive use savings may not be sufficient to justify these costs; thus, it's less likely that irrigators would be interested in pursuing it.

Rotational fallowing is also discussed favorably, as it allows the irrigator to continue some production while transferring the amount of water they save consumptively to another user. However, even while this might be a good fit due to operational considerations, there was some concerns about potentially high transaction costs. Deficit irrigation seemed to be the most feasible method to conserve water under current conditions. However, irrigators pointed out that with warming temperatures, crops will likely require additional ET to satisfy their growth needs. Finally, crop switching was generally unfavorable, as the primary crop grown in the Upper Gunnison is hay to feed cattle. Because our agricultural community is predominantly a ranching community, hay is a necessary part of the production chain.

**b. Water Users would prefer a Demand Management Program that is Designed and Implemented Locally**

One common concern discussed is that a demand management plan designed by the State of Colorado or another less local authority would overlook local concerns and considerations. When discussing what entity should design and implement a demand management program, Western Slope stakeholders prefer local implementation. Allowing local conservancy districts to create appropriate regulations for conserving water was largely preferred to statewide programs for water conservation.

Recommendation: Allow local conservancy districts to develop rules for creating bankable, conserved water.

**V. Potential Recommendations**

**a. Legislation to facilitate UGRWCD lease-fallowing pilot projects**

Given that there are substantial questions and concerns about how ATMs and demand management schemes will be implemented on the ground, there is a need for continued implementation of pilot projects across the state. Local irrigators expressed a strong preference for implementation of local pilot projects to better reflect soil conditions, climate, and local administration. The UGRWCD is willing to participate in targeted pilot

projects to begin addressing some of the questions raised about demand management herein.

Recommendation: Advocate for legislation that allows the UGRWCD to participate in pilot projects.

**b. Legislation to amend Colorado's definition of beneficial use**

It could be useful to amend Colorado's definition of a beneficial use to include water conserved to meet Colorado Compact obligations.

Recommendation: Consider whether it could be useful to amend Colorado's definition of beneficial water uses to include conserved water to meet Colorado Compact obligations.

# **AGENDA ITEM 10**

## **Miscellaneous Matters**

## MEMORANDUM



**TO:** UGRWCD Board Members  
**FROM:** Sonja Chavez, General Manager  
**DATE:** February 16, 2021  
**SUBJECT:** District Payment of Expenses Process

---

**I. Non-Operating Expense Payment Process:** District staff have historically waited to pay non-operating expenses until they received Board approval at our regular monthly board meetings per their interpretation of the Board Financial and Investment Policy (explicitly Section 1.2.3 and 1.2.4 below).

**II. Issue:** Because of the incorrect interpretation of the policy by staff and the timeline between invoice receipt, project management review of expenses, payment processing, and the next regular Board packet development, some non-operating expense are not getting paid in a timely manner. In addition, the timing between our last meeting of the year (e.g., December 9, 2020) and our next Regular Board meeting of the new year (e.g., January 23, 2021) meant some non-operating expenses were getting paid late which is not an acceptable practice.

### ***Financial and Investment Policy (Banking and Funds Management)***

**1.2 Operating Account.** *The District shall establish an operating account in a banking institution within the boundaries of the District that is an eligible public depository for payment of operating and non-operating expenses, as defined by the budget. 1.2.1 The officers of the District (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer) and the General Manager shall be authorized signatories on the operating account.*

*1.2.2 All disbursements from the operating account shall require two signatures. No authorized signatory may sign a check payable to herself or himself.*

*1.2.3 Each month, the Office Manager, under the supervision of the General Manager, shall prepare an itemization of current operating expenses paid **and non-operating expenses incurred** for that month and deliver it to the Board of Directors in their monthly meeting packets.*

*1.2.4 At each regular meeting, the Board **shall review and approve the itemization of expenses for payment in such amounts as the Board deems appropriate.***

*1.2.5 The Office Manager, under the supervision of the General Manager, is authorized to transfer sufficient funds to pay current expenses from one or more holding accounts to the operating account.*

### **III. Clarification of Policy with Board**

- A. Consistent with the above policy and interpretation by General Counsel, non-operating expenses already explicitly identified in our approved District Annual Non-Operating Expense Budget (e.g., Cloudseeding - \$35,000), do not require approval for payment at the monthly Board meeting as they have already been authorized by the Board.
- B. Consistent with the above policy and interpretation by General Counsel, non-operating expenses that are *not* explicitly identified by line item in our Annual District Non-Operating Expense Budget, require authorization from the Board for payment of expenses, unless the General Manager requests authorization from the Board (e.g., Transfer of \$36,960 of WMP funds to the Outcalt No.2 & GTVA Single Point of Diversion Project; August 24, 2020, Regular Board Meeting).

### **IV. Additional Steps for Improving our Timeline for Payment of District Expenses**

- A. The General Manager and District Accountant have established that every Friday the District will process invoices for payment (i.e. cut checks). Establishing a regular practice allows staff to improve workflow and payment timeline.
- B. Staff would also like to ask local Directors who are check-signers to work on a monthly rotating basis to come to the District office once per week (e.g., Monday or Tuesday) to sign checks in order to help streamline our financial payment processes.

# Reports

## Monthly Energy Production Report

Generated for Beverly Richards  
on 02/12/2021

### UGRWCD

Gunnison, CO

This report provides energy production for February.

Week	Peak Power	Energy Produced
02/01/2021 - 02/07/2021	5,870 W	158.90 kWh
02/08/2021 - 02/14/2021	5,864 W	95.99 kWh
02/15/2021 - 02/21/2021	0 W	0.00 kWh
02/22/2021 - 02/28/2021	0 W	0.00 kWh
February 2021 Total:		254.88 kWh
Previous Month Total:		380.07 kWh
Year to Date:		634.95 kWh
Lifetime Production:		15,077.26 kWh

Your **Carbon Offset** for this month: 388.0 lbs

You have offset the equivalent of: **5 Trees**



### Browser not supported

Use Microsoft Edge, Google Chrome, Firefox or Safari to access the fresh new look of MyEnlighten with the exciting new features.

Ok, Got It



## U.S. Department of the Interior News Release

Date: Thursday, Feb. 11, 2021  
Contact: [Interior\\_Press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov)

### Interior Announces Plans to Strengthen LWCF

*New Order Revokes Policy Actions That Undermined Bipartisan Conservation Program*

**WASHINGTON** — The Interior Department today took steps to strengthen the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) by rescinding Trump administration policies that significantly undermined the landmark conservation program. [Secretarial Order 3396](#) revokes an order signed on November 9, 2020 (Secretarial Order 3388) that unilaterally imposed new restrictions to inhibit the availability of LWCF funding for federal land and water acquisitions.

"The Land and Water Conservation Fund has been crucial to protecting public lands, conserving wildlife habitats and improving access to outdoor recreation. Interior's actions today affirm our support for one of America's most successful and popular conservation programs," said **Shannon A. Estenoz, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary - Fish and Wildlife and Parks**. "We look forward to further strengthening this successful program to ensure that all communities – from hikers and sportsmen to urban and underserved communities – have access to nature and the great outdoors."

In addition to rescinding the November 2020 Bernhardt policy, Secretarial Order 3396 instructs the National Park Service to revise the *Land and Water Conservation Fund Assistance Manual* to remove the restrictive policies implemented in the previous order, and to reinstate pre-existing implementation of the LWCF state assistance program and Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) program. The ORLP program is the only LWCF competitive grant program dedicated to addressing the recreational gap in underserved urban areas.

Since its inception in 1965, the LWCF has funded \$4 billion worth of projects in every county in the country. Last year, Congress permanently funded the LWCF at \$900 million per year with wide bipartisan support. At no cost to taxpayers, the LWCF [supports](#) increased public access to and protection for federal public lands and waters – including national parks, forests, wildlife refuges, and recreation areas – and provides matching grants to state and tribal governments for the acquisition and development of public parks and other outdoor recreation sites.

###

---

#### About the U.S. Department of Interior

The Department of the Interior (DOI) conserves and manages the Nation's natural resources and cultural heritage for the benefit and enjoyment of the American people, provides scientific and other information about natural resources and natural hazards to address societal challenges and create opportunities for the American people, and honors the Nation's trust responsibilities or special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and affiliated island communities to help them prosper.



44°

LOCAL NEWS

## Bennet Announces Western Climate Resilience Framework Carefully Crafted by Coloradans



**Posted: / Updated:**

**WASHINGTON D.C.** — Today, Colorado U.S. Senator Michael Bennet announced a framework of Western climate resilience priorities carefully crafted by leaders in



Bennet initially convened this group, known as the Bennet Western Climate Resilience Roundtable, in November 2020 to develop a collaborative, consensus-driven set of priorities for Western climate resilience. Yesterday, members of the roundtable presented their final framework to Bennet, who plans to use it to drive his policy work in the U.S. Senate and as he works with the Biden Administration on its national climate strategy.

“The terrific work this group has done to reimagine climate policy is already informing my team’s work. I plan to share their framework with my colleagues in the Senate and the Biden Administration to help them understand why climate resilience is so important to Colorado and the rest of the Mountain West,” **said Bennet**. “I will do my part to ensure these priorities are part of every discussion going forward about climate and the country’s economy. I think this framework will be an important tool to demonstrate to the country that climate change isn’t a future condition in the West—it’s here now. And the survival of our economy and our way of life depends on tackling this challenge.”

“There is no debate that Climate change presents real and unacceptable risks to our water security and our way of life in the West. If Coloradans from all walks of life can come together to agree on durable solutions that address the challenge, then our leaders in Washington should have no problem doing the same,” **said Andy Mueller, Chair, Bennet Western Climate Resilience Roundtable**. “We truly appreciate Senator Bennet convening this group of Coloradans with diverse perspectives to develop a consensus around these durable policies to help our communities become more resilient in the face of climate change.”

**The Bennet Western Climate Resilience Roundtable framework emphasizes three primary priorities for Western climate resilience:**

- Supporting healthy soils, forests, rangeland, rivers, and watersheds will make our communities more resilient and help maximize the climate mitigation potential of western landscapes.
- Our climate resilience is dependent on a thorough and science-based understanding of actions needed to sustainably adapt to and mitigate climate change.

**Actions Bennet is already taking based on the Western Climate Resilience Roundtable's work:**

- Last week, Bennet [urged](#) the Biden Administration to prioritize locally-driven economic development solutions for communities transitioning away from fossil fuels.
- In the coming weeks, Bennet will [reintroduce](#) his legislation to invest \$60 billion in forest and watershed restoration across the West.

**Members of the Bennet Western Climate Resilience Roundtable include:**

**Chair: Andy Mueller**, *General Manager, Colorado River District*

**Steve Anderson**, *Farmer, Olathe, Manager of Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association*

**Steve Beckley**, *Owner of Glenwood Canyon Adventure Park and Iron Mountain Hotsprings*

**Leland Begay**, *Associate General Counsel, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe*

**Paul Bruchez**, *Rancher, Grand County*

**Sonja Chavez**, *General Manager, Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District*

44°

**Russ George**, Director, Colorado River Basin Compact Committee

**Jon Goldin Dubois**, President, Western Resource Advocates

**Bryan Hannegan**, President and Chief Executive Officer, Holy Cross Energy

**Jonathan Houck**, Gunnison County Commissioner

**Merrit Linke**, Grand County Commissioner

**Jim Lochhead**, CEO, Denver Water

**Becky Mitchell**, Director, Colorado Water Conservation Board

**Kelly Nordini**, Executive Director, Conservation Colorado

**Kathy Rall**, Water Resources Division Head, Southern Ute Indian Tribe

**Sarah Shrader**, Owner and Co-Founder, Bonsai Design

**Bruce Talbott**, Orchard/Vineyard Manager, Talbott's Mountain Gold

Download the Bennet Western Climate Resilience Roundtable's framework [HERE](#).

## **Partners**

"The drought and fire events of last summer made our circumstances of a changing world very apparent. It is time for action and partnership to build a sustainable future in the West," **said Paul Bruchez, a 5th generation rancher in Grand County.**

"The Upper Gunnison District appreciates Senator Bennet's leadership in starting this important conversation about western climate resilience, **said Sonja Chavez, General Manager, Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District.** "Being a rural, high mountain, Western headwaters community, we are highly susceptible to

“Producing new scientific understandings about how climate change will impact our natural resources and communities is critical, but is only half the story. Involving leaders and stakeholders across sectors in co-producing and applying relevant science is essential to crafting workable solutions on the ground,” **said Tony Cheng, Director, Colorado Forest Restoration Institute, CSU.**

“Building resilience in the face of climate change is about protecting our way of life in Colorado, our rivers, forests, farms and ranches, our homes and our communities,” **said Jon Goldin Dubois, President, Western Resource Advocates.** “By bringing together this group of people from around the state, representing various interests and sectors of the economy, Senator Bennet has helped us come to consensus around principles for smart investments in clean energy, stewarding our natural resources and clean energy infrastructure that will ensure our livelihoods and a strong Colorado economy for the future.”

“We as a group recognized we were in an urgent circumstance, that we needed to do something now,” **said Russ George, Director, Colorado Inter-Basin Compact Committee.** “This effort is the right approach because it starts at home with the local people who will be affected by the work. This process proved that though we come from different backgrounds and have different sets of political beliefs, we can work on the most significant issues of the day and actually agree.

“Climate variability and change affects every aspect of life for the communities and members we serve in Western Colorado,” **said Bryan Hannegan, President and CEO of Holy Cross Energy,** one of the State’s 22 rural electric cooperatives. “Smart investments today in infrastructure, training and education can help our communities adapt and become more resilient to the changes we will face in the coming decades in ways that will be just and equitable for all”

mountains, rangelands, rivers and watersheds, we are not only protecting our future we are becoming thoughtful stewards of our natural environment. I applaud Senator Bennet for uniting state and regional leaders to develop Western climate resilience in a meaningful way. Gunnison County, a headwaters county, is eager to reign in climate change and lead on meaningful change along with Senator Bennet.”

“We really had to look at the big picture here, and I think we’ve done that. The priorities here affect everything—forest health, watersheds, agriculture, and climate,” **said Merrit Linke, Grand County Commissioner.** “We need an updated, science-based approach to managing our forests. Our approach over the last several decades hasn’t worked, the fires we had in Grand County last fall showed us that.”

“Climate change is one of our greatest 21st century water challenges, but the solutions aren’t limited to water. By taking a range of targeted actions that focus on jobs, rural communities, economics, infrastructure, technology, tribal partnerships, science, landscape protection, healthy watersheds and system resilience, we can be better prepared for the threats climate change poses to our way of life in the West. These priorities can guide legislation and policy to marshal the enormous support and resources necessary for the heavy work ahead of us,” **said Jim Lochhead, CEO, Denver Water.**

“Recent wildfires and drought remind us that climate change is already here and hurting Coloradans. If we’re going to avoid its worst impacts and leave a legacy for our children and grandchildren, we need to lead through bold climate action rooted in environmental justice that meets our climate goals, protects public health, and creates clean energy jobs,” **said Kelly Nordini, Executive Director, Conservation Colorado.**

“Water is essential for the federally recognized tribes in Colorado” **said Kathy Rall.**

44°

“This effort is as much about building economic resilience as it is about climate resilience. We need the federal government to be a partner as we work to build a stronger future for our rural communities,” **said Sarah Shrader, Owner and Co-Founder, Bonsai Design.**

“Watersheds and aging water infrastructure have been taken for granted in the west and it is my hope that with this renewed focus and commitment to recovering and rebuilding them that we can maintain healthy communities here for the foreseeable future,” **said Bruce Talbott, Orchard/Vineyard Manager, Talbott’s Mountain Gold.**

Copyright 2021 Nexstar Inc. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed.

### SHARE THIS STORY

### AROUND THE WEB

 revcontent.



#### A Regular Mistake when Cars Are Driven Under 50 Miles a Day

AutoInsurance.com



#### Colorado Drivers with No DUI's Are Getting a Big Pay Day in February

Smart Lifestyle Trends







A DIFFERENT  
WAY TO FAME  
FEATURE, A17

# GUNNISON COUNTRY TIMES

50¢  
Vol. 140, No. 4  
Thursday,  
January 28,  
2021

OPINION A23-A26

CLASSIFIEDS A28-A31

OBITUARIES A3-A4

ONLINE GUNNISONTIMES.COM



Bella Biondini

## Good enough for gold?

Fishing guide Evan Hammans casts a line into the Gunnison River near McCabes Lane on Monday. Colorado Parks and Wildlife is mulling over whether to designate the Gunnison mainstem and the Taylor River as Gold Medal Waters, a label given to the state's top trout streams. Read more on A15.

## Water cuts cause unequal pain

CB would go brown before Gunnison, study finds

Sam Liebl  
Times Editor

Millions of dollars, thousands of cattle and ranches converted to development — these would be among the costs in the Gunnison Valley should drought prompt water restrictions under the Colorado River Compact.

Curtailed costs A14

## City to see upgrades soon

Ohio Avenue and IOOF Park on docket

Roberta Marquette  
Times Staff Writer

A grant awarded to the City of Gunnison has pushed forward renovations aimed at making Ohio Avenue a cycling and pedestrian corridor between

City council A11

## COVID cases keep climbing



Sam Liebl

Public Health Director Joni Reynolds gave an update on COVID-19 and the rollout of vaccines Tuesday.

Positives exceed summer numbers

Kate Gienapp  
Times Staff Writer

Gunnison County is in what public health officials call an "elevated plateau" when it comes to COVID-19 cases.

"Where we are is double where we were in August," said Public Health Director Joni Reynolds during a COVID-19 update with the Gunnison County Board of Commissioners this week.

Those figures are also reflected across the state, which reported an estimated 20% increase in positive cases after the holiday season.

COVID cases A8

**BE A TRUSTED ADULT** Practice talking to young people about their feelings

ASK: What do you think about that?  
How did that make you feel?



**GUNNISON VALLEY MENTORS**  
PARTNERS

For more information about Mentors and Trusted Adults, call GVM at 970-641-5513.

[www.gunnisonmentors.com](http://www.gunnisonmentors.com)

**MOUNTAIN LEGACY**  
VETERINARY CENTER

**February is  
National Pet Dental Health Month**

**DOES YOUR  
PET HAVE  
BAD BREATH?**

Neglected dental issues can lead to Periodontal disease, a common dental condition among dogs and cats that can lead to heart disease.

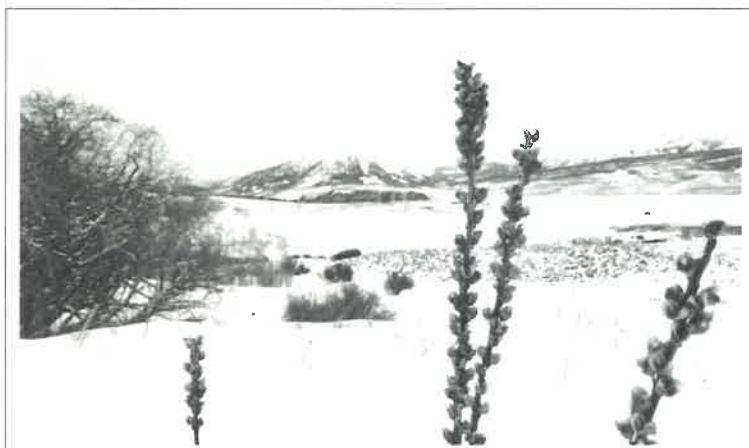
**25%  
OFF**

- Dental Cleanings and Procedures (includes In Office Dental Exam & Pre-Anesthetic Bloodwork)
- Horse Dentals (includes Wellness Exam & Sedation)

\* Exams and lab work must be performed no later than February 28th for special pricing.  
\*\* Patients must have dental exam prior to any anesthetic dental procedures if they have not been seen by our doctors within the past 6 months

Mention this Ad when scheduling

Call our office at 970-611-2215 to schedule your dental exams or procedures  
1525 HWY 135, Gunnison CO • M-F 8am-5pm • Sat 9am-12pm  
reception@mountainlegacyvet.com



Kate Gienapp

## Carbon Peak in clouds

After three weeks of high pressure, a winter storm pushed through the Gunnison Valley this past weekend, bringing much needed snow. A few inches of fluff stacked up at Mill Creek while Carbon Peak and the Kebler Pass area recorded around a foot.

**SHONDECK**  
Financial Services & Insurance

Offering a comprehensive variety of  
**PERSONAL & COMMERCIAL INSURANCE**

 **Scott Shondeck**

**AUTO**

- Personal/Commercial
- RV
- Motorcycle/ATV
- SR-22

**HOME**

- Primary Residence
- Secondary
- Renters
- Hard to Insure Properties - Cobins, Condos, Rentals, VRBO's

**Give us a call for a quote today!**

**970-641-4700**

114 N. Boulevard St. Suites 102 & 105 Gunnison  
Local Service Since 1994.

## Curtailment costs from A1

The findings come from a study commissioned by the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District and completed by the Denver research firm Harvey Economics. One of the researchers, Edward Harvey, presented the results to the Gunnison Basin Roundtable on Jan. 18.

The impacts of a water rights curtailment under the compact, known as a "compact call," have been contemplated since Colorado and six other Southwestern states signed the accord in 1922. But the study makes current and quantitative estimates as to how a reduction in water supplies would impact agriculture, recreation and the broader Gunnison Valley economy.

Three-quarters of the water rights for irrigation in the Gunnison Valley are junior to the 1922 compact. The headgates associated with those rights, therefore, could be shut off if a drought prompted the Lower Colorado River Basin states of Nevada, Arizona and California to demand that more water flow downstream.

The consequences of reduced irrigation would have modest effects on ranching if the cut-back in water was only 30% and lasted for one to three years. But more severe curtailments in water rights could trigger "tipping points" in which ranchers decide that their businesses are no longer viable and that they would be better off selling their land for development.

"The 'tipping point' as defined in the study is when a rancher finally throws up his or her hands and says, 'It doesn't make any more sense to go forward with this ranching operation,'" Harvey said.

Based on interviews and surveys with ranching operations in different parts of the valley, Harvey Economics found that the tipping point occurred when irrigation water was cut back by 50% for three years. In that scenario,

half of the ranches in the valley would quit the business. A 100% reduction lasting longer than one year would be similarly devastating.

In contrast, many ranches could withstand a 30% reduction in irrigation water for one year. If that reduction were to last for five years, the number of irrigated acres would go down by about 5% each year and the number of cow-calf pairs would decrease by 4% each year. While those numbers seem minor, they would wipe out ranches' bottom line with a 123% decrease in net profit.

But the pain would not be felt evenly throughout the valley. Owing to how business models and water rights vary between watersheds, the East River Valley would be hit much harder by a compact call than, for instance, the Tomichi Creek Valley. Consequently, hay meadows from Sargents to Gunnison would stay lush while lands near Crested Butte would go brown under some of the scenarios analyzed in the study.

"There are big differences in response to curtailment," Harvey told roundtable members.

With regards to hay production and cattle inventory, the worst hit by a 30% water rights curtailment for three years would be the valleys of the East River, Cebolla Creek, the Lake Fork and the Taylor.

With their older, and therefore less vulnerable, water rights, ranches along Tomichi Creek, Ohio Creek, Cochetopa Creek and the Gunnison River mainstem would come through a three-year, 30% curtailment with hardly a scratch.

But the entire valley would feel the pain from longer, more severe curtailments. After a 50% reduction for five years, there would be a negative financial impact on the valley of \$25 million. After a 100% reduction for the same time period, there would be a negative impact of \$44 million.

An unknown in Harvey Economics' equations was the "residual effects" of curtailment, the indirect impacts on things like soil, infrastructure, conflicts with wildlife conservation

contracts and cattle herd decision. The firm estimated that the residual effects would add costs of 10% to the first year of a 30% curtailment, with those costs increasing by 5% each subsequent year.

But Harvey, as well as General Manager of the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District Sonja Chavez, said that was likely a low-ball estimate.

"It's interesting to go back in the 2018-2020 period, which is pretty dry, and to look at what the impacts to producers were. Bill Trampe says in 2020 there was a 50-60 percent drop in average (hay) production," said Chavez, referencing the longtime Gunnison Valley rancher. "The residuals, in my opinion, might be a little low."

The impacts to non-consumptive water users, like boaters and anglers, would be mixed. Those river recreationists could see higher early season flows because less water would be diverted to hay meadows.

"Environmental effects would be mainly positive, especially in dry years, due to increased summer flows. Those flows would help reduce stream temperatures, increase stream connectivity and reduce the incidence of dry up points," according to the study.

But flows could drop steeply, and in some cases fall to zero, later in the season because the sponge-like hay meadows would not slowly release water back into streams.

Irrigation season stream flow changes would be greatest for Tomichi Creek, Cochetopa Creek and Ohio Creek, whereas the Lake Fork and Taylor River sub-basins would see little change. If it was a dry year, Ohio Creek would dry up entirely in the month of August under a three-year, 30% curtailment. Under more severe curtailments and even during average precipitation years, Tomichi Creek and Cochetopa Creek would dry up for portions of the summer, too.

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

**GENERAC**

Prepare for power outages with a Generac home standby generator

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!  
**877-387-4319**

**FREE**  
7-Year Extended Warranty\*  
A \$695 Value!

Offer valid December 15, 2020 - March 1, 2021

Special Financing Available  
Subject to Credit Approval

\*To qualify, equipment must represent a "qualifying purchase" and be installed by the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.

**WWW.GUNNISONTIMES.COM**

**ONLINE ALL  
THE TIME!**

**GUNNISON COUNTRY  
TIMES**



## BRIEFS

**Biden overturns North Fork drilling**

A halt to drilling on federal lands has some North Fork Valley farmers celebrating.

President Joe Biden on Wednesday signed an executive order that pauses oil and gas leasing on lands owned by the Bureau of Land Management and other federal agencies. The Trump administration had in 2020 given a green-light for an expansion of fracking, coal-mining and other energy development across the North Fork Valley, including a portion of Gunnison County.

Representatives of the North Fork farming community, including Emily Hartnett of the Valley Organic Growers Association and Jeff Schwartz of Big B's Delicious Orchards, joined a press conference Wednesday to lay out why the executive order is a good thing for the region's future and for rural areas across the country despite dire predictions from some in the oil and gas industry.

**Boebert announces committee assignments**

Freshman Congresswoman Lauren Boebert has been appointed to the Natural Resources and Budget committees, her first committee assignments in Congress.

Boebert plans to "pursue policies that increase access and ensure multiple-use for sportsmen and other public land enthusiasts" while on the Natural Resources Committee. She said in a statement that she also plans to keep in mind environmental protection, reducing dependency on China and job growth.

On the Budget Committee, Boebert's goal is to get Congress' "fiscal house in order, prioritize the values of the American people, and put an end to Washington's wasteful federal spending."

**El Pomar Foundation gives money to San Juan region**

The El Pomar Foundation Trustees have granted \$136,000 toward nonprofits in southwest Colorado, including

Of the nine grants given, \$5,000 has been allocated to the Gunnison Valley Animal Welfare League and \$7,500 to Seasons Schoolhouse Inc. for their facility renovation. Other grants were dispersed throughout the region, from Montrose to Olathe.

**City working to prevent another outage**

City of Gunnison Police Chief Keith Robinson spoke to City Council Tuesday on safety efforts the department is making to prevent another incident such as the one that took place last September.

High winds and heavy snowfall on Sept. 8 cut off power to 3,000 customers in city limits.

Robinson said the police department has begun work on identifying training and equipment needs and creating more thorough emergency plans to be used during similar disasters in the future.

**CITY'S SWEEPING ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES**

**Environmental Sustainability and Resiliency** is a key priority for the City of Gunnison, and while COVID-19 recovery consumed much of the attention of council and staff in 2020, the city continued to make strides toward the goal of becoming a regional leader for responsible and sustainable practices, natural resource protection and reducing carbon emissions.

In January 2020, the city participated in the Gunnison Valley Climate Action Conference with other regional leaders, concerned citizens and invested university students. The goal of this conference was to bring the Gunnison Valley together to develop ideas and strategies to enhance and preserve the region's natural resources and reduce negative impacts on the climate.

Following the conference, City Council adopted the Gunnison 2030 Comprehensive Plan, which identified goals and strategies emphasizing the city's commitment to environmental sustainability and resiliency for the next 10 years.

As the service provider for electricity, water and solid waste, the city is working toward eliminating carbon emitting sources from its energy portfolio, reducing water consumption and implementing strategies for reducing, reusing and recycling solid waste. **Council and staff, with input from the public, has set the following objectives for 2021 and beyond:**

- Develop an environmental sustainability plan to provide a holistic framework for reducing carbon emissions, improving waste management, conserving and protecting our water supply, available natural resources and our environment within the City. To ensure progress on this

priority, the city will engage a highly qualified intern to help support the creation of a holistic environmental sustainability plan.

[https://cms5.revize.com/revize/gunnisonco/Planning/Gunnison\\_Comp\\_Plan\\_2020.pdf](https://cms5.revize.com/revize/gunnisonco/Planning/Gunnison_Comp_Plan_2020.pdf)

- Complete the Wastewater Treatment Plant Energy and Efficiency Improvement Project by June 2021. This \$14 million renovation is primed to safely serve Gunnison for another 25 years.
- Ensure that all city residents are within a 10-minute walk or bike ride to a public park.

- Establish the goal of no net-increase in water consumption as Gunnison's population continues to grow. Toward this end, staff will work with the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District to implement a water supply resiliency plan.

- Finalize a storm water management plan to address the threat of flooding.

- Collaborate with Gunnison County and Western University to construct (at a minimum) a 600 KW solar system at the Gunnison-Crested Butte Regional Airport using a \$510,000 grant from DOLA to support the installation of a solar photovoltaic (PV) system.

- Identify and implement infrastructure improvements to support additional electrical vehicle charging stations and enhance electrification of residential and commercial buildings to meet future demands.

- Remove vegetation near live power lines to ensure safety and productivity of electrical services during hazardous storms in support of the city's electrical resiliency.

- Implement an educational campaign to reduce waste generation.

- Present a dark skies policy to council for their consideration by Dec. 31, 2021, and work



with the Gunnison Valley Observatory to become a member of a dark skies organization by June 15, 2022.

- Encourage more residents to participate in the city's money saving and sustainability programs offered through the Finance Department. Programs include: Net Metering, Wind Energy Power Credits, Gunnison Valley Home Energy Advancement Team (GV-HEAT), Attic Insulation, Commercial LED Lighting, Smart Thermostat, and Residential Appliance Rebate. More information is available at: [https://www.gunnisonco.gov/departments/finance/utility\\_billing.php](https://www.gunnisonco.gov/departments/finance/utility_billing.php)

**Future and long-term goals:**

- Convert the city's electrical utility to 100 percent use of non-carbon emitting energy sources. In 2018, the City of Gunnison began to purchase additional wind power, bringing it to 63% non-carbon emitting sources. The city will continue to obtain renewable energy sources as it becomes available in the MEAN system. For the last four months, the city has been able to use 100% renewables for electrical service. The MEAN Board of Directors, earlier in 2020, approved a resolution defining a vision for a carbon neutral power resource portfolio by 2050.
- Reduce waste delivered to the Gunnison County landfill by 20% by the City of Gunnison, including construction waste, compared to a 2021 baseline.
- Initiate a city-wide composting program.
- Collaborate with Gunnison County or private entities to improve the collection of recyclables that otherwise would be landfilled.

This is not an exhaustive list of actions in support of Gunnison's commitment to environmental sustainability and resiliency. Additional information is available in Council's 2020 Strategic Plan and Gunnison 2030.

Residents have consistently identified parks, recreational opportunities and the surrounding natural resources as top reasons for living here; therefore, we will continue to work proactively to maintain our infrastructure and protect the environment to maintain Gunnison's quality of life, economic potential and resiliency.

Facebook: [facebook.com/CityofGunnison](https://facebook.com/CityofGunnison)

Instagram: [instagram.com/cityofgunnison](https://instagram.com/cityofgunnison)

**WANT TO CONTACT US?**

Please stop by City Hall at 201 W. Virginia Avenue  
Call 970.641.8080 || [www.gunnisonco.gov](http://www.gunnisonco.gov)  
Email City Clerk Erica Boucher at [eboucher@gunnisonco.gov](mailto:eboucher@gunnisonco.gov)

**Honest, Ethical, Professional**

**AGNES TOWNSEND**  
Broker/Owner  
(970) 209-6208

**JOHN TOWNSEND**  
Broker/Owner  
(970) 209-4479

**CLARKE AGENCY REAL ESTATE**  
241 N. Main St.  
Gunnison, CO 81230  
Office: (970) 641-0511  
[www.clarkeagency.net](http://www.clarkeagency.net)

**FEATURED PROPERTY**

**CABIN AT BLUE MESA** 3 bdrm/1 bath seasonal cabin overlooking Blue Mesa! Open kitchen & living room with views of the West Elks. Great storage/basement too! 437 Cove Road; \$249,000.

**4 INDUSTRIAL CITY LOTS** on the corner of Rio Grande & S. 14th. Great potential for a shop or storage. Lot is 43 of an acre with city electricity & water and sewer available! 681 S. 14th St; \$425,000.

**77 ACRES** with 360 degree views from this cabin site near Blue Mesa Reservoir offers a seasonal spring-fed pond, RV parking, shed, & is ready for your hunting camp or summer cabin! 12000 County Road 26; \$129,900. Possible owner financing.

**MOTIVATED SELLER** 1/4 acre building site in North Valley right next to the area with amazing views of the Ohio Creek Valley and the mountains to the north. Ready for you to build your new house! 103 S. 14th St; \$250,000.

**NEW LISTING**

Quality craftsmanship 3 bdrm/ 2 1/2 bath home situated on 2.3 acres with unobstructed views to the south and storage & loafing sheds. Well-appointed kitchen with granite counters, open living/dining concept, over 2,000sf with maintenance free deck overlooking your horse pasture; 567 Seneca; \$645,000.

**PANDEMIC GETAWAY** Huge off-grid house in Gunnison & Sagache includes 2100sf of living area & 2100sf garage/ shop space. 103 acres, 3 bdrm/2.5 bath, open kitchen/dining, built in 2005. Very private, hunting unit 67, covered porch, RV parking; 46800 County Road 42; \$795,000.

**1103 CINNAMONTRAIL** 3 acres for \$20,000! Positioned between two other cabins with good space between the parcels, flat ground so you don't have a lot of excavating costs. Subdivision allows for camping 4 weeks at a time, beautiful area with community clubhouse & pond.

**POSSIBLE OWNER FINANCING** Corner, level building site in the coveted North Elk Meadows neighborhood about 3 miles north of downtown with open views of Carbon Peak; 255 Meadow Lark Trail; \$138,500.

**FOR LEASE** Looking for indoor storage? This freshly remodeled garage has 440sf downstairs, 2 bay garage space & a loft area with 210sf. Updated electrical & LED lighting; 43188 Highway 50 Unit A; \$850/month.

**SHOP FOR LEASE** 1920 Square foot shop for rent with updated electrical, new 14' x 10' garage door & new forced air heater. This shop would make a great woodshop, welding or fabrication, or interior storage for campers & boats; 43188 Highway 50 Unit B; \$2,200/month.

**PRICE REDUCED** Over 3,000sf, 4 bdrm/3 bath home on nearly 2 acres near Hartman Rocks. Stream out back. Features 2 master suites, 2 car garage, 2 bedrooms, formal dining room, laundry room, mud room & high-speed internet ready for entertaining! 55 Arapahoe Road; \$449,000.

**NEW LISTING** Fantastic 4 bdrm/ 2 1/2 bath custom home on 1 acre near Hartman Rocks. Remodeled kitchen, nearly 2,300sf with 950sf unfinished basement. In-floor heat in the house, basement & garage! Storage shed, hot tub, woodstove, private deck, fireplace & high-speed internet ready for your home office; 319 Columbine Road; \$695,000.

**37 +/- ACRE** parcel with expansive views of Gunnison & the Palisades Cliffs. Features no covenants, a well, and nearby power. Make life-long memories in the Gunnison Valley with outstanding 360 degree views & the opportunity to have your large animals out your back door; 800 County Road 17; \$230,000.



Visit listings at: [www.clarkeagency.net](http://www.clarkeagency.net)



# HELP OUT

**GUNNISON VALLEY  
MENTORS**  
PARTNERS

Gourmet Dinner benefitting  
Gunnison Valley Mentors



**FEBRUARY 13<sup>TH</sup>**

Jermaine's Gourmet Dinner for your Valentine.

Carry-out or Delivery (5:30 - 8:30 pm)

or limited dine-in with two seatings  
(5:30 and 7:30 pm).

\$100 / couple or \$60 / person

Lamb Crown Roast or Roasted  
Cornish Hen  
Ancient Grains or Pasta Salad  
(vegan choice)  
Bread and Dessert

Wine available by the bottle through  
High Mountain Liquor

Call Gunnison Valley Mentors  
to make your reservation!  
970.641.5513

## Drought hangs over Upper Gunnison

### Conservancy District makes plans for a record dry year

Sam Liebl  
Times Editor

Colorado's ongoing drought framed the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District's board meeting Monday. The issue was central to questions as varied as how the tax-funded district will disperse grants, to how it will communicate with the public, to how it will translate long-awaited watershed management plans into projects.

Drought persists across Colorado and all of the Western U.S. except for the Pacific Northwest. The Gunnison Basin's snowpack was at 61% of average on Jan. 21, setting this year up to be the sixth driest year in the 127 years that records have been kept.

"As a result of the dry conditions streamflow will likely remain low and reservoirs will see little recharge in the coming runoff season," Upper Gunnison Water Resource Specialist Beverly Richards reported to the board.

The threat of a dry growing season puts more pressure on water users in the Gunnison Valley to improve their irrigation infrastructure so that they can more effectively divert water out of streams, move it through ditches and deliver it to

hay meadows.

Each year, the Upper Gunnison opens up a grant application process to fund some of those projects. And this year, according to Upper Gunnison General Manager Sonja Chavez, the district has about \$200,000 to distribute through grants.

But even though drought prompts ideas for more efficient water use, the idea of allowing Upper Gunnison grant funds to go to irrigation efficiency projects was a contested topic on Monday as the Upper Gunnison board discussed whether to adopt new grant guidelines.

Worries arose over whether irrigation efficiency projects, like switching from flood irrigation to sprinklers, would harm downstream users. Flood irrigation is less efficient than sprinklers with regards to how much water is applied per plant. But flood irrigation also recharges groundwater, raises the water table, shares water with downstream neighbors and returns water back to rivers as it soaks through the soil.

"Everything needs to be weighed, and our neighbors need to know what's going on," said board member Rebekah Hazard. "You can lose springs and other things by sprinklers and lining ditches. A lot of other things need to be considered."

Board member Rosemary Carroll, who works as a research hydrologist, said the board was unlikely to get to the bottom of the irrigation efficiency issue on its own and that the "component of unintended consequences is very high."

The board settled on adopt-

ing an amended set of grant policies with proposals to fund irrigation projects and partnerships with federal agencies to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

The district anticipates that municipalities and individual citizens, as well as irrigators, will need to make cuts to their water use this summer to address the worsening drought. Chavez brought before the board the district's plan to use "social marketing" and educational campaigns to spread the message of water conservation. Everything from radio and newspaper advertising to yard signs is on the table for that effort.

"We really need to start having that conversation with what we are going to do to manage our water use during what looks to be a very tough year," Chavez said.

The board took a step forward in its multi-year watershed management planning effort by hiring the Denver engineering firm Applegate Group for \$100,000 to develop system optimization programs that will help protect the valley's watershed health in the face of increased water demands and drops in supply.

Applegate's work will "show outside entities that we are shovel ready," Chavez said, paving the way for projects identified through the watershed management planning process to be implemented.

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

## WHEELS THAT HEAL!



Donate your car & make a positive difference  
in the lives of those affected by breast cancer.

- 24-hour free pick up
- 7 days a week
- Maximum tax deduction
- Running or not
- Se habla español



Call now  
855-513-1606

## VACANCY NOTICE



Gunnison County is currently accepting letters  
of interest for the vacancies listed below.

Letters of interest will be accepted until Friday, February 12, 2021 at  
5:00 pm via:

Gunnison County Administration Office  
Mail: 200 E. Virginia Avenue, Gunnison CO 81230

Fax: (970) 641-3061 | Email: boc@gunnisoncounty.org | Online: <https://gunnisoncounty.org/boardapp>

Please provide all contact information with your letter, including an email address.  
You may request more information by calling (970) 641-7600.

### Board/Commission

Environmental Health Board  
Extension Advisory Committee  
Planning Commission (Alternate)  
Region 10 (Transportation)  
Region 10 (Regular)  
Region 10 (Loan Fund)  
Sage-grouse Strategic Committee (Public, Alternate)  
Sage-grouse Strategic Committee (Recreation, Alternate)  
Sage-grouse Strategic Committee (Development, Regular)  
Sage-grouse Strategic Committee (Development, Alternate)  
Watershed Weed Commission

### Vacancies

2  
1  
2  
1  
1  
2  
1  
1  
1  
1  
1



## LETTERS

## Re-examined development

Editor:

This paper recently ran a front-page article exclaiming "Lawsuit Seeks to Stop Grazing" in order to protect the Gunnison sage-grouse. The tone showed concern that by removing cattle from public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) local ranchers would be forced to sell off some of their property, which would subsequently be developed.

Paul Jones, former Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) biologist, is quoted as saying "Without the irrigated hay meadows, we would not have the numbers (of grouse) that we have. If the only other economic viability of private lands is development, then that would be far, far worse than well-managed public lands grazing".

Imagine my shock when the very next week another front-page article stated "Beachhead" for Gunnison Rising". The very same agency already at the focus of litigation is now responsible for plans to build a large complex in one of those irrigated hay meadows, and which may also be occupied sage-grouse habitat. Is there not an unseemly incongruity at play here?

The Gunnison sage-grouse is a unique species that has been steadily losing habitat. At the very least, the BLM ought to conduct an Environmental Impact Statement and consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service about impacts to the grouse and its habitat, as mandated by the Endangered Species Act and the National Environmental Policy Act.

One of the developers stated, "...it's good for the community, too." Really? By adding 1,700 housing units we will have significantly more traffic on the east side. Who will pay for traffic lights or widening U.S. 50 to four lanes? Me and other taxpayers, that's who. The developers forgot to mention that. The character of Gunnison will also be forever changed, and not for the better.

There seems to exist "a wink and a nod" between the BLM leadership and the private developers who stand to make

millions of dollars, leaving us holding the bag. A bag that symbolizes and contributes to the ongoing extinction crisis. I can't imagine that CPW, should they build a new campus there as envisioned by the developers, could ever convince the public that they have the best interest of wildlife in mind.

Wouldn't it be better if the property slated for development could be made part of the state wildlife area that is located directly south of there, or in some other way be set aside as habitat? It would ably connect habitat on the north side of the highway to that on the south, as well. Certainly, Dick Bratton and others deserve a return on their investment, but not one that further compromises the future of the sage-grouse. I hope our elected leaders put a stop to this out-dated plan and do the right thing for the community (one that has worked hard to protect this beautiful bird).

It's been over a decade since Gunnison Rising was approved. It's time to reexamine the necessity of this development and reimagine what will become of Gunnison's eastern side.

Tom Ziebler  
Gunnison

## I feel your pain

Editor:

I went out to fill up my gas tank and get a gallon of milk this weekend. A gallon of regular gas at the Gas Café was \$2.75, and a gallon of Horizon milk at Clark's was \$7.95. My first thought was, "How did these prices get so high?" My second thought was, "How does a worker earning \$15 an hour afford these necessities?"

Since Nov. 3, commodities and the value of the American dollar have taken opposite paths.

Cotton up +13% - clothing.  
Copper up +14% - housing, schools, electric vehicles.

Lumber up +22% (up 75% the past three months) - housing, paper.

Corn up +18% - chicken, beef, your favorite sour mash bourbon.

Soybeans up +19% - tofu, animal feed, soy milk.

Platinum up +22% - catalytic converters, medical equipment  
Oil up +47% - gasoline, electric generation (think rolling blackouts), plastics, asphalt, airline tickets.

Heating Oil up +30% - 5.5 million US households heat with heating oil.

U.S. Dollar down -4% (note: \$1 in 2021 buys half of what it bought in 2000).

British Pound up +6%.

Swiss Franc up +3%.

What do all the above numbers mean? The average U.S. wage earner is getting whacked paying more for groceries and building products, travel, and heating the home. On the world stage, our dollar buys less. A U.K. worker can buy 10% more of goods and services than U.S. wage earners.

The 43% price increase for oil was priced into the marketplace before this week's executive orders placing a moratorium on oil leases on federal lands (25% of U.S. production) and cancellation of the XL Pipeline. Stop fracking and shale oil production in the Dakotas, Pennsylvania and Ohio? We will be looking at \$5-6 per gallon minimum for gasoline. These costs will be rolled into all the products and services we buy. Think 1-2% inflation is bad? You are looking at 3-5%+ annually.

So you're going to buy a \$35,000+ Tesla to save on the increasing fuel costs? Mayor Pete, the new head of Transportation, is proposing to implement a tax per mile driven that is tied to increases in inflation. Start shelling out five to ten cents per mile for your trip to Denver no matter if your vehicle is electric or gas. Double that when Colorado implements the same to compensate for the loss in state tax at the pump.

Solution? Own assets that appreciate with inflation. Stocks, commodities, or a business that can pass on price increases to your customers. But a word of warning, US Senator Ron Wyden of Oregon, the top Democrat on the Senate Finance Committee, wants to apply income taxes to the annual appreciation of assets, even if investors don't sell their holdings. So to all those trust fund owners or anyone saving money

for the future, your income tax may be going up as your investments make money.

Conclusion: Inflation is the cruelest tax for low-income earners. For those of you who earn an hourly wage and don't own assets? I really feel your pain.

Neil Watko  
Crested Butte

## Hunting was the cause, not ranching

Editor:

I cannot remain silent any longer and must respond to the article regarding a lawsuit currently pending. I have avoided voicing my view due to not having exact dates. My family ranch in Gunnison for 100+ years. Growing up there were hundreds of sage-grouse on our land, in the valleys and on public lands. A valuable part of the ecosystem, the grouse fed on the byproducts from our cattle. Riding horseback to tend the cattle, we would have many groups of 10 or more birds fly up. The grouse would mingle with the cattle. While irrigating for the hay crop, the grouse would come to the meadows for water. We so enjoyed seeing the grouse every day and seeing the new hatch grow up and thrive was always a pleasure. The population was very good.

Now, the ranchers are taking a beating for the abuse of the grouse and land. Wait a minute! Here is my dilemma. Sometime in the 1960s and 1980s the Fish and Game (as it was called then) erected 55 gallon barrels and put them out at county road intersections. Hunters were to put the wings in the barrels. The limit was three birds for an outing. I witnessed hunters getting three birds and putting the wings in the barrels. Then the same hunters would be seen hunting the grouse again in the evening and the next day. I cannot verify, but I believe this went on for two weekends per year. At the time, I could not believe what was happening as hundreds of grouse were harvested each day. My point is: excessive hunting was the cause of the extinction problem.

Ranchers never bothered the nesting and kept the coyote

population down during calving season. Since the "Fish and Game" demolished the population during those years, humans have tried to monitor nesting sites, count the birds and hatch and tag the birds. Birds abandon nests when bothered. The "Fish and Game" cut grinds in the sagebrush thinking they would improve the habitat. However, this decreased the grouse's natural safety from coyotes and ravens. People have interfered with the grouse's natural cycles, not the cattle. The coyote population has increased as well as the raven population. The predators have gotten the eggs and baby birds as well as mature birds. I have witnessed a coyote jumping about five feet in the air to catch a grouse that had just taken flight from the ground.

Ranchers are the tenants of the government lands. Taking ranchers out of business will cause many negative effects. The vegetation will not be grazed and more wildfires will occur on public lands. No irrigation and water management will dry up the land and again more wildfires. Less food for the human population as animal herds decrease due to a lack of feed for the animals.

Governing agencies must stand up and support the ranching industry, a vital part of our economy. Those who have not walked the walk should not act the act.

Jeanie Miller

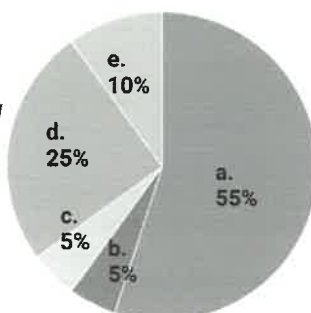
## LETTERS POLICY

The Gunnison Country Times welcomes Letters to the Editor. Letters should be under 700 words, clear, concise and free of profanity or inflammatory language. They can be mailed to our office at 218 N. Wisconsin in Gunnison, delivered in person or, preferably, e-mailed to: editor@gunnisonstimes.com. All letters must be signed and include a phone number. Anonymous letters will not be printed. We cannot guarantee that every letter will be used, but we do try to reflect the viewpoints of the community, subject to our space limitations. We reserve the right to edit letters for grammar, clarity or space.

# VOTE

Where Gunnison Valley's  
voice is heard.

Go to [gunnisonstimes.com](http://gunnisonstimes.com)  
to vote.



## LAST WEEK'S POLL:

Summer 2021 in the Gunnison Valley will:

- a) look similar to last summer with restrictions and limited gatherings; 55%
- b) bring opportunity for creatively crafted social events; 5%
- c) return to the conventional concerts and gatherings as the vaccine is rolled out; 5%
- d) showcase a 'new normal' following the pandemic; 25%
- e) be even busier than summer of 2020. 10%

20 total votes

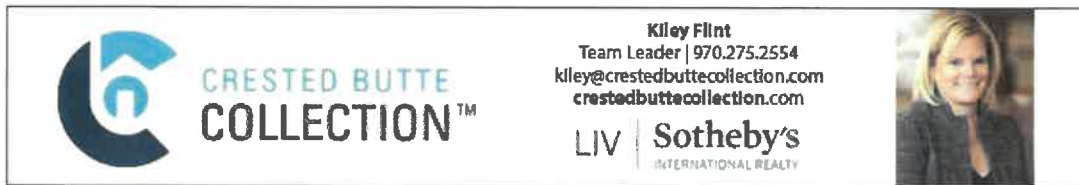
## THIS WEEK'S POLL:

Street enhancements such as park benches, bike lanes and lighting on Ohio Avenue in the City of Gunnison:

- a) are needed to improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists;
- b) will bring more Western students and community members downtown;
- c) are a waste of city funds;
- d) are needed to connect students to school;
- e) will lead to little change overall.

# LEAN WINTER SNOWFALL COULD MEAN COMING SUMMER WATER RESTRICTIONS

🕒 January 27, 2021    👁 341 Views



**Your lawn might not be green this summer...but you could win a trip to Garlic Mike's**

*[ by Mark Reaman ]*

Lack of snow this ski season will have longer and more serious impacts than just having to repair the bottoms of your skis from hitting too many rocks. The lean snowfall on top of a very dry year in 2020 may foreshadow coming water restrictions for the area.

"We are beginning to talk about how best to message the need for people to conserve water in the coming year," said Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District general manager Sonja Chavez. "We are contacting municipalities in the county, mayors and managers, to talk about how best to convey the message around drought awareness and preparing our public for the potential for watering restrictions this summer and having Gunnison possibly delay opening its ditches as they did in 2013. Everyone will be asked to cut back on water consumption, especially in the summer when we experience high water use associated with agricultural, lawn irrigation and municipal uses associated with tourism. The bottom line is that we are in an extreme drought and right now it would take a lot of snow to catch up and get our reservoirs to where they need to be to feel at all comfortable."

Despite a few snowstorms across the state including here in the past week, most of Colorado and Gunnison County is listed as being under extreme or exceptional drought conditions. Statistics show that this is the sixth driest year in 127 years of record for Gunnison County, and we are 6.46 inches from normal precipitation.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration earlier this month reported that combined average annual precipitation last year in Colorado, Arizona, Wyoming, Utah and New Mexico was the second lowest on record and the lowest since 1956.

The drought is relatively uniform across the southwest United States and that is making water managers worried as Lake Powell and Lake Mead are not filling. Both are currently at under 45 percent capacity and

could drop to 35 percent. This could trigger regional restrictions to keep water flowing into those reservoirs that ultimately are used to generate hydro-electricity for millions of users.

Reservoir storage in the Gunnison River Basin is currently at 77-percent of average, compared to 104 percent average for January 1 at the same time last year. Blue Mesa Reservoir is currently less than half full while the Taylor Reservoir is at about 62 percent and is projected to only fill to 85 percent of capacity at its peak this coming spring. In addition, the Uncompahgre Valley has been in an extreme drought, which impacts our basin as well.

“Given the long-range forecast we don’t see it getting much better,” said Chavez. “We are in a major drought and that will have a huge impact on our ranchers and their hay production. The ranchers are expressing concern that like last summer they won’t get two (hay) cuttings this year. Some are cutting the size of their herds. Everyone is adjusting and looking at how best to keep the soil healthy.”

Chavez said that 2013 was a similar drought year and that is when the UGRWCD purchased water from the Aspinall reservoir system to forestall a Gunnison Tunnel call which would have impacted all junior water users in the Upper Gunnison Basin. She described the move as a sort of insurance policy and one that could be repeated this year. The district is prepared to make such a purchase in case it is needed.

Chavez indicated the basin would need to get close to 150 percent of average in terms of snowfall by the end of the season to come close to normal. Given the current shortage, that is pretty unlikely but not impossible.

“We have seen big snow at the end of the winter before and we could use it again,” she concluded. “But it will take more than just one year of good precipitation to catch up as the first meter of our soils are incredibly dry. We are looking to our community to voluntarily pitch in to help support our water values and share our limited supply. To launch our community drought campaign, we are offering a \$100 gift certificate to Garlic Mike’s to the individual or group that can come up with the best drought slogan. We all need to be aware of what the drought means to us.”

**YOUR AD COULD LIVE**

[Click here for advertising details.](#)

*here!*

# APPLICATION SUBMITTED FOR TAYLOR DAM HYDROPOWER

🕒 January 27, 2021    👁 113 Views



## Making hundreds of local houses more green

[ By Mark Reaman ]

Tapping into “green” electricity generated from the dam up Taylor Canyon could happen as early as next year. The idea of a hydropower generation plant being installed at the Taylor Dam took a new step forward this week and could ultimately provide sustainable electricity for literally hundreds of local homes.

The Gunnison County Electric Association (GCEA) in conjunction with the Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association (UVWUA) that owns water in the Taylor Reservoir has sent an official application to the federal government to construct such a facility. Meanwhile the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District (UGRWCD) is watching the progress and coordinating with the other entities to craft agreements that detail how the plant would operate.

The U.S. Department of the Interior published a notice in the Federal Register last September officially announcing a “notice of intent to accept proposals, select a lessee, and contract for hydroelectric power development at the Taylor Park Dam.” Written proposals are to be submitted by Friday, January 29, 2021. It was made clear that any proposal cannot interfere with current water uses. It is stated that lease negotiations with the Department of Reclamation could take up to two years while planning and construction could be up to another five years.

The GCEA and UVWUA sent a joint proposal on Tuesday, January 26 for such a hydro-electric project to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

GCEA chief executive officer Mike McBride explained that the electric co-op and UVWUA have a memorandum of understanding that was signed in February of 2020 “in which the two entities intend to create an LLC to own and operate the facility. An operating agreement for the LLC has been drafted by GCEA and presented to UVWUA but it has neither been finalized nor signed. An agreement with respect to certain operating conditions has also been drafted by UGRWCD and provided to both GCEA and UVWUA. The terms



of that agreement have been accepted in principle, but that agreement has not been finalized or signed either.”

Under the pending agreement, GCEA will not apply for any water rights associated with the project. Water flowing through the turbine over the course of a year will belong to either UVWUA or UGRWCD depending on which entity the release is for. The draft agreement makes clear that any such hydro-power project has to take into consideration and not negatively impact current water uses provided by the dam and reservoir such as water supply for agriculture and irrigation, recreation and downstream fisheries.

UGRWCD general manager Sonja Chavez explained that because the district is beneficial owner of a second-fill water right in Taylor Reservoir the agreement is necessary to protect that existing right and the uses it authorizes.

McBride said that the project would ideally happen pretty quickly and be operating by the fall of 2022. He said final design could happen before this October and the NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) review and approval process could take place between then and May of 2022. If ultimately approved, construction could then start immediately and be completed by October 2022. The dam was originally built in 1937.

“This is an optimistic timeline and the process, which includes opportunity for public comment, could take longer than indicated,” McBride admitted. “The actual construction though can be completed in one summer due to the relatively small size and proposed design, and planning will be completed during the permitting phase.”

The hydropower generation would be expected to produce 3,800 megawatt-hours or three-percent of GCEA's annual power supply. McBride said that using the average consumption of GCEA's residential accounts (650 kWh/month) it could power about 487 local homes.

**YOUR AD COULD LIVE**

[Click here for advertising details.](#)

*here!*

75¢



10\*1\*\*\*\*\*AUTO\*\*5-DIGIT 81230  
Upper Gunnison River Water Cons Dist  
210 W Spencer Ave Ste 8  
Gunnison CO 81230-2543

Vol. 43, No. 43    Friday, January 29, 2021    Lake City, Hinsdale County, Colorado 81235    U.S.P.S. No. 436-630

## Ice Climbing Festival, Other Feb. Events Halted by COVID-19 Health Concerns

COVID-19 health restrictions are impacting this winter's traditional slate of public activities. Lake City Chamber of Commerce, however, is forging ahead with its expanded third-year Brew-Ski at Lake San Cristobal on Saturday, February 6.

As an added inducement to the Chamber's Brew-Ski, a Cold-Shot golf tournament is also added to the February 6 afternoon schedule.

## 'Team Spirit' Cited by Johnston, Town's New Public Works Director

Lake City native Jameson Johnston, 32, speaks highly of the "team spirit" he has enjoyed as an employee at Lake City Public Works.

"We all work together with the same goals for town betterment," he says.

As the town's Water/Waste Water Operator since April, 2017, Johnston worked in tandem with his

While the Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring events this winter and, COVID allowing, is planning ahead for a full slate of activities this coming summer, a series of well-known events which are traditionally held in February have now been cancelled.

Recreation Director Ben Hake confirms that Town of Lake City has pulled the plug on this year's Ice Climbing Festival at Lake City Ice Park, which would have been held on Saturday, February 6.

Also cancelled next month as a result of health concerns and staffing limitations are Hinsdale Search & Rescue's Ice Fishing Derby and Lake City Continental Divide Snowmobile Club's Cannibal Snowshoe Race, both which were held on successive February weekends in past years.

Denny Brannon has coordinated the annual late February youth frolic, "SnowFest," the past two years and also says that per health department guidelines and the requisite of social distancing, this year's event has been cancelled.

The recreation department's Hake says he and town officials pondered long and hard about the festival and ice climb, but couldn't come up with a way to safely maintain social distancing in the crowd of climbers and spectators at the park.

"Ultimately," says Hake, "we couldn't come up with a workable plan to keep people separated or

## Officials Discuss Possible San Cristobal Mussel Testing Site

Hinsdale County has a long tradition of warmly welcoming visitors to Lake San Cristobal, although even that has its limitations when it comes to invasive non-native aquatic wildlife.

Two out-of-state interlopers which are specifically being shunned are the destructive Zebra and Quagga mussels in both larvae and adult stage. The mussel infestation is rapidly expanding in recreational waters in a majority of neighboring states, although to date an aggressive inspection and decontamination program coordinated by Colorado Parks & Wildlife(CPW) has largely kept the invasive species at bay.

And now, according to state and regional officials, may be the time to consider a Lake San Cristobal inspection area keyed to stopping the spread of the mussels.

The potential for a Lake San Cristobal inspection station for the invasive mussels was broached during a teleconference on Monday, January 25, attended by Colorado Parks & Wildlife's new Gunnison District Manager Brandon Diamond, and Aquatic Biologist Dan Brauch, Bill Brueggeman for the National Park Service, Sonja Chavez and John McCLOW from Upper

*continued page 2*



Award Winner  
Colorado Press  
2019  
Best  
Series

Award Winner  
Colorado Press  
2019  
Best  
Sustained Coverage

Award Winner  
Colorado Press  
2019  
Best Color  
Advertisement

Award Winner  
Colorado Press  
2019  
Best Color  
Advertisement

Award Winner  
Colorado Press  
2019  
Best  
Sustained Coverage

Award Winner  
Colorado Press  
2019  
Best  
News/Photograph

Award Winner  
Colorado Press  
2019  
Best  
Photo Essay

# Mussel Testing,

*continued from page 1*

Gunnison Water Conservancy District, and Hinsdale County Commissioners Borchers and Hurd.

Colorado Parks & Wildlife suggested eight new inspection/decontamination stations in the state in 2020, including one at Lake San Cristobal, although a lack of funding precluded any of the new stations. Unless a creative consortium of sources is identified, funding is also unlikely in 2021.

Expense for a new station is in the range of \$20,000 in upfront costs for building and equipment, and then roughly \$50,000 annually for a six-month mid-May to October operation, most of the annual expense being labor for three employees manning the station on specific days and times.

An alternative for Lake San Cristobal, as was discussed on Monday, would be for a small-size start up with a roving team from Blue Mesa which might visit the lake on a periodic basis, gather data and conduct random boat inspections, as well as dispensing information on the dangers of mussel proliferation.

Once introduced, the invasive Zebra and Quagga mussels can rapidly multiply, in the process encrusting surfaces -- barnacle-like -- with their shells and endangering water storage and distribution systems.

Inspection stations manned by personnel from Parks & Wildlife and National Park

Service have been a regular feature for years at key boat ramps at Blue Mesa Reservoir, including the Iola Boat Ramp adjacent to Highway 149. A small-scale, seasonal mussel inspection station is also located at Taylor Park Reservoir which could serve as a model for Lake San Cristobal.

According to Robert Walters, who heads CPWs Aquatic Nuisance Species Program, the greatest risk

is from Lake Powell where a population of the invasive mussels exists. Ominously, Walters also stated that Lake San Cristobal is "well suited" as habitat for Zebra Mussels.

In addition to concern that colonies of the Zebra Mussel might be inadvertently transported into the lake, the lake's upper water basin location was cited with the potential that the mussels might transition down the Lake Fork River and into Blue Mesa Reservoir.

Also troubling is the lack of long-term data on boat use at Lake City's "crown jewel," although dated research from the 1980s indicated 2,000 to 4,000 boats per season dropped anchor in the lake.

Walters clarified that it would be helpful to conduct current surveys of recreational boat use at the lake keyed to the number of watercraft, the type of watercraft, and where the

boats are coming from. According to Walters, canoes, for instance, are a less likely form of transportation for the mussels, while a cabin cruiser has a more likely probability of moving the species.

The adaptable mussels can be detected as larvae in standing water

*continued page 5*



*Inspection and contamination stations have been set up adjacent to boatable waters throughout Colorado in an effort to prevent colonization of Zebra and Quagga Mussels, shown in encrustation form, top photo.*

*Below, boat decontamination at Navajo Reservoir.*

*Statewide in 2020, 647,325 boats were inspected; 24,771 were decontaminated. Since 2008 when the program began, 5.6 million boats have been inspected, 149,000 were decontaminated.*



a responsibility  
arily represent  
tor.  
o longer than  
t the editor's  
l.  
community

CSS

er

facebook  
facebook

Wee Care children posed with Santa on the daycare's porch, left. Pictured are: Santa Claus, Delilah Morse, Mikey Carson, Bella Perry, Warren Pierce, Aspen Crump, Rex Maxfield, Eivin Carson, and Mac Pierce.

Below, Warren Pierce in the role of "Safety Super hero!"



proper social distancing per guidelines, caution. is supported by the Gunnison/Hinsdale Early Childhood Council, which helps quality of childcare by providing solutions and guidance - of great importance in unusual times. ally, teachers receive continuing education to mental health resources. "The biggest benefit come out of COVID," states Tubbs, "is bringing of the community toward early development." an doubt that Wee Care is raising the children well, and that Lake City is a community that cares.

## FOR RENT

- 2 Bedroom/2 Bath Large End-Unit t, includes washer/dryer. Utilities included ie heat, water/sewer and a shared

# Mussel Testing, continued from page 2

with the ability to survive up to 27 days, as well in adult form as shell encrustations on boat surfaces.

If inspection of a boat necessitates decontamination, the process, like the inspection, is free of charge and usually takes between 10 and 15 minutes using a hot water spray.

Area Wildlife Manager Lucas Martin attended Monday's conference call and recalled a proliferation of boats in Lake San Cristobal during last summer's unexpectedly active season. Martin termed the extent of water traffic in the lake and nearby bodies of water -- ranging from motor boats to paddle boards -- as "astounding." On top of that, Martin referenced Hinsdale County's recent acquisition of the Morning Side Peninsula at the lake and the prospect of steadily increasing recreational usage, including the suggestion for increased slips at the county boat dock.

The lake's use level, said Martin, "is incrementally going up year after year."

Asked for any instances of the invasive mussels which he has suspected on boats at the lake, Martin responded that several years ago he sighted several suspect watercraft and "sent them on their way" with the suggestion for inspection at Blue Mesa.

"We've been fortunate thus far not to get stuff into Lake San Cristobal," Martin noted.

New Hinsdale Commissioner Robert Hurd felt in the short term that data collection and education "make sense for 2021," with the potential for added informational signage at the lake. Hurd, however, questioned the source for the annual \$50,000 outgo. Funding opportunities might include "Fishing is Fun" which is administered by Colorado Parks and Wildlife, another option suggested by Upper Gunnison Manager Sonja Chavez being the water district's 7A&A Partnership which might provide startup funding.

Parks & Wildlife partners with the National Park Service to fund the Blue Mesa Reservoir inspection stations, with the Bureau of Reclamation providing funding for some water-related projects.

"Opportunities are out there," said Bill Brueggeman with National Parks, "we just need to get out there and beat the bushes a little bit."

Aquatic Biologist Brauch received verbal assurances from attendees at the meeting to continue discussions and in the meantime consider a cooperative endeavor with the potential of working with National Parks and existing Colorado Water Conservation Board staff to visit Lake San Cristobal on a roving basis to collect data, educate boaters, and conduct occasional inspections.



the town park where volunteers will direct competitors to their assigned areas in a more organized fashion.

Menzies said competitors arrived all at once in 2020. "It was a madhouse," she said. Competitors did not follow her directions and would not go to their designated parking areas. "It is my goal to avoid that and be more organized and diligent about those things," said Menzies.

Metering teams from Memorial Park to the Town Park will allow Menzies and volunteers to communicate with each team and advise them of local and event requirements.

Getting an early start to avoid any complications, Menzies told the BOT, "I'm bringing this to you now, even though it will not happen until Labor Day Weekend." Menzies wants to plan the event as far in advance to avoid any last-minute changes or complications.

Trustee Doug Hamel asked Menzies about food vending for the 2021 BBQ event. "Some BBQ competitions allow trucks to 'vend,'" said Menzies. She said her BBQ "mentor" advised against vending and food sales due to complications associated with inspecting every team's trailer.

According to the chamber director, portions of Third and Silver Street were closed for the BBQ event in 2020 and competitors' trailers were parked in front of local businesses.

Mayor Bruce Vierheller and Mayor Pro-Tem Jud Hollingsworth plan to assist Menzies this year and contact each affected business owner and resident about the 2021 event. They want to hear business owner and resident concerns, and ensure each owner and resident know what to expect for the 2021 event.

Menzies said combining the BBQ event and OHV rally will bring more people into the downtown area who will "spend money." She said some competitors and their families will stay at local lodging facilities, while others with larger camper-trailers will sleep in their own rigs.

Trustee Michelle Martin asked Menzies to comment about street closure dates and times. Menzies said teams like to set-up early and prepare for cooking on the following day. Judges must submit their forms before noon on Sunday. Menzies anticipates closing affected streets on Friday at 4:30 p.m. Reopening should occur after the award ceremony late Sunday afternoon or early evening.

Mayor Vierheller questioned timing of the BBQ event coinciding with this summer's Third Street construction project. Vierheller said he did not wish

Third Street construction project. Menzies said her backup plan is to move Farm-to-Table to the Town Park if Third Street is impacted by construction.

Trustee Martin suggested Menzies consider rescheduling the event for 2022 to celebrate completion of the Third Street construction project. Mayor Vierheller was in support of this idea, noting, "We are all behind it."

#### **Changes to water and sewer ordinance -**

Town Manager Caroline Mitchell informed the BOT she is working to modify the local water and sewer ordinance. The current ordinance refers to an Equivalent Residential Rating (EQR) for billing purposes.

Town of Lake City transitioned to metered water services more than a decade ago. Mitchell said all references to an EQR are "old language that needs to come out."

Mitchell told Trustees they should become familiar with the ordinance because "we are providing water and sewer service to the public, and it needs to be very specific about how we provide that service."

The new ordinance will create a process that allows the Town Manager to serve as the "appellate jurisdiction" for any water or sewer disputes. This provision allows the Town Manager to hold an informal hearing before bringing any water or sewer disputes to the Trustees.

The new ordinance will also address "backflow and cross-connections." Mitchell stressed the importance of backflow devices so water does not siphon back into the Town municipal water supply. A certified inspector must certify all backflow devices. According to Mitchell, the homeowner or business owner must retain inspection records for three years. Inspection records are subject to inspection by the Town.

"We need to get a better handle on this situation," Mitchell said. She wants the BOT to help educate the public on upcoming changes and future requirements. Mitchell does not want the Town to be the "enforcer" of pending changes and instead foresees the public "wanting to do the right thing."

Mitchell reported she has enlisted the help of former trustee Marty Priest with updating the ordinance. Mitchell wants to update the ordinance in a clear manner so the public will understand how the town's water and sewer services are managed.

#### **Lake San Cristobal Water Enterprise Fund -**

Henry Woods informed the BOT that "all water assets are frozen, which is a good thing." According to Woods, the water level at Lake San Cristobal is at

8,993.27 feet. Blue Mesa Reservoir calculates at 398,986-acre feet of water, which is only 48% full.

Water flow at Gateview on the Lake Fork of the Gunnison River is 46.53 CFS, according to Woods. "Henson is not registering due to the ice," he added. Woods said the Black Canyon dam is releasing water at a rate of 400 CFS. "It's going to keep going down," he added.

Woods said Gunnison and portions of Hinsdale County now rate at "D-3 extreme drought." Recent snowfall in the San Juan and Sangre de Cristo mountain ranges will help, however, predictions indicate sub-normal precipitation and above normal temperatures due to La Niña weather conditions.

**Historic Preservation Commission -** Joe Fox reported on the first regular meeting of 2021. Fox said three COAs on the agenda. The Commission did not discuss two COAs because of inadequate information. The Commission approved one COA at 708 Bluff Street for R.E. Hall to install solar panels on the roof of his home. Construction of the Hall home occurred around 1998 and posed no historical concerns for the Commission, but Fox expressed concern with how solar panels might look on older historic homes.

**Marketing Committee -** According to Trustee Hollingsworth, the 2021 Visitor Guide should be available in late-January. The guide receives an update each year with new business and event information. Hollingsworth is excited about the new guide and said it "looks great."

**Town Manager Report -** Town Manager Caroline Mitchell reports trustees are making great progress with training. Mitchell said training will bring new trustees "up-to-speed" and provide the all trustees with updates on internal procedures.

Mitchell said President Biden signed several Executive Orders that impact Federal land. Provisions of the Executive Orders are fully understood at this time, but they may impact the ice wall because it is located on BLM land. Mitchell will keep the BOT updated as more information becomes available.

Mitchell reports the 2021 Ice Festival will not occur due to ongoing public health concerns associated with COVID-19. Communication with Public Health Director Tara Hardy revealed that a safe event cannot take place and maintain compliance with COVID-19

## LETTERS

### Dry years call for catchy phrases

Editor:

The Upper Gunnison River Watershed Conservancy District would like to thank you for your coverage of all things water.

Your recent headline "Drought Hangs Over Upper Gunnison" was right on target for the main issue the District will be dealing with in the months to come. Just today, words like "grim," "bleak," and "troubling" were used by federal water forecasters to describe water conditions for our basin this year. They say there is a 30 percent chance 2021 could be among the top five driest years on record for Colorado rivers.

Here at the UGRWCD, we are looking for positive words that can remind both residents and visitors alike that we all can make a difference during this drought by being mindful of our water use and conserving wherever we can. We'd like the communities' help in coming up with a clever slogan that can be used on yard signs, stickers, rack cards, radio and prints ads and social media to serve as a reminder to use water wisely. If we select your slogan for our primary media campaign, we'll reward you with a \$100 gift certificate to Garlic Mike's, so email us your slogans by February 15th to: sue@ugrwc.org.

Together, we can make a difference!

**Sonja Chavez**  
General Manager  
Upper Gunnison River  
Water Conservancy District

arrive and where they should dress; what the livestream links will be, whether or not a sub-varsity team can watch the varsity, or if a team manager can travel and be included on the gate list.

And yes, of course, my best made attempts at controlling logistics, technology and uncontrollable factors have already failed. We're learning too. As our student-athletes figure out the things beyond the boundaries of their court, rink, pool or mat, we too are learning the best ways to serve and provide for our students during this season. Daily, we are navigating the feasibility of in-person learning, risk-reduction, social and emotional health and athletics. The school/public facility emergency management and safety emphasis has shifted this school year from keeping violent intruders out to creating ventilation, open space and limiting the sizes of gatherings or groups.

I can go either way on whether all these unusual measures we're taking during this winter sports season are "worth it." Some of the logistics of this season are going to suck. Game cancellations, reschedules, officials shortages and livestreams are all a reality that we must take in stride and chalk up to a heckuva year. However, I am confident in and proud of our county and district's efforts in risk management related to COVID-19, as they have ensured our students have a safe place for education and the ability to provide our student-athletes the opportunity to: -invest in something

**Dele**  
**but**

Editor

If

me

Trust

add

rece

atten

and

wou

awa

T

for

less

whi

and

con

out

ma

Sa

1

by

to

sc

th

th

ov

pe

ed

si

ne

w

ex

Pi

w

fo

di

u

si

p

S

p

ir

(

n

Il

# **AGENDA ITEM 11**

**Citizens Comments**

# **AGENDA ITEM 12**

**Future Meetings**

## FUTURE MEETINGS/EVENTS

- ▶ WMP Coordinators Meeting - Feb 23, 2 PM
- ▶ Watershed Mgt. Planning Committee Meeting – March 8, 1:30 PM
- ▶ TLUG Meeting - March 10, 10 AM
- ▶ Gunnison Basin Roundtable Meeting – March 15, 4:00 PM
- ▶ UGRWCD Board Meeting – March 22; 5:30 PM
- ▶ WORLD WATER DAY - March 22 (and photo contest deadline)
- ▶ Executive Committee Meeting - April 5, Noon
- ▶ Watershed Mgt. Planning Committee Meeting - April 12
- ▶ 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

# **AGENDA ITEM 13**

## **Summary of Action Items**



# **AGENDA ITEM 14**

**Adjournment**